

## Rangers Shine in International Competition

Over the summer, 12 finalists participated in the Women's USA Deaf National Basketball U21 team. Texas School for the Deaf was proud to have two of its female athletes amongst the 12-member team that competed in the 2018 U21 World Deaf Basketball Championship at Gallaudet University.

Junior Michaela K. and Senior Sunita S. were thrilled to secure spots on the national team. Michaela was a post for the team, and she felt that she grew as both a player and a person as a result of the experience. She was fascinated by meeting people from different countries and learning International Sign Language. The two weeks were some of her best yet; words simply can't do them justice. She explained, "I learned so much as a result of the training and competition, and my confidence as a player has increased as well."

Sunita, a point guard, enjoyed learning from others and meeting people from different countries. She commented, "I really gained a lot of knowledge from the experience, and I am happy to bring that back to TSD so that I can teach others what I learned!" She mentioned that her peers should grab an opportunity like this if ever given the chance – it was such a rich experience for her!

Michaela and Sunita were proud to represent Team USA, and they were elated to bring home the championship title! Congrats to our Lady Rangers for making waves at the international level!



## TXDPS Troopers Meet Students

Earlier this month, troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) walked around the campus visiting students.

TSD Elementary students, Cayden and Alise K. got to visit with TXDPS officers during lunch.

TXDPS and TSD have formed a partnership to provide student and staff an added sense of security.



## EMPLOYEE PERKS



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## Carilynne Gay

Returns!



Former first grade teacher Carilynne Gay retired from TSD a year ago; however, she happily accepted a recent invitation from the current first grade team to serve as a guest speaker for their students. The first graders are learning about the importance of community helpers, so Mrs. Gay's presentation focused on teachers. She read a relevant book to the students, and following the book, the students created an acrostic poem where they identified special characteristics of teachers. Mrs. Gay smiled as she told about the experience. When they took the group picture, the students all rushed to stand by her side, even those who didn't know her. Mrs. Gay taught many of the current first graders' parents and family members, so she definitely felt "at home" as the guest speaker. Current first grade teacher Lauren Auringer shared, "The students were engaged and excited, and the teachers enjoyed learning from Carilynne's many years of experience by watching her interact with the students."

## Community Spotlight: Lisa Crawford

A treasured member of the TSD community, Lisa Crawford, was recently honored with The Seaver Liaison Award as a result of her commitment to families with children who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Her coworkers in ERCOD, including Shelley Bergeron, nominated her for this award that is given annually to one person or entity that exemplifies the values and commitment to the Hands & Voices vision.

Lisa was instrumental in the following initiatives, all of which led her to receiving this special recognition:

- Establishing the Texas chapter of Hands & Voices (2009)
- Launching the parent-to-parent support program, Guide by Your Side (2010)
- Implementing ASTra (Advocacy Support and Training) in Texas (2017)

Lisa and her family moved to Texas from Michigan in May of 2005 so that her daughter, Emma, could attend TSD. Lisa began working in ERCOD in December 2006 as the Statewide Parent Liaison, where she stayed until March 2017.

She reminisced, "Being able to work at the same school that my daughter attended from 2006-2014 was a unique and special experience. I was able to learn from so many professional Deaf adults and see my daughter blossom at the same time. It was a chance for both of us to receive a once in a lifetime learning opportunity! Also, attending CSW is one of my fondest memories - I learned so much and feel that the whole Deaf community in Texas was supporting those of us who were trying to improve our signing skills."

Please join us in congratulating Lisa for earning this prestigious award, and more importantly, please extend your gratitude to her for her commitment to supporting families of Deaf and hard of hearing children throughout the State.



Submit a story & WIN!

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Submit a story by September 28<sup>th</sup> to be entered into a drawing for a \$10 gift card for

