



2015



Mikasa Achievement Awards
& Hall of Fame Banquet

Saturday, June 20, 2015



Mikasa Achievement Awards & Hall of Fame Banquet

Westin Hotel, Edmonton

Saturday, June 20, 2015

Reception: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Awards: 8:00 p.m.

Awards Recipients

Mikasa Achievement Awards

Volunteer	Denis Delemont
Official	Shawn Shepherd

Coaches

16U Female	Suzi Cooke
16U Male	Nathan Kern
18U Female	Rhonda Schmuland
18U Male	Ian Halliday

Athletes

16U Female	Lexi Peart
16U Male	Jaxson Thys
18U Female	Natasha Gordey
18U Male	Jacob Kern

Hall of Fame Awards

Athlete	Bonnie MacRae-Kilb
Athlete	Murray Grapentine

Mikasa Achievement Awards

Volunteer

Denis Delemont



Denis Delemont is a committed volunteer for the Central Alberta Queens Volleyball Club. He helped simultaneously manage both of his daughter's teams for 5 consecutive years and does everything from equipment and uniform procurement to money management to first aid administration - truly a man of many trades! It is because of the time and commitment he shows to this program

that allows the coaches and players to focus on their respective jobs and enjoy their experience with the club.

Although his daughters' involvement in the club comes to a close, he continues his legacy of commitment, volunteering himself and his wife to share the coaching and managerial duties to create a third 15U team within the club. There were a number of girls who were interested in playing but were without a coach and Denis didn't even hesitate before committing to the team. It is because of his generosity and commitment to young athletes that the girls were able to partake in the club season, further igniting their passion for the game. Him and his wife spent most of the club season travelling Highway 2 every weekend to various gyms throughout Central Alberta supporting 15U and 18U volleyball as well as his daughter, Hanna's, Red Deer College team, watching them successfully defend their title as CCAA Women's National Volleyball Champions.



It wouldn't be fair to commend Denis without giving credit to his generous wife, Susan, who is also a great influence in helping the club run smoothly. She has often been the one to coordinate gym times for both of the girls' teams, been there for all their practices and score kept countless games. On top of their endless commitment to the team, they are kind enough to offer their home as a formal and informal gathering place for team meetings and team bonding. It's hard to imagine the club without the Delemont's and those in the community are truly grateful. It is because of people like Denis that we are able to continue to grow the game of volleyball across Central Alberta and continue to ignite passion in the youth. Volleyball Alberta thanks him for his commitment to the community and is honored to present him with the 2015 Mikasa Volunteer of the Year Award.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

Official

Shawn Shepherd



Shawn's path to refereeing is not unlike most. His start in the sport of volleyball came as an athlete, competing through the high school system. Through his high school years, Shawn saw success leading the Ross Sheppard men's programs to appearances in both the city and provincial championships. As a multi-sport athlete, Shawn's springtime commitments were to basketball thus, he only spent one year as a club volleyball athlete.

After finishing his playing career, Shawn took some time away from the sport, eventually returning in the role of a coach. For seven years (2005 – 11), he gave his time back to Ross Sheppard's men's volleyball program. It was during his tenure as a coach, that Shawn looked to better his own knowledge of the sport and rules. In the fall of 2008 he signed up for and completed the entry level refereeing course. However, it was in the spring of 2009 during the club season that Shawn's potential started to glean through.

Shawn's hard work and dedication towards self-improvement has led him to a variety of disciplines. On the indoor side of the sport, Shawn completed his level 2 certification in 2009 and received his level 3 certification in 2011. Currently, Shawn is striving towards the level 4 certification program with the potential of entering the development stream in the fall.

Shawn's passion for refereeing, however, has not been limited to the indoor game. He has also been a regular fixture at all of Volleyball Alberta's beach tournaments since 2009. Showing tremendous potential in the outdoor game, it was in 2012 that Shawn became the second Alberta referee to receive his national beach certification.



On the court, Shawn is a steadfast and consistent referee, handling all matches with a calm demeanor. He dedicates himself to all levels of competition, constantly giving up evenings and weekends to be in the gym. This commitment saw Shawn working everything from high school and club competitions, ACAC and CIS exhibition and league matches. In addition, Shawn has received nominations to officiate at the ACAC women's provincials, the 2015 Club Nationals and as a Referee Assistant for World League.

Since 2011, Shawn has given back to the sport through an extensive amount of volunteer time. At the outset, he spent time educating and mentoring new referees. From practical assessments to theoretical discussions and training, Shawn is diligently working to grow and improve the refereeing community as a whole.

In 2012, Shawn took over the role of Chairperson for Alberta's beach referee program. A position he has held for the last four years. Under Shawn's leadership, the beach referee program has shown significant growth while the sport itself continues to increase in size and scope.

In 2014, Shawn took on more responsibility, becoming the primary assignor for the Edmonton region. Handling the countless requests for referee coverage through the high school, post-secondary and private leagues has Shawn overseeing roughly 6,000 assignments per season.

It has been a pleasure to watch Shawn mature as a referee and colleague. For his continuing endeavors and commitment to the sport, the Volleyball Alberta Officials are pleased to recognize Shawn Shepherd as the recipient of the 2014 – 15 Mikasa Achievement Award for Referee of the Year.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

16U Female Coach of the Year

Suzi Cooke



Suzi Cooke is a dedicated member of the Volleyball Alberta community and truly an upstanding role model for her Canuck volleyball team. Suzi is a former professional athlete as well as a former Team Canada member, participating in the World Championship, US Adult Open, the Pan-Am American Games and most recently the Masters Global Cup. Outside of her athletic accolades she is also a loving mother and pediatric doctor and somehow still finds time to give back to the community by dedicating her time to the 15U Canuck Stuff

Volleyball Club as well as being a mentor at the University of Calgary Department of Pediatrics. Suzi leads by example, showing her girls you can be a leader on the court and in the classroom. The success she portrays as an athlete as well as a professional is nothing short of astonishing. To reach such a high level of sport while performing to the highest standard in the classroom is truly a testament to the work ethic she instills in her team. Volleyball Alberta is proud to have an ambassador that is able to set the tone for young women in our community and show how hard work and dedication pays off both on and off the court.

It is evident that Suzi has made an impact on her current players as we received several nominations on behalf of her team. Current Canuck 15U member, Stephanie Demeules says "Suzi has been able to mentor me throughout this year and encourage me, even though I am not the typically tall volleyball player. Every week, she takes the time to speak to each of us and encourage us to continue to improve." It is clear that the time Suzi dedicates to her club does not go unnoticed. She inspires the girls to work hard everyday and instills a sense of confidence in each of them. Under Suzi's leadership, the girls have the ability to grow as athletes as well as confident young women.



Suzi takes the time to get to know each and everyone of her athletes and goes out of her way to make them feel appreciated. It is because of this that her current and former players speak so highly of her. She finds a way to inspire her players to push themselves in every aspect of their lives and because of this she has created a culture within her club that allows for strong, independent young women to challenge themselves and their teammates in a positive way. Her commitment to young athlete development and the example she sets for the young women in our community does not go without notice. It is because of strong, athletic and intelligent women like Suzi that we are able to build such a nurturing and inspiring environment for our young, female athletes to grow and Volleyball Alberta is proud to have such an ambassador in our community. It is for these reasons that we are honored to call Suzi Cooke our 2015, 16U Female Coach of the Year.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

16U Male Coach of the Year

Nathan Kern



Nathan began coaching his oldest son at the 14U level and is in his 5th year of coaching and in the 2015 season has most certainly made a name for himself. Kern is an exceptional coach, leading both his 15U and 18U Nooks to medal finishes at all 3 Volleyball

Alberta Premiers as well as a 18U Provincial Championship and a 15U and 18U 2015 Canadian National Championships silver medal finish. It goes without saying that this kind of success is an admirable feat to achieve with one team let alone two and Kern continues to strive for more. Outside of club volleyball, Kern has also coached Jasper Place High School for the past 3 seasons, leading his 2015 team to 4 tournament wins, the Edmonton City Championship and a 4A Provincial Championships. The commitment that Kern dedicates to his athletes and to the young athlete development is truly admirable. He is an ambassador of Volleyball Alberta and truly a leader we are proud to call our own.

Kern is truly dedicated to his craft and is a constant student of the game. He spends countless hours watching game tapes and learning new coaching strategies and techniques. It is without a doubt that his commitment reflects in the development of his players. Nathan has helped 9 of his 18U athletes reach their goal of playing postsecondary volleyball, with players committing to some of the powerhouse CIS schools in Canada West including U of A, Trinity Western, and Thompson Rivers, as well as some top CCAA programs such as NAIT, Camosun, Augustana and Grande Prairie. One of his players, Mason Fairless, was just named to Volleyball Canada's Jr. National Team to compete in Korea and Mexico this summer – truly a testament to Kern's ability as a coach.

His ability to find success with his teams can often be attributed to the confidence and support he shows each and every one of

his players. After reading multiple nomination letters it became clear that Kern has earned the respect and admiration from a number of his current and past players as well as the parents involved with his team. "Technically speaking, Nathan emphasizes fundamentals with hard work, consistency and fun. He motivates players and rewards those who take on the challenge to practice and lead every day. His enthusiasm and zest for life is contagious, thus all of his practices and games are at a high level of intensity. He encourages the development of every player's skills and focuses on their strengths while correcting weaknesses." says Eva Poon, parent of a current player on Nathan's 15U team.

It is clear that Nathan loves the game of volleyball and wants nothing more than to encourage his players to reach their full potential as players and young men. Kern dedicates countless hours to young athlete development and is an exceptional role model for his athletes. Volleyball Alberta is honoured to call him our 2015 16U Male Coach of the Year.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

18U Female Coach of the Year

Rhonda Schmuland



Rhonda Schmuland is an exceptional coach and role model for her 17U Canuck Stuff Women's Volleyball team. A former athlete herself, playing one year in the ACAC and four years at Trinity Western University, she truly sets the tone for her young athletes, showing them what it takes to compete at a high level. She is passionately dedicated to her craft and her club, going to bat for her athletes in even the toughest of situations. Rhonda is a great mentor to the girls at Canuck, instilling a sense of

confidence in each and every one of them. It is very evident that Rhonda's players are a reflection of her as a coach, carrying themselves with confidence and conducting themselves with great sportsmanship. Rhonda is truly a gifted coach and an incredible impact on our young female athletes of tomorrow.

Rhonda is a passionate coach and demonstrates to the girls that volleyball is about much more than simply a sport. She teaches her girls about the importance of hard work and determination both on and off the court. She encourages leadership in each of her athletes and demonstrates to them that you can be a leader in your own way - it doesn't always have to be the most vocal player on the team. She allows her players to find their role on the team and learn to strive within that. Rhonda goes out of her way to assure each player feels important and dedicates countless hours to the development of them as athletes and young women.

Being a Physio Therapist and a certified strength and conditioning coach by profession, Rhonda knows that in order to be a great athlete on the court you need to put in your time in the weight room, an aspect often overlooked at the youth level but one she constantly reminds her girls in her program at Canuck. She pushes them to be better all-around athletes



everyday and it shows when looking at the physicality of her 17U women's team. She is constantly challenging them and forcing them out of their comfort zone. This year she entered them in the adult "Smash for Cash" tournament, giving them the opportunity to play against some of the countries best current and former CIS athletes in the country. It was a great challenge for the young athletes and truly a testament to the confidence Rhonda has in her team and the commitment she has to higher development of young athletes.

It is clear that Rhonda is a great coach, mentor, leader, and role model in the Volleyball Alberta community and the young, female athletes of Alberta are lucky to have her. We are looking forward to seeing more great things from Rhonda and are proud to call her our 2015, 18U Female Coach of the Year.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

18U Male Coach of the Year

Ian Halliday



Ian Halliday is a dedicated member of the Volleyball Alberta community, successfully coaching the 2014/2015 Canuck/Dino 17U boys team to both a Volleyball Alberta Provincial Championship and the 2015 17U Men's Canadian National Championship Title. Ian and his coaching staff provided exceptional coaching, development and support to the team and the results of that effort clearly speaks for itself. Ian is

extremely dedicated to the team, supportive of the athletes and their development and has matured the entire team both on and off the court. Ian has coached numerous teams with the Canuck club dating back to 2006 as well as working with the Volleyball Alberta Summer Games Team program earning a number of Western Elite Championships and a 21U Canada Games gold medal in 2013. Ian has also been an assistant coach with the University of Calgary men's volleyball program since 2006.

In addition to his outstanding involvement in the Volleyball Alberta community, Ian has also been heavily involved in Canada's Men's Sitting Volleyball team serving as the head coach for over two years and most recently as the High Performance Director for the program. Through this program Ian has prepared the team for numerous international competitions and continues to be actively involved with that program. Outside of his achievements on the court, Ian serves as an exceptional role model for his young men, boasting impressive academic achievements such as a Bachelor of Kinesiology from the University of Calgary coupled with a Masters of Science in the Art of Coaching from Brisbane, Australia. He is a current NCCP Level II certified coach and continues to be a student of the game, actively pursuing his NCCP Level III certification. It is clear that Ian's commitment to the game and ambition to learn results in the success he has found with his current and previous teams.

Halliday is an impressive coach, focusing not on short term goals but always instilling the importance of long term development in his



players. "I really think Ian helped our team get to the next level. He taught us the fundamentals that push a team to being elite. He helped us see what it really takes to be successful at a very competitive level", says current Canuck/Dino team captain, Parker Siroishka. "Throughout the year he always reinforced the fact that we aren't playing to win premieres. We are using those as learning experiences and playing toward the big tournaments like provincials and nationals." It is this commitment to bigger goals that allow the boys to always be seeking more in themselves and their teams and ultimately led to their success as the 2015 U17 Men's Canadian National Champions.

Ian's dedication to the sport of Volleyball is undeniable and will continue to bring him great success in the future. Volleyball Alberta is grateful to have such an exceptional coach and role model for the young men of tomorrow and thank him for his dedication to the association. It is for these reasons that Ian Halliday is a very deserving recipient of the 2015, 18U Male Volleyball Coach of the Year.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

16U Female Athlete of the Year

Lexi Peart



Lexi Peart represents everything a coach could ask for in an athlete and a leader. Each day that she comes to the gym she brings a level of tenacity and dedication that is often unmatched. She demonstrates a level of commitment and drive that allows her to push her teammates to do the same. She leads by example and often sets the tone for her teammates both on and off the court, creating a level of expectation beyond performing in a match. Lexi has a captivating

personality that is an asset to any team she is on. Often the center of attention off the court, Lexi has a sense of humour that creates a lighthearted atmosphere for her teammates and has the unique ability to make each one of her teammates feel included and valued in their role on the team.

As an athlete, Lexi is a physical dominance on the court and helped lead her team to two Volleyball Alberta Premier gold medals, a Provincial Championship, as well as an impressive 5PthP place finish at the 2015 National Championship. Lexi proves that she has the mental and physical ability to perform exceptionally well under pressure and is undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with. Whenever Lexi is in the lineup, you can expect her to be on and it is evident that her teammates trust in that and follow her lead. She is an exceptional athlete that is able to dominate in her play while finding a leadership style that allows her teammates to find success as well.

Her current coach, Aneta boasts of Lexi's work and what she brings to her team. When asked about Lexi she says, "She is truly proud to be a Dino, and embodies and commits to everything being a Dino stands for. Lexi's dedication to the



sport, her club, and every single player on her team is truly admirable".

Lexi exudes the intangibles that every coach looks for and not every athlete has. It is something that can't be taught by a coach in a practice but is simply invaluable when it comes to building a team. Her dedication to the sport, her club, and every single player on her team is truly admirable. Lexi demonstrates unwavering confidence and shows maturity and work ethic beyond her years. Volleyball Alberta is excited to see what the future holds in store for this young lady and for this, we are truly proud to call Lexi Peart our 2015, U16 Female Athlete of the Year.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

16U Male Athlete of the Year

Jaxson Thys



Jaxson Thys is a phenomenal talent and is undoubtedly a worthy recipient of this year's 16U Male Athlete of the Year Award. Jaxson was not only one of the top outsides on FOG Black, but is considered around the province as one of the top outsides in Alberta. He is an extremely explosive jumper and possesses one of the heaviest arms at this age group, making him an offensive force to be reckoned with. Jaxson asserted his dominance and let his abilities shine at the Volleyball Alberta Provincial Championships

this year, leading his team with his physical play to the Provincial title. Outside of this year's Provincial Title with FOG Black, Jaxson also helped lead his 15U Nook team to a Provincial Title in 2014, as well as an Alberta Winter Game's silver medal, a number of Volleyball Alberta Premier medal finishes and back to back Provincial MVP titles in 2014 and 2015.

Jaxson Thys is truly an admirable young athlete, overcoming obstacles simply unfathomable for most. Prior to his first 15U season, Jaxson was diagnosed with conversion disorder. This came as a result of migraines that would cause Jaxson to pass out. Over the 2012/13 school year Jaxson developed memory loss, causing him to forget events prior to November, 2012, the loss of feeling in both legs below the knees, and the loss of feeling on his hands. He has since had the feeling return to his hands, but to this day he has no feeling below his knees. Facing this kind of adversity at such a young age has undoubtedly contributed to Jaxson's undeniable determination and work ethic that has led him to such great team and individual success. As a player, Jaxson displays a mental fortitude simply unmatched by many others in his age category.

Current coach Jordan Taylor speaks highly of Jaxson and his abilities as an athlete. "To go along with his tremendous abilities, Jaxson is also quite the determined athlete. After going through



several medical complications and serious health issues just a short few years ago, Jaxson has worked hard to not only relearn how to walk, but also to perform basic motor skills required in his favorite sport, volleyball", says Coach Taylor. "His journey to being a top athlete in our province is truly remarkable, and is an inspiration to his peers, teammates, and coaches. He was our emotional leader and the team rallied around him and his play. I am very honored to have coached Jaxson this past season, and I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for him."

It is clear that Jaxson Thys is an admirable young man and an exceptional athlete. Volleyball Alberta is proud of the athlete Jaxson is today and looks forward to what kind of athlete he will be in the future. He is an exceptional ambassador of the association and we are elated to call Jaxson Thys our 16U Male Athlete of the Year.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

18U Female Athlete of the Year

Natasha Gordey



Natasha Gordey is an undeniable impact on and off the court and is the kind of athlete every coach looks for. She shows great athleticism and is able to step into any role that is asked of her. The 2015 season meant her taking a role as a libero as well as an outside hitter and even as an undersized leftside, she managed to lead her team offensively to 3 Volleyball Alberta Premier gold medals, a 4th consecutive Volleyball Alberta Provincial Championship and National Championship silver medal. Outside of her team success, Natasha also

boasts 3 consecutive National All-Star recognitions. It is without a doubt that both her team as well as individual success can be attributed to the intangibles Natasha brings to her game. Beyond her strong technical abilities, she displays a sense of level-headedness, an impressive volleyball IQ, sportsmanship, and coach ability that makes Natasha a force to be reckoned with. Often described as the “rock” of the team, it goes without saying that Natasha comes to play each day and works hard to better herself as well as her teammates.

Aside from her on court performance, Natasha is a positive, impactful leader. She's demanding with high expectations of her teammates while always remaining encouraging. She is both fierce and humble and it's because of this balance she is able to push her teammates every day. Natasha leads by example, displaying determination and eagerness to learn and constantly improving herself as an all-around athlete, on and off the court. She never hesitates to go the extra mile, including putting in additional time training on the court and in the weight room in order to achieve her personal and team goals. She is a true competitor and it is this work ethic and determination that has made Natasha into the player and person she is today and will continue to bring her success in her postsecondary career at the University of Calgary.



Amongst Natasha's impressive volleyball resume, she is also an exceptional student. Natasha boasted a 92% overall GPA in her senior year at William Aberhart High School while balancing her rigorous training schedule. Academics is an aspect of being a high level athlete that is often overlooked when athletes show such great physical ability but Volleyball Alberta is proud to acknowledge athletes who represent themselves on the court as well as in the classroom. She has an infectious personality and an ability to make everyone around her feel valued and included; a truly admirable attribute for a young woman. Volleyball Alberta is proud to have such a well-rounded young woman representing our organization and is most certainly a deserving recipient of our 2015 18U Female Athlete of the Year.

Mikasa Achievement Awards

18U Male Athlete of the Year

Jacob Kern



Jacob Kern is an exceptional young athlete, boasting numerous team and individual accolades. Jacob's 2014/2015 season consisted of 3 Volleyball Alberta Premier Medal finishes, a Volleyball Alberta Provincial Championship and a silver medal finish at the 2015 Canadian National Championship with the Nooks 18U team, as well as a ASAA 4A Provincial Championship with Jasper Place High School. Alongside his impressive team achievements, Jacob was also named to the 2015 Canadian

National Championship All-Star Team, named the Edmonton City All-Star MVP, awarded the 2015 Edmonton Journal High School All-Star title and was named one of the top 3 players in the Metro Edmonton High School Volleyball League. It is without a doubt Jacob is a gifted athlete and is headed to spend his postsecondary career with the #2 ranked CIS team in Canada, the Trinity Western University Spartans.

On top of Jacob's impressive achievements as a volleyball player he is also an honor roll student at Jasper Place High School and when he isn't busy dominating in the classroom or on the court he is volunteering his time as an assistant coach for the 15U Nooks men's volleyball team as well as offering his time with the NBC camps at King's University. Jacob Kern is unquestionably the "whole package" and any coach would be honored to have him. Current High School coach, Sid Brandsma boasts that Jacob's work ethic and individual ability to excel made him an outstanding captain for the Rebel's Men's Volleyball team over the past 3 years, helping lead them to 3 City Championships and an ASAA Provincial title. "Not only is Jacob extremely talented, he is very coachable and probably one of the most consistent athletes I have ever coached", says Brandsma.



Jacob is more than just an outstanding athlete, he is a remarkable leader, showing maturity beyond his years. He is a very caring and dedicated individual who enjoys giving back to the community and does everything with an infectious smile. He is an ambassador on the court and in the classroom and his passion for excellence will continue to open doors for him in the future. On the court, in games and practices, he is consistent, hardworking and dependable, making him an unstoppable force in every aspect of the game. Above that, he has the ability to inspire, motivate and encourage his teammates - intangibles that every coach seeks in a player. The Mikasa award is a combination of performance, positive attitude, and leadership on and off the court and it goes without question the Jacob Kern exemplifies these attributes. Volleyball Alberta is privileged to have such an incredible young man represent our association and for this we are proud to call Jacob Kern our 2015, 18U Male Athlete of the Year.

Hall of Fame Awards

Athlete

Bonnie MacRae-Kilb



Bonnie MacRae's name was synonymous with women's volleyball in the 1980s. MacRae joined the University of Calgary from her Provincial Championship team at Bishop Carroll High School in Calgary in 1980 and achieved stardom in her rookie season. Remarkably she was named a Canada West first team all-star in her rookie season and each year for all 5 years of her varsity eligibility.

She was named Canada West Player of the Year on two occasions. MacRae-Kilb was named Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (now Canadian Interuniversity Sport) first team All-Canadian in 1982, 1983, and 1985. In each of those three seasons she was instrumental in the University of Calgary winning the Canada West Championship and advancing to the National final.

Bonnie was named University of Calgary Female Athlete of the Year twice (1982 and 1983) and was also recognized by the Calgary Booster Club as honored athlete in the City of Calgary in 1983. In 1996 she joined an elite group of athletes and was the 7th inductee into the University of Calgary Hall of Fame.

MacRae-Kilb was a carded athlete by Sport Canada while attending Bishop Carroll and continued this status for 8 years while competing internationally as a starting member of both the Canadian Junior National Team and Canadian Senior National Team. In high school she was awarded the Gretta Schwartz Award from the Calgary Booster Club recognizing the top student athlete and scholar. At this time Bonnie was also representing Canada in Track and Field in Pentathlon.

In 1980 she held an instrumental role in winning Gold in the NORCECA Zone Championships. The unprecedented feat was recently recognized by Volleyball Canada with Inducting the entire



team into the Volleyball Canada Hall of Fame. Bonnie spent seasons playing first division professional volleyball in Italy and Switzerland. She spent 6 years as an assistant coach with the University of Calgary Women's Team and was a recipient of the Prestigious Women in Sport Leadership Award from Sport Canada. During that time along with her husband, the team captured medals at the CIS Championships including Gold in 1989. She currently plays on the FOG Masters womens team that has won numerous medals at the US Open and World Masters Games. Following the Masters team inaugural Gold medal in 2005 Bonnie was recognized as "Geezer Jock of the Year" beating out 30 finalists from Canada and the United States. With the support of her family she has endowed a generous scholarship in her name at the University of Calgary. This award is given annually to a female Volleyball Player at the University of Calgary to help offset the expense of tuition.

Bonnie continues to work tirelessly in the sport of Volleyball, devoting leadership and service to the Calgary Volleyball community. The Elite West Volleyball Club enters its 35th season, founded by Bonnie and husband Brad. This club consistently finishes among the top in the province, country and the USA National Youth Championships.

Beyond her experience as a player and coach Bonnie also serves our sport as an Official. In 2012 Bonnie and her husband Brad served as Technical Officials for the FIVB at the Olympic Games in London, England. The combination of player, coach and official served them well in their roles as Statisticians.

Bonnie enters her 8th year serving as a volunteer ambassador to her Alma Mater...The University of Calgary. She sits on the Alumni Board of Directors as well as the Senate. In these roles she continues to give back to the institution which she believes she took much. Selflessly, she helped create the Senate Service Award which is given annually to a varsity athlete recognizing contribution to the community, academic success and service.

Hall of Fame Awards

Athlete

Murray Grapentine



Born in Wetaskiwin in 1977, this all-around athlete grew up in the Wetaskiwin Minor Hockey, Softball and Baseball programs, school sports and Club Volleyball. Murray's experience with volleyball began in grade 8 at Queen Elizabeth Junior High. In grade 10 (1993) he was chosen to play for the Alberta Juvenile Volleyball Team and competed in the Western Canadian Championships. This exceptional and humble blocker wouldn't have to travel far to start his post-secondary career. After one season at Red Deer College, winning

the CCAA National College title and being recognized as the Most Improved Player on the team, he traveled north up Highway 2 to join the Golden Bears volleyball program at the University of Alberta from 1996-1999. He represented Alberta twice more as a junior player and in 1997 he was named an All Star at the Canadian Junior National Championships. Murray was selected to the Canadian National FISU team in 1997. Golden Bears' Coach Terry Danyluk reflected that Murray was "instrumental in the Golden Bears 1997 CIAU National Championship" and was also the University of Alberta's Wilson Trophy winner as the school's most outstanding male athlete in 1998 and the CIAU Player of the year award in 1999.

After graduating from University, his international appearances included: the Universiade Games of 1997 and 1999, the 1998, 2002 and 2006 World Championships and Murray played volleyball professionally in Spain, France and Italy for over seven years. As a professional, he led his team to the Coupe de France in 2004 and 2007, as well as the Championat de France title in 2003. He also continued playing for the Canadian National Team and continued gaining acclaim for his prowess on the volleyball court including:

- Best Blocker and Server at the 2000 FIVB Olympic Qualifier;
- All Star at the Men's World Championship Qualifier in 2001;



- Best Blocker at the NORCECA Championships in 1999, 2003 and 2007;
- Selected as Captain of Team Canada in 2005;
- Fourth Best Blocker at the 1998 World Cup and 2006 World Championships
- Best Blocker in the 2006 Pan-American Cup.

Danyluk recalls that “Murray has really ‘done it all’ as a player in the sport of volleyball, he was a standout at all levels in which he played; locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally. This all says a great deal about his athletic achievements but as his former coach what is most special about Murray is not that he succeeded at becoming a world class middle blocker but that he did so humbly and with great commitment to all the teams he participated on.”

After eleven seasons with Team Canada, Murray retired from competition in January 2008 and mentored athletes as an assistant volleyball coach for the University of Regina Cougars from 2008-2014. In 2012, his hometown of Wetaskiwin inducted Murray into the Hall of Fame as an athlete. Murray is changing gears from volleyball and completing a Bachelors of Business real-estate degree. It is a pleasure to honor and recognize Murray Grapentine as a 2015 Inductee as an Athlete to the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame!

Award Recipients

2014 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UF Athlete of the Year - Hilary Howe
16UM Athlete of the Year - Shane Verkland
18UF Athlete of the Year - Ciara Hanly
18UM Athlete of the Year - Tanner Greves
16UF Coach of the Year - Rod Hebert
16UM Coach of the Year - Greg Elgert
18UF Coach of the Year - Sandra Lamb
18UM Coach of the Year - Kerry MacDonald
Volunteer of the Year - MaryBeth Meeuwisse
Official of the Year - Everette Dionne

2013 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year – Carter McIntyre
16UF Athlete of the Year – Tessa Hill
18UM Athlete of the Year – Levi Wolthuis
18UF Athlete of the Year – Mariah Walsh
16UM Coach of the Year – Allan Coulter
16UF Coach of the Year – Raynell Lavertu
18UM Coach of the Year – Jace Barros
18UF Coach of the Year – Lindsay Jones
Official of the Year – Karl Hiebert
Volunteer of the Year – Janet Kawchuk

2012 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Derek Meeuwisse
16UF Athlete of the Year - Beth Vinnell
18UM Athlete of the Year - Brett Walsh
18UF Athlete of the Year - Alexa Gray
16UM Coach of the Year - Jace Barros
16UF Coach of the Year - Reid Brodie
18UM Coach of the Year - Mark Maris
18UF Coach of the Year - Jamie Bach
Official of the Year - Pam Rintoul
Volunteer of the Year - Laura Vaillant

2011 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Ryan Nickifor
16UF Athlete of the Year - Courtney Yoo
18UM Athlete of the Year - Blake Hinchey
18UF Athlete of the Year - Alissa Coulter
16UM Coach of the Year - Candace Greves
16UF Coach of the Year - Dusty Freimark
18UM Coach of the Year-Howard Gelderman
18UF Coach of the Year - Rob Ellis
Official of the Year - Mike Malowany
Volunteer of the Year - Brenda Jones

2010 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Brett Walsh
16UF Athlete of the Year - Kacey Otto
18UM Athlete of the Year - Zach Brown
18UF Athlete of the Year - Carly Hamilton
16UM Coach of the Year - Mark Maris
16UF Coach of the Year - Linda Richter
18UM Coach of the Year - Tyler Myroniuk
18UF Coach of the Year - Tracy Keats
Official of the Year - Ashley Fox
Volunteer of the Year - Sai Wong

2009 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Jackson Maris
16UF Athlete of the Year - Kyjsa Brkich
18UM Athlete of the Year - Jarron Mueller
18UF Athlete of the Year - Camille Saxton
16UM Coach of the Year - David Jones
16UF Coach of the Year - LeAnn Kinvig
18UM Coach of the Year - Jeremy Deeks
18UF Coach of the Year - Reid Brodie
Official of the Year - Arch Beck
Volunteer of the Year - Heather Wishlow

2008 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Branden Schmidt
16UF Athlete of the Year - Jordhynn Guy
18UM Athlete of the Year - Jeremy Potter
18UF Athlete of the Year - Kaylene Ehret
16UM Coach of the Year - Steve Weinbeer
16UF Coach of the Year - Tracy Keats
18UM Coach of the Year - Brad Poplawski
18UF Coach of the Year - Don Saxton
Official of the Year – JP Desaulniers
Volunteer of the Year - Candice Sylvester

2007 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Jarron Mueller
16UF Athlete of the Year - Dione Lang
18UM Athlete of the Year - Ciaran McGovern
18UF Athlete of the Year - Jamie Thibeault
16UM Coach of the Year-Howard Gelderman
16UF Coach of the Year - Pat Pyne
18UM Coach of the Year - Ian Bennett
18UF Coach of the Year - Gisele Kreuger
Official of the Year - Neal Konowalyk
Volunteer of the Year - Don Hutton

2006 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16Um Athlete of the Year - Jarrod Offereins
16UF Athlete of the Year - Camille Saxton
18UM Athlete of the Year - Tanner Nault
18UF Athlete of the Year - Tiffany Proudfoot
16UM Coach of the Year - Dale Gullekson
16UF Coach of the Year - Alex Melnyk
18UM Coach of the Year - Gord Bocock
18UF Coach of the Year - Chris Wandler
Official of the Year - Tammy McNally
Volunteer of the Year - Terry Noble

2005 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Paul Lindemulder
16UF Athlete of the Year - Jaryn Ruether
18UM Athlete of the Year - Thomas Jarmoc
18UF Athlete of the Year - Raynell Lavertu
16UM Coach of the Year - Darryl Tetz
16UF Team Coach of the Year - Bob Gabruck
18UM Coach of the Year - Ryan Marsden
18UF Coach of the Year - Rob Lindberg
Official of the Year - Sherri Weed
Volunteer of the Year - Matt Stayner

2004 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Ben Saxton
16UF Athlete of the Year - Jackie Gagnon
18UF Athlete of the Year - Lauren Perry
18UM Athlete of the Year – none
16UM Coach of the Year - Art O'Dwyer
16UF Coach of the Year - Grace Scott
18UM Coach of the Year - Tyson Waters
18UF Coach of the Year - Linda Merrick
Official of the Year - Glenn Johnston
Volunteer of the Year - John Findlay

2003 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Colin Bell
16UF Athlete of the Year - Kristy Anderson
18UM Athlete of the Year - Mark Thibeault
18UF Athlete of the Year-Carolyn Macdonald
16UM Coach of the Year - Ian Kulmatycki
16UF Coach of the Year - Heather McIntosh
18UM Coach of the Year - Mike Lauzon
18UF Coach of the Year - Craig Gattinger
Official of the Year - Scott McLean
Volunteer of the Year - Kathy Van Humbeck



Hall of Fame Inductees

2015

Athlete Bonnie MacRae-Kilb
Athlete Murray Grapentine

2014

Athlete John Paulsen
Team FOG Masters Women
Coach Greg Ryan

2013

Builder Jan Patterson

2012

Athlete Christy Hansen
Builder Bob Gabruck
Coach Dave Johnson
Official Harold Mori

2011

Athlete Jenny Cartmell
Builder Dave & Doreen Ross

2010

Athlete Kevin Boyles
Team Mount Royala College
Cougers Men (1991-99)

2009

Athlete Kent Greves
Team Red Deer Kings (1999-2007)
Coach Howard Rasmussen
Builder George Tokarsky
Official Marilyn Bratton

2008

Athlete Randy Gingera
Team FOG Senior Men
Coach Keith Hansen
Builder Al James

2007

Athlete Errol Miller
Team Red Deer Queens (82-99)
Coach Calvin Aubin
Builder Myrna Empey
Official Lynda Ward

2006

Athlete Kathy Tough
Team Canuck Stuff Senior Men
(1991-98)
Coach Lance Adamson
Builder John Pierre Baudin
Official Basil Barnes

2005

Athlete Terry Danyluk
Team NAVC Gold 18U Men
(1995-2001)
Coach Cor Ouwerkerk
Builder Bob Bratton
Official Larry Lerbekmo

2004

Athlete Barb Broen
Athlete Al Taylor
Team University of Alberta
Pandas
(1994-2000)
Team Older but Wiser
Coach Lorne Sawula
Coach Brian Watson
Builder Hugh Hoyles
Builder Theresa Maxwell
Official Bill Ward

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