

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Five alumni honored as CISD Outstanding Graduates

Five CISD alumni were honored with the prestigious 2008 Comal ISD Outstanding Graduate Award during the Comal Education Foundation's Academic Recognition Banquet May 20.

The award recognizes Comal Independent School District alumni for excellence and notable achievements since graduating. This is the 11th year of the program. Each recipient received a specially designed acrylic award and a photo plaque of each honoree will hang on the schools' Wall of Honor.

The honorees are:

Barbara Doeppenschmidt (CHS '65) has been a dedicated member of the community her entire life. She attended Sherwood School, graduated from Canyon High, taught in the NBISD for 20 years, and served as principal at Rahe Bulverde Elementary before retiring from Comal ISD after 30 years in education. In the community, Doeppenschmidt helped start the Sally M. Kingsbury Sarcoma Research Foundation, has been a longtime supporter of the Comal County Youth Show, and is currently a member of the Startzville Elementary Site-Based Management Committee. Doeppenschmidt also is a Communities in Schools and New Braunfels Public Library board member. She has been married to Carl Doeppenschmidt for 40 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. She received her bachelor's in business education and master's in education from Southwest Texas State University.

Douglas Edwards (CHS '81) made baseball fans out of many New Braunfels residents during the summer of 2006. As head coach of the Unicorns, his New Braunfels High team knocked off playoff opponent after playoff

opponent before beating Fort Worth Arlington Heights for the state title. Following the season, Edwards was named the state's Class 4A Coach of the Year by the Texas Sportswriters' Association. Edwards, also a defensive line coach for the Unicorns' football team, had several coaching stops along his career path, but was thrilled to make it back home when he was hired at New Braunfels High in the fall of 2000. In his spare time, Edwards volunteers at his church and spends quality time with his family. Edwards and his wife Janice have two daughters. He received his bachelor's in physical education from Southwest Texas State University.

Janet Link Groth (CHS '73) has impacted countless lives during her 30 years as an educator and coach at Fort Stockton High. She guided athletes to the state track meet in the late 1970s, and basketball teams into the playoffs in the 80s. When she retired from athletics to raise a family, Groth – the head of the Fort Stockton High Computer Science Department from 1986-2007 – took up coaching UIL academics and spearheaded teams that won eight district and three regional championships and one state title. Groth taught the first Advanced Placement course at FSH in 1993 and became a key reason students in the tiny West Texas town dreamed of a chance to go to college when she began teaching dual-credit classes. Groth also taught the nursery class at her church for more than a decade, served on the PTA board and coached many little league teams. Janet has two daughters, and a stepson and stepdaughter. She currently lives in Fort Stockton with her husband Walter. She received her bachelor's in math and computer science from Southwest Texas State University.

Monica Krieg Hays (CHS '84) brought an innovative brand of competition to her hometown of Prosper, Texas. Odyssey of the Mind, an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college, helps kids apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and world level. When Hays started the Odyssey of the Mind program in Prosper in 2004, only 14 students participated. Four years later, the team had 62 students branching out over three divisions. In 2007, Prosper's middle school team advanced to the world

competition level in Michigan. A stay-at-home mom, Hays has never been one to rest much. She's also the commissioner of the youth volleyball league and coaches two teams per season, is president of her church council and is homeroom mom in her daughter's classroom. She and her husband Don have two children. She graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's in advertising.

Elizabeth Anne Weisman (CHS '96) has led an accomplished life in both the workplace and through her ability to reach out to others through volunteer work in a little over a decade since she graduated from CHS. In the world of politics, she was the chief of staff for state representatives Drew Darby and Carter Casteel, as well as campaign office manager for former state comptroller John Sharp. Weisman started volunteering for Big Brothers/Big Sisters in 2005, and has helped raise money for the families of fallen game wardens through Operation Game Thief. She is on the board of the Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo, which has given millions in statewide college scholarships through the years. Weisman currently works as the executive manager at Hunter Industries in San Marcos, one of the largest privately owned highway construction companies in the state, where she oversees the daily operations of the business. There, she started Angel Tree, which provides gifts to women in the Comal County Crisis Center during the holidays. Weisman graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's in political science, and received her master's of business administration from St. Edward's University in Austin.