

DUPAGE HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 88

Building Futures
ADDISON TRAIL
WILLOWBROOK

Staff Recognition Dinner

| May 6, 2016 |

Venuti's Italian Restaurant & Banquet Hall
2251 W. Lake St.
Addison, IL 60101



Service Recognition Awards

ADDISON TRAIL

DISTRICT OFFICE

WILLOWBROOK

10 years

Paul Anderson
Lindsay Bugajsky
Lisa Crotty
Jorge de Leon
Ryan Dini
Kelly Downer
Michael Galfi
Marco Gasca
Karen Grady
Anna Grice
Jose Hernandez
Joanna Kulikowska
Cory Little
Brendan Lyons
Iridia Niewinski
Jenna Phillips
Karen Pierropoulos
Robert Schader
Crystal Seitz
Kendrick Thomas
James Ziebka

Sam Bentsen
Esther Delgado

Ryan Bazon
Steven Bridges
Matthew Cochran
Andriani Coletta
Julio Del Real
Veronica Diaz
Anthony Distasio
Sheila Elliott
Pablo Flores
Angelica Frias
Rachel Karos
Kathy LeMone
Corazon Luis
Brandon Murphy
Matthew Scott

15 years

Angela Biegel
Steve Bruns
Nina Fedorchuk
Kallie Haney
Aaron Jackson
Scott Kuras
Barbara Musial
Philip Stewart
Tiffany Stone

Scott Helton
Catherine Martino
Veronica Noyola
Charles Syperski

Terry Artman
James Cosgrove
Marina Gozzetti
Michael Haussmann
Cristy Hebreard
Mahjoub Hilali
Anna (Pearson) Lu
Staci Scapardine
Brian Shanahan
Guangming Yang

20 years

Coleen Brechin
Laura Magnavite
Steven Nelson
Sean O'Connor
Matt Thompson

Mary Neal
Nancy Oskin

John Epple
Susan Moran
Liz Zwart

25 years

Theresa A. Wilson
Diane Zoglman

Troy Nelson
Jeffrey Reher
Jim White

30 years

Bruce Kelsay
Mary Kelsay
Patricia Rust

Laura Butler
Tom Cantlin

Outstanding Achievement Awards



ADDISON TRAIL
Angela Biegel



WILLOWBROOK
Mike Warren

2015-16 Retirees

ADDISON TRAIL	DISTRICT OFFICE	WILLOWBROOK
Angela Biegel	Mary Neal	Laura Butler
Terri Grams	Nancy Oskin	Rita DeFilippis
Kuo-Ching Ku	Sharon Schoen	Sheila Elliott
Karen L. Madej		Bill Eufrazio
Dan O'Connell		Mahjoub Hilali
Patricia Rust		Janis Piedra
		Micki Silvestri
		Debra Wilson

Angela Biegel, *Addison Trail*

After moving to the Addison community, Angela's involvement with the Parent-Teacher Association led to her decision to work in education. She worked for eight years at Addison School District 4 as a health aide and secretary before joining the Addison Trail staff in 2001 as department secretary.

During the past 15 years, Angela has assisted the faculty in the math, business education, world language, art and science departments. She couldn't have asked to work with a more fantastic staff.

Along with being a proud mother of three Addison Trail alumni, Angela has enjoyed the many life celebrations of her extended family in the departments. Her favorite memories involve the numerous weddings and babies of department members.

As Angela reflects on her career, she

advises new employees to be good team players and to help support your team. Everything presented to you can be accomplished. Ask questions and get help.

While leaving the Addison community will be a transition, Angela looks forward to resuming her love of reading and joining a book club. Her time will be spent baby-sitting her grandson, gardening and enjoying some travel. Most of all, she looks forward to spending time with her children – Tom, Monica and Joanne – and her grandchildren – Connor, Brynn and Emmett.



Terri Grams, *Addison Trail*

Terri was off to a running start when she joined the Addison Trail faculty in 2003. Not only was she a science teacher and Science Olympiad sponsor, but she started the Environmental Club and initiated the environmental science course that is part of today's curriculum.

Terri earned her bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton and her master's degree from Northeastern Illinois University. However, her career in education did not start after those achievements. It was actually her involvement in her son's school that piqued her interest in attaining her teaching license and pursuing a career as a teacher.

Terri said her favorite part of her job is sharing her excitement about science. She knows she is doing her part to help students become better citizens of our earth. It is important for her to help students see they really can become their best when they put in the effort.

In retirement, Terri will miss being in the classroom and seeing students experience the "aha" moment. This was a gratifying experience to know she had taught them something and was able to see their wheels in motion. She also will miss her colleagues, whom she has grown fond of through the years.

She does intend to truly rest and sleep in during retirement. Terri plans to enjoy gardening, to continue fostering her learning by taking classes, to visit the family of her husband, Alberto, in Mexico and to spend time with her sons, Scott and Kevin.



Karen L. Madej, *Addison Trail*

After teaching in two other school districts, Karen began her career with Addison Trail in 1994, teaching in the “brand-new” Learning Support Center. Karen will retire with 36 years of experience as an educator. While working at Addison Trail, Karen has served as a Learning Support Center teacher, Gifted Program coordinator, ESL teacher, reading teacher and literacy coach.

Karen’s passion for reading and helping people made choosing the teaching path very easy. It also didn’t hurt she had very good teachers, whom she respected as role models along the way. Karen earned her bachelor’s degree and her master’s degree from The University of Illinois at Chicago.

Karen’s favorite memories are of all the teachers and students she has had the pleasure of working with through the years. She feels District 88 has given her many opportunities to continue to grow. She is grateful to her colleagues, many of whom also are her friends.

When reflecting on the positive improvements of the district, Karen notes there have been many changes to improve the physical, educational, social and emotional environments

for the students in the last 20 years. The dedication of the staff to continuously do more and do better for the kids makes Addison Trail a special place to work.

Karen would like to continue to travel internationally, to visit more of the national parks in the U.S. and to visit relatives in various states. She looks forward to spending more time with her family, bicycling, hiking, boating and organizing her photographs from her travels.



Dan O’Connell, *Addison Trail*

While Dan began his music career at the age of 7, it was a class in high school that piqued his interest in combining music with teaching and becoming a high school music teacher. Dan went on to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to earn his bachelor’s degree and his master’s degree.

Dan has more than 33 years of teaching experience in the Addison community. Before joining Addison Trail in 1990, he worked for Addison School District 4. The first four years of his Addison Trail career also were spent teaching part-time at District 4 – something unique to many educators.

His classroom experience and leadership skills helped him become chair of several departments – Music, Family & Consumer Sciences and Art. Dan also served the Addison Trail community as the PBIS chair, Guitar Ensemble director and Orchestra director. Dan will miss working with the wonderful people at Addison Trail and

certainly the students.

As Dan looks forward to his retirement, he reflects fondly on several memories of his career. The music students in the class of 1994 will always hold a special place for him because he was able to instruct them from fourth grade to 12th grade and see their progression. He enjoyed having his students play on the steps of the United States Capitol.

Dan will begin his retirement with a trip to Scotland this summer. When he returns, he plans to continue his musical interests. He will resume playing the violin and performing in a string quartet with his three children – Kelly, Sarah and Danny. He also will enjoy spending quality time with his wife, Sue.



Patricia Rust, *Addison Trail*

Patricia's ties to District 88 began as a student at Addison Trail. While she departed for a few years to earn her bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University and her master's degree from National Louis University, she found herself returning to the district to begin her teaching career at Addison Trail and has been a reading teacher for 31 years.

As a young child, Patricia spent her free time playing school with the neighborhood children. So, it was an easy decision to choose teaching as a career. While working at Addison Trail, Patricia also has sponsored several clubs - National Honor Society, class sponsor, International Dance and Book Club.

When looking back at her early days at Addison Trail, she is most proud of Addison Trail always being at the

forefront in literacy education. She advises new teachers to get involved. Addison Trail is a great learning community. She speaks from personal experience as an alumna, as well as the parent of three alumni.

Patricia is looking forward to what comes her way as she begins her retirement with her husband, Ken; her children, Brian (Lacey), Jill (Chris), Lindsay (Ryan) and Jackie (Ryan); and her grandchildren, Ave and Jonathan. She plans to keep herself busy by caring for her grandchildren and traveling.



Mary Neal, *District Office*

Since 1996, Mary has committed herself to the success of the District Office and filled four positions. She served as the coordinator of the Community Education Program, secretary of the Community Education Program, grants administrative assistant and payroll specialist.

As a community resident, Mary benefited not only from the convenience of working for District 88, but also seeing her children graduate from Willowbrook, along with 12 nieces and nephews. She feels District 88 is a great place to work and advises new employees to dive in and enjoy work.

Mary has fond memories of working in the Community Education Program. There was such variety in the courses offered for residents. She enjoyed setting up for the nightly classes and

interacting with community members.

Close friendships were formed during her years of employment and will not be broken by her retirement. Mary expects to lunch with her friends on a regular basis.

Along with her retired husband, Tom, Mary looks forward to traveling to Orange County this summer, as well as many other locations throughout the states. She also will enjoy having time to read more often and spending time with her children, Sean and Jane.



Nancy Oskin, District Office

Nancy began her career with District 88 in 1996 after working for Addison School District 4 for four years. She was drawn to the education setting because it provided the ability to actively participate in her children's after-school activities while balancing work.

Nancy spent her first 10 years in the Guidance Office at Addison Trail, working as a 10-month secretary and then a 12-month secretary. Her last 10 years were spent in the District Office, working as the executive assistant to Human Resources and then to the Chief Financial Officer.

Nancy's involvement with Addison Trail spanned a few areas. She assisted the volleyball and football teams, taking tickets at their events. She also is a parent of two Addison Trail alumni. This afforded her the opportunity to work the concession stands with other Booster Club parents and make great friendships.

One of her favorite experiences working at Addison Trail was planning the Senior Awards Night sponsored by the Guidance Department. Nancy enjoyed all of the

preparation that went into honoring the seniors each year. Another favorite experience for Nancy was meeting with each new hire as he or she began employment with District 88.

In retirement, Nancy will miss the many friendships she made through the years and the daily interaction with her co-workers. But she looks forward to being an avid golfer, continuing her volunteer work with the American Cancer Society wig boutique and visiting two locations on her bucket list – Costa Rica and Barcelona.

Retirement for Nancy will include spending more time with her children, Nicole and Jeff (Jenna), and her grandchildren – Maria, 12, Eden, 3, and Emma, 3 months.



Sharon Schoen, District Office

Sharon's career began in 1994, when she was hired to work in the Addison Trail mail room and assist the Science Department as its secretary. She enjoyed that position for four years. Three years later, Sharon returned to District 88 and was hired to work in the District Office as the Community Education Program secretary. She served in that role for one year during the program's final year. In 2002, Sharon returned to Addison Trail as an administrative assistant and worked with five assistant principals during 13 years, before finishing her career back at District Office.

Through the years, Sharon has been involved in the Addison Trail community as a parent of four alumni, as a poms coach to her daughter and daughter-in-law and as a ticket-taker for numerous athletic events. Being able to see her children and grandchildren in the school's hallways was one of Sharon's favorite parts of her job.

Sharon has enjoyed the camaraderie of

the staff and students and has developed many lifelong friendships, which she will miss in retirement.

After spending time this summer at their cottage in Michigan, Sharon and her husband, Ed, will have time to spend with their children – Kim (Jeff), Amy (Tony), Ken (Demitra) and Laura (Jack) – as well as their grandchildren, Kelly (Joey), Anthony, Danny, Jordyn, Jonathan, Joey, Sarah, Jenna, Nick, Bianca and Viola, and their great-grandson, Stephen. She also intends to enjoy traveling, fishing, scrapbooking and volunteering at Feed My Starving Children.



Laura Butler, Willowbrook

Prior to joining the Willowbrook Math Department in 1986, Laura spent several years teaching in North Carolina.

She received her bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama and her master's degree from Northern Illinois University.

Laura became an educator because she wanted to help students understand math. She personally had to work at math when she was a student, and she wanted to be responsible for others being successful.

Involvement in the school community is very important to Laura because it provides another opportunity to reach students and get to know them on a more personal level. Along with teaching math, Laura has coached the girls tennis, girls indoor and outdoor track and math teams. She also coordinated the American Mathematics Competition and sponsored the Math Honor Society.

Working with the students has been Laura's favorite and most rewarding part of her job. Society is so accepting of the attitude of "I'm not good at math."

Laura has embraced the challenge of changing that attitude and being rewarded with students succeeding at math.

She credits her former colleagues Judy Sims, John Wodarczyk, Margo Littlehale and Maggie Dickow as mentors and role models. Those educators maintained a high standard for curriculum and classroom behavior, and so Laura advises new educators to embrace those methods for their own success.

Even though the Math Department at Willowbrook has always provided a feeling of family for Laura, she will now have more time to spend with her own family. Although her future plans for retirement are uncertain, Laura hopes to keep herself busy.



Rita DeFilippis, Willowbrook

Rita had an opportunity to witness firsthand what a great workplace Willowbrook is. Her husband worked as the police liaison between the Villa Park Police Department and Willowbrook. An occasion arose during a visit to the school where Rita intervened between two students. To her surprise, she was offered employment by the dean. Rita began her employment with District 88 in 1998. She served Willowbrook as a student supervisor for 28 years.

Rita's favorite part of her job has been interacting with the students. This has afforded her the opportunity to be involved in the students' lives beyond graduation. She has been included in numerous weddings and baby showers of former students through the years. The relationships with students are her fountain of youth. And the students will be the thing she misses most in retirement – especially the students in the SASD program.



The transition from an exciting school day with students buzzing around to retirement will definitely cause Rita to see life at a slower pace. To make sure she doesn't get bored during retirement, Rita plans to frequent Florida, garden, make soap, cook and bake. She also is toying with the idea of going back to school or working part time. Her husband, Ben, her children, Scott (Amanda) and Colt, and her grandchildren, Olyvia and Tyler, are eager to spend more time with Rita in retirement.

Sheila Elliott, Willowbrook

Sheila joined the District 88 team in 2005. For the last 10 years, Sheila has been employed as a teacher aide in the Willowbrook Special Education Department.

Sheila earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and her master's degree from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Sheila was drawn to the field of education because of her desire to help students with learning disabilities and to show them someone understands.

While working at Willowbrook for many years, Sheila had an opportunity to see many changes occur. One change was the renovation to Willowbrook during the Building The Future construction project. That change is so drastic, she admits to hardly recognizing the building with all the new rooms and additions. She believes the change is good for the kids, and they will benefit from the

new learning environment.

Great relationships were established during her time working in the building, and she plans to keep in contact with everyone.

In retirement, Sheila looks forward to allowing her creative side to flourish again by taking art classes. Writing literature, traveling, volunteering and attending evening social events also are on Sheila's to-do list. Ultimately, spending time with her husband, John, and her children, Megan and Sean, will be the most enjoyable aspect of retirement.



Bill Eufrazio, Willowbrook

Bill joined District 88 in 1985, after years of being an educator at Driscoll Catholic High School. After 37 years as an educator, Bill has worked at Willowbrook and Addison Trail as an English and Spanish teacher. Bill also served the district in several capacities – as a dean of students, a department chair and a coach with the football, boys basketball, baseball, girls bowling and softball teams.

Bill enjoyed playing football at the high school and collegiate levels. His love of the game sparked his career interest in education, so he could achieve his goal of becoming a football coach. Bill earned his bachelor's degree from Benedictine University and his master's degree from National Louis University.

Bill's favorite and fondest memories involve teaching his own two children in his AP Spanish course. The effort for staff to become more culturally aware

has been a positive change Bill has seen the school implement since his first years in the district. He also noted the efforts to give every student an opportunity to get a diploma – nothing is handed to them, they have to earn it.

Bill has many plans for the future, starting with working on his golf game. He still plans to continue coaching football at Fenwick High School, but will squeeze in some travel every now and then. Bill also will spend more time with his wife, Audrey, and his children, Marco and Dana.



Mahjoub Hilali, Willowbrook

In 2001, Mahjoub began his career with District 88 at Willowbrook. He has worked in the World Language Department teaching Arabic, Spanish and French. But Mahjoub was no stranger to the school systems. He had previously worked at Naperville Community Unit School District 203, the Archdiocese of Chicago and overseas in France, England and Morocco.

Mahjoub was enticed to work in education because he was inspired by his mother, an educator, and a few of his own high school teachers. He completed his bachelor's degree in Paris and his master's degree at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Mahjoub takes pleasure in teaching his students and remarks that is his favorite part of his job. He has especially enjoyed teaching his French students through the years. He recalls a former student contacting him to thank him for his French instruction. That

student is now living in the Congo, using his French on a daily basis.

It is the students' enthusiasm and conversations that Mahjoub will miss after his retirement. His

advice to new teachers is to be very patient. Students are young and full of energy. Initiate dialogue, and enjoy the relationships that will form.

Retirement will enable Mahjoub to spend more time with his wife, Nadia, and his children, Sara and Sammy. He plans to work in higher education, improve his German language, begin learning Chinese and dabble a bit with piano lessons.



Janis Piedra, Willowbrook

In 1999, Janis joined Willowbrook as a member of the Art Department and has served as a teacher, Art Club sponsor, Mindprints sponsor and most recently as Art Department chair. She has been an educator for 30 years.

Her own love of the arts sparked her interest in a career in teaching. As a small child, Janis made the decision to become an educator and never wavered from that plan. She knew she would be a valuable asset to students and believed she could inspire the next generation of artists. She earned her bachelor's degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her master's degree from Northern Illinois University.

When reflecting on the positive changes the school has implemented since she began her career at Willowbrook, Janis notes the Warrior Code, which exemplifies the pillars of behaviors expected at the school and has helped reduce student discipline issues through the years.

Giving back to the profession speaks volumes to Janis. She credits Geraldine

Greenman, former Art Department chair, for being a great role model. Geraldine expected a lot out of the students and found they rose to the occasion. She also assisted Janis in exploring a variety of art techniques. Janis in turn advises new teachers to connect with your students individually; that will allow them to care, and they will try hard at your discipline. In the end, they'll do it for you.

Retirement for Janis will consist of reclaiming her independent art studio work and traveling. Ultimately, spending time with her husband, Rafael, her children and her grandchildren will be most enjoyable during retirement.



Micki Silvestri, Willowbrook

Micki's first experience in District 88 was as a parent of three Willowbrook alumni. After having such a positive parenting experience, she decided she would like to work for the school from which her children graduated. Her career at Willowbrook began in fall 2000. With some college experience, Micki was eager and prepared to begin her new journey – first as a study-hall monitor for freshmen and then as secretary to the duplicating and science departments.

Not surprisingly, the best part of Micki's job was not the day-in and day-out tasks and responsibilities, but the friendly people with whom she had an opportunity to work. Micki enjoyed welcoming the returning faculty and the newcomers and was always willing to lend a helping hand.

Many friendships were established

through the years and will be missed during the transition to retirement. There will always be the fond memories of the classified staff's white elephant party and making her room more inviting by decorating it according to the season.

In retirement, Micki looks forward to gardening, sleeping in, traveling and spending time with her husband, Dan; her children, Anthony (Michelle), Adam (Tina), Terese, Cindy and Cheryl; and her grandchildren, Jack, Michael, Ben, David, Brynlee and Charlotte.



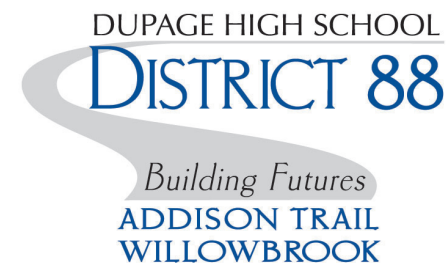
Debra Wilson, Willowbrook

Initially aspiring to be a nurse, Debra soon realized her passion for literature when a professor read "Beowulf" in Old English and she melted. It was then when she chose to pursue a career as an English teacher.

Debra earned her bachelor's degree from Elmhurst College and her master's degree from National Louis University.

In 2000, Debra joined the Willowbrook faculty, where she has been an invaluable member of the English Department. Outside of her dedication to the English Department, Debra has served as the school's yearbook sponsor for 15 years.

Teaching the curriculum and working with the editors of the yearbook stand out to Debra as the favorite aspects of



her job. Her fondest memories involve her work as the yearbook sponsor. She prides herself in making all of the yearbook deadlines on time.

In retirement, she will miss working on the yearbook with students.

Retirement for Debra will consist of continuing her employment as the office manager at Allstate and enjoying life with her husband, Todd, and their five grandchildren.

PROGRAM

Welcome

Donna Craft Cain,
District 88 Board of
Education President

Dinner

Service Recognition Awards

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Presentation of Retirees

Closing Remarks

Dr. Scott Helton,
District 88
Superintendent

Master of Ceremonies

Liz Zwart

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