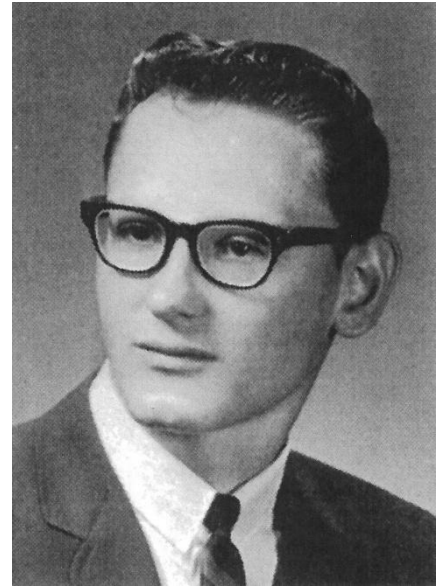


## Gary Neist Class of 1965

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Gary Neist graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1965, where he participated in football, wrestling and track. He participated in the state wrestling championships three years where, as a sophomore, he finished third at 95 lbs and as a junior, he was crowned champion at 112 lbs. He was a district wrestling champion all three years and twice was section champion to go along with a section runner-up his senior year. He also participated in the state track and field championships as a senior.. He later wrestled at Luther College where he was a NCAA Division II All-American in 1968, placing fifth in the small college nationals. In 1971 he was a member of the United States World Team and was a member of the All-Army team. Neist represented the United States at the 1972 Olympic games held in Munich Germany, placing 15th at 163 lbs. in Greco-Roman wrestling. In 1973 was a member of the World University team that participated in Moscow. Neist is the only wrestler to occupy a spot on an olympic team from Minnesota's Region 1 Wrestling and was honored recently with an induction into their Hall of Fame. Neist taught for many years in Albert Lea and in Pennsylvania. He was the boys and girls gymnastics coach in Albert Lea for 10 years. After returning to college and earning a doctorate degree at age 57, he finished his career as a professor at Minnesota State-Mankato