

## Molly Abraham

*Molly Abraham began her career at West High in 1984 serving as a special education teacher. Molly was a leader in developing a comprehensive special education program at West, and continues today as a strong advocate for providing all students at West with exemplary programs for all students. In 2002, Molly was selected to serve as an Assistant Principal at West High, and continues today working proficiently with students, parents, and staff. Molly is recognized for her strong dedication in promoting West High as a student centered high school, her approachable, caring, and supportive disposition expressed to all, and her visibility as a school leader both around West High campus, and at so many after school activities. Molly Abraham's work is a key reason students at West High enjoy participating in a high school with much success.*

## Doug and Sabrina Alberhaskey

Doug and Sabrina Alberhaskey and their two children at Horace Mann have all contributed generously to Horace Mann's spirit and daily drive. Over the years their service to Mann is illustrated through both Doug and Sabrina serving as PTO Presidents. Sabrina has worked as an assistant in the Library and made beautiful posters of the staff with books for the Book Fair. She has helped mastermind the horse for Mann Mustangs in the City High Parade, worked as "Master Film Maker" when filming an all-school lip-dub event. The parents have chaired countless school fundraisers. Doug has sponsored the SmartBoard campaign through fundraising with the Northside Business Association's Oktoberfest. With J.D. in 6th grade and Jessica in 3rd, both kids have contributed their own money to the SmartBoard Campaign and are always volunteering at Mann events. The Alberhaskey family has donated supplies from John's Grocery on countless occasions to help make this Elementary School shine. Their commitment reminds us all that Horace Mann is a community of families that work together.

## Patricia Anderson

*Patricia Anderson has been with Twain PTO since 2007, has held several positions since then, and has been a dedicated leader for the past 6 years.*

*The most rewarding part of Pat's involvement in Twain is the people she has met, and the fact that the kids of active PTO members have become close and are now a big family. Pat's 12 year old son and 12 year old grandson are currently 6th graders at Twain, and her 5 year old grandson is just getting started - and they all love the school. Everyone at Twain knows who "Ms. Pat" is and she is well respected and admired within the Twain community. Pat says this positive image is "very important to me since we have so many African Americans out there with a negative image. I have met so many important people that have made a difference in my life and for that I feel really blessed to be a Twain parent." Twain is blessed to have Pat's energy, commitment, and voice for Twain kids and community for years to come!*

## Debbie Andrews

*No one has a bigger heart than Debbie who is a dedicated advocate for students with special needs. That mentality shines not only in the classroom, but in the community as well. Whether creating positive strategies to support autistic students in the classroom, volunteering at the Iowa City Women's Shelter, or playing a game of "Mummies" with kindergartners during indoor recess, Debbie strives to meet the needs of everyone she meets with enthusiasm and a genuine love of life.*

*She worked mostly part-time jobs while raising her children, then cared full-time for her elderly mother until 2001 when her mother passed.*

*Following a move to Iowa City, Debbie accepted the position of one on one para educator at Lincoln Elementary, where her experience, commitment, and zeal have made her a favorite amongst the students and staff.*

*Debbie and her husband, Gregg, will move to Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, and will be deeply missed by her Lincoln family. We wish them all the best that life has to offer in their next adventure.*

## Tim Barrett

*Tim Barrett has been active in the PTO since 2003 serving much of that time as our "Safety Chair". He is a passionate voice for Twain students and teachers, and has been an important informal leader for the past 10 years. Tim has a BA from Antioch College and currently serves as the Director and Associate Professor at the UI Center for the Book and the School of Library and Information Science. He is one of the country's foremost experts in papermaking history, technique, and aesthetics. Tim's most rewarding experiences at Twain have been the close association with other Twain parents, teachers, and the school principal. His 2 children have both gone to Twain - the youngest is in his last year. Tim likes kids, dogs, cats, and is passionate about diversity - in the public school system, adult society, the nation, and the world. Twain has been blessed with the knowledge, passion, and insight Tim brings to our PTO and he will be greatly missed!*

## Tom and Jennifer Brands

*Since their oldest child started kindergarten in the fall of 2003, the Brands family has been putting their stamp on the Longfellow community. Tom and Jennifer have quietly stepped up, often behind the scenes, to assist in their Longfellow community. The Brands often gave the gift of time, as well. From help with field trips to classroom visits by Tom and his wrestlers, the Brands provided children lessons that extended beyond the school day and into life - lessons about hard work, integrity, and excellence.*

*At the annual Longfellow picnic, Jennifer set up shop and autograph lines often stretched beyond the limits of the event and yet they continued on making sure that each child at Longfellow had the opportunity to meet their local heroes. Over the years they have provided our children with posters, backpacks, and t-shirts. More importantly, they provided our children a stronger sense of community. Their actions proved the importance of supporting one another. Our thank yous over the years at Longfellow will never truly express our gratitude. Tom and Jennifer, we thank you and we will miss you.*

## Julie Brannaman

*Julie Brannaman earned her B.A. and M.A. in the Spanish Language at Michigan State University and attended Advanced Placement Training Institutes at the University of Iowa and the University of Wisconsin. She has taught Spanish IV and Spanish II Honors at Iowa City High School for six years and helped organize, chaperone and prepare 4th year Spanish students for the City High trip to Spain. For twenty years Julie taught Spanish at Xavier High School and Regis High School where she served as the Head of World Language Department, Faculty representative on the Administrative Board and taught AP Spanish. Julie was awarded the St. Francis Award for Excellence in Teaching and Leadership in 2006. In addition to taking students to Spain, Julie has taken her students to Costa Rica, Mexico, and on service trips to Guatemala for a total of eleven trips in all with her students.*

*Julie has had a positive impact on thousands of students in her teaching career and we at City High wish her all the best in her retirement.*

## Aimee Brownlee

*This is my 4th year teaching in the upper unit at Hoover Elementary. I was hired in 2009 when an additional section of 5th/6th grade was added to accommodate Hoover's growing population. Prior to teaching at Hoover I worked in the field of education at ACT, Inc., in elementary standardized test development, as an elementary school teacher in Virginia. My husband Ryan is the head baseball coach at Western Illinois University and my two children, Jackson and Norah, both currently attend Hoover. I am originally from Kentucky and earned my Bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Southern Indiana. We are moving to Macomb, Illinois this summer and I hope to continue my career as a classroom teacher there.*

## *Kristin Chambers*

*Kristen Chambers has spent the last seven years teaching third and/or fourth grade at Hills Elementary. Before this, she taught preschool and worked with troubled teens in an outdoor residential program. She has also been the volunteer head coach of Hills' "Girls on the Run" team for the past two years.*

*Kristen is a kind, caring teacher whose classroom is a second home to her students. She is constantly trying out the latest professional development ideas to increase student achievement. She is a team player and does whatever it takes for her students' academic and emotional success.*

*We asked some of her students to describe Mrs. Chambers and they echoed our sentiments: "Mrs. Chambers is kind and compassionate, she gets our brains working, and she is perseverant and makes us laugh." Another said, "She makes me happy when I'm sad." And lastly, "You are an awesome teacher. You work so hard on teaching us and we learn a lot in the week from you. Thank you Mrs. Chambers."*

## Troy Culver

*Troy graduated from the University of Missouri- Columbia with a degree in Civil engineering. Presently he works as a Project Manager at Snyder and Associates and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Troy is married with two daughters. Troy's interests include fitness and upland bird hunting. Prior to Norman Borlaug elementary opening its doors to students, Troy volunteered to be the Project Manager for the entire (three site) playground installation. His expertise in Civil Engineering and countless man-hours were an amazing tribute to Norman Borlaug who the school is named after. Troy's drive and good will ensured that all students from opening day in August 2012 through well into the future will benefit from his gracious act of service to the students and the entire Borlaug community. The Borlaug community and staff are honored to nominate Troy for the DPO honoree recognition.*

## Lori Doerschug

*Lori is mom to 4th grader, Connor and 2 year old twins, Andrew and Ryan. She is an active PTO member. Last winter, she heard that we had significant needs in our library - which was once a state of the art area, but was now dated, unattractive and not a productive learning environment. Lori took the initiative to find a funding source, collaborate with our teacher librarian and write a grant proposal requesting \$25,000. Her request was fully funded! We are so thankful for her work.*

## Val Donohoe

*Val started at West High in August 1993 as the receptionist in the Main Office. She then moved to the athletic secretary/bookkeeper position. When that position was divided, she became the financial secretary. Val has enjoyed her 20 years at West High School. She has seen many changes in the office, numerous additions to the building, the addition of a football complex and soccer field as well as substantial student population growth. Val and her husband plan to do some traveling; she is sure their kids will have things planned for them also. Val will really miss the great people here at West High and the day-to-day happenings.*

## Debra Dorzweiler

*Debra has served as a school librarian for 16 years. She began her career as a librarian in Durant, then worked at West Branch Schools. She has been the teacher librarian at Penn for the last 4 years. This year she undertook the huge task of remodeling and reorganizing our media center. She has been incredibly organized, creative and diligent throughout this long process. Most impressive, the library has not been closed for even 1 minute during this process. And the results are beautiful and productive. Thank you Debra!*

## Debbie Dunn

*Debbie Dunn has worked as a part-time library assistant in the Children's Room of the Iowa City Public Library for more than 10 years. She is responsible for the wonderful Thursday programs at the library that bring in hundreds of children. Debbie also oversees the fantastic displays in the Children's Room display cases. She is a very creative person. Debbie also started the Children's Garden with Scott Koepke on the Pedestrian Mall in downtown Iowa City.*

## Susan Francis

*Shimek Elementary is honored to recognize Susan Francis, better known to the children as "Miss Suzie," for her contributions to the Shimek students and staff. Susan has volunteered at Shimek for several years, since her grandson came to Shimek as a kindergartner. Susan can be seen walking to and from the bus, which she rides across town to volunteer. She helps in a variety of ways whether it's helping monitor students during computer lab, working 1 on 1 with students, or assisting with class parties and projects. Susan has a very kind, generous, and nurturing way about her that the students love. Thank you, Susan, for all you do at Shimek!*

## Diana Frisbie

*Diana Frisbie has been a teacher in the ICCSD for many years. She has taught at Lincoln, Wickham, and Weber and currently serves as the school counselor at Weber elementary. Diana has a huge heart for children and service. She goes above and beyond on a daily basis to meet the needs of families, staff members, and the whole child through a variety of ways. Diana started the Weber Wardrobe last year in order to assist families in need of clothing and outerwear. She also coordinated a series of family literacy nights, called Picture It, Publish It, Read It, which included families coming together to make books with narratives they had written about pictures they took in their neighborhoods. Diana spearheads a number of community-building and service events at Weber Elementary, including the Student Council, Conflict Managers, and many uplifting and inspiring events for staff. The work Diana does on a daily basis definitely makes a huge impact on the entire Weber community.*

## Dr. Greg Grove

*Greg Grove is completing his 35th year of teaching, the last 25 in Iowa City, and 24 at City High School. A graduate of Tipton High School, he attended Iowa State University on a football scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Degree. He earned his Master of Arts Degree at the University of Iowa in 1986, and his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa in 1996. Dr. Grove's wife of 36 years, Norma, is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Southeast Junior High School. They have four children: Sarah, 30, a middle school music teacher in Lugano, Switzerland; Aaron, 28, a businessman in Des Moines; Rachel, 24, a first year elementary music teacher in Barcelona, Spain; and Andrew, 22, a senior music education major at UNI.*

*Greg has had a positive impact on thousands of student in his teaching career and we at City High wish all the best in his retirement.*

## Renee Hansen

*Renee Hansen has been the guidance teacher at Robert Lucas Elementary for the past 18 years. Renee received her B.A. from Wartburg College and started her teaching career as a first grade teacher in Lost Nation, Iowa. After teaching for a while, she went back to school and earned her M.A. in Counselor Education from the University of Iowa. She is well known by the students for her advice, I Care Cat, kindness, friendship groups, and problem solving skills. To the teachers she is known for her smile, kindness, and willingness to help out in tough situations. Renee will be greatly missed at Lucas when she retires at the end of May. No matter how much we miss her and beg her to stay a Mighty Hawk another year, Renee is still looking forward to retiring, spending time with her granddaughter, traveling, and helping out on the farm. We wish her all the best!"*

## Susan Henke

*Susan Henke joined Grant Wood in 1989 as a substitute teacher and the director of the Grant Wood before and after school program and has remained the director of the Share at Wood program for twenty-four years. Susan has served families for two generations and muses at the idea that she has been the director of the Share at Wood program so long that some people believe her name is actually "Cher" (C-H-E-R). Susan has many great memories from her time spent at Grant Wood. One of Susan's best memories is having the opportunity to become a short-term foster parent for one of her students. Susan took fostering classes so that the student could stay with her. The student lived with Susan for six months and then was adopted by another family. Susan's immediate plans for retirement are to visit her five children and four grandchildren, read, exercise, do art projects, garden, and eat a Mediterranean diet. She will miss meeting new Kindergartners, watching them grow to sixth graders, and seeing them off to junior high, many of them having surpassed her in height.*

## Kathy Jensen

*Kathy was born and raised in the state of Iowa. She attended Simpson College in Indianola. Kathy has been an elementary classroom teacher for her entire career and has been at Lincoln Elementary since 1990.*

*Kathy has been Lincoln's Science Advocate for many years. She is passionate about the teaching of science and instills her love of science in each of the staff members. She is a master teacher, who inspires the love of learning in all of her students. Kathy's love of quality literature is conveyed through the excitement of reading and sharing new books with staff and with the students in her class.*

*Kathy has been a valued member of the Lincoln staff for many years and will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her retirement. She plans on spending time with her children, Chris and Cortney, and with her lovely grandchildren.*

## Pam Johannes

*I decided to become a teacher as a young girl while visiting a kindergarten class to help the teacher. The teaching seed was planted and then began to grow. I first taught in 1970 in a rural school in Mississippi assigned to teach science to students in grades 5-8. I was the fifth educator to teach those students that year. I am still amazed that I continued to go back every day for four years. I really wanted to provide those students with the best science education that was possible. I taught in a variety of roles in Kansas over 24 years. I began my Iowa career as a special education resource teacher at Mark Twain where I taught 1st/2nd grades for 15 years, then moved to Team 2 at Kate Wickham Elementary. What a wonderful school to end a long teaching career! I have been so fortunate to work alongside many talented educators, work together with parents and be guided by thoughtful administrators. But most of all, I have been able to continue to provide an educational setting for young children to learn to the best of their abilities and goals. I will truly miss the teaching career, but am eager to begin this next phase in my life.*

## Darla Kraske

*Darla Kraske is a volunteer extraordinaire at Weber Elementary. She goes above and beyond to support the needs of students, teachers, and families in our school on a daily basis. Darla has been an outstanding leader in our PTA and parent community over the last few years, including her role as the treasurer and currently as our president. She consistently works to include all parents in our school community and quietly assumes responsibility for numerous tasks that impact and assist our community. As a Weber teacher eloquently stated "Darla provides a lot of support and validation for the work we do at Weber, in the ICCSD, in Iowa City, for children. She makes us want to work harder, and gives us so much support and strength to do so. Darla is one in a million and she is one of the most thoughtful people I've met."*

## Becky Kreutner

*Becky Kreutner has taught in the Iowa City Community School District for 21 years. She was born in Cedar Rapids and grew up on a farm near Vinton, Iowa. She attended Luther College where she earned a double major in French and Elementary Education.*

*Her 21 years include teaching French at City High, Hills and Shimek; 5th/6th grade at Penn Elementary; and 1st grade also at Penn. When Wickham Elementary opened 16 years ago (in 1997), Becky moved here to teach 1st/2nd grade for 13 years. The last 3 years she has taught 2nd grade.*

*Becky is an extremely kind, caring, and very dedicated teacher. She enjoys photography, reading, traveling, biking, skiing, hiking, and spending time with her family. We wish Becky all the best as she marries this summer and relocates to Canada.*

## Kathy Kron

*Kathy Kron spent the first 9 years of her career teaching first grade at Coralville Central and has taught 2nd grade for the last 32 years. She has served on the District Language Arts committee and has mentored numerous student teachers throughout her career. She was selected as the Iowa City Teacher of the Year in 1995 by the Iowa City Education Association, and received the Excellence in Teaching award in 2010 from the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce and ICCSD Foundation. Mrs. Kron has always been one of the most requested teachers at Coralville Central and is loved by the whole school. She is an outstanding educator and has an incredible talent for teaching to every level and challenges each of her students to the highest level of their capabilities. She is a regular at many PTO and Family Night events and is always one of the first to volunteer at our annual Fun Fair. Mrs. Kron will be deeply missed by all and our school will never feel quite the same.*

## Kim Lanaghan

*Kim Lanaghan, known by all at Coralville Central as "Mrs. L.", is Coralville Central's ULTIMATE BUCKET FILLER! Kim started her teaching career in the ICCSD in 1982 at South East Junior High School as a special education teacher. Nine years later, Kim took time off to raise her own children, but continued to be an educator by running a daycare/preschool from her home. She was coaxed out of her "mom" sabbatical by then Coralville Central principal Mike O'Leary, to teach special education and has been at Coralville Central ever since. Along with her learning support duties (including reading, math, written language and behavior/social development) Kim co-teaches math and reading in various classrooms. Last year Kim celebrated 25 years of teaching for the ICCSD and Coralville Central has been fortunate to have her for the last 16 of those years! In the words of my son Lucas Locher, one of her resource students, "Mrs. L is GREAT!" The rest of Coralville Central agrees with Lucas and we are so honored to recognize Mrs. L. as a DPO Scholarship Honoree!*

## Gwen Leslie

*I put myself back into college at The University of Iowa in 1980 to finish my B.F.A. degree in Art. I stayed on an additional year to receive my certification in Art Education*

*My first teaching position, in 1984, was at West Middle School in Muscatine. I commuted to Muscatine and was enrolled in graduate school half time. As a graduate student, I supervised art education student teachers for one year. I also taught painting to talented high school students in the UI summer art program. I was hired by the ICCSD in 1986.*

*In 1988, I graduated from the UI School of Art and Art History with a dual M.A. degree in Studio (painting) and Art Education. My thesis centered on my teaching experience in Muscatine and the hundred drawings from my teaching journal.*

*My twenty-seven years of teaching in the ICCSD has included one year of secondary teaching at CEC (the former alternative high school), teaching summer art enrichment classes, and teaching in a total of ten elementary schools. At retirement, I will have taught in 11 public schools for twenty-nine years.*

## Shelly Maxwell

*Shelly Maxwell, Hoover Elementary Principal's Secretary- began work at Hoover Elementary School in the fall of 2008 having been displaced from her position at Reminisce after the flood in June 2008 destroyed the store. At that time two things happened: she began work in the cafeteria at Hoover and started an online scrapbooking business, which she still owns and operates. She began working as the school's secretary in the fall of 2011. Hoover Elementary has a great staff, and the students are amazing!*

*As a Wisconsin native and a graduate of Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI, she's had many jobs including working for an environmental laboratory in Baraboo, WI for twelve years during which time she met her husband who is an Iowa City native. They moved to Iowa City in the fall of 2000 to raise their family: Julianne who is in eighth grade at SEJH and a son, Charlie, who is in sixth grade at Hoover Elementary.*

## Debbie Millsap

*Debbie Millsap's children include a City High graduate and a son who will be finishing elementary school this spring. As a City High parent, Debbie has supported the show choir and theater program. She has traveled with the choir and helped ensure students are ready to perform as well as coordinate receptions for the show choir. She has helped in the theater program assisting back stage and by providing snacks to students.*

*While at Longfellow, Debbie's creativity and dependability has made her a great Room Parent coordinator. Over the past 3 years, Debbie has filled the position of carnival volunteer coordinator, in which she leads and coordinates over 150 volunteers to staff the school's biggest annual fundraising event. Debbie's utilization of parents, and college, high school, and junior high students as volunteers has made our elementary school carnival a true community event.*

## Suzi Morrison

*Suzi Morrison has been a pillar in the Longfellow community for over 15 years. With children, grandchildren, and countless students who've learned from her, she is an educator at her very core. Well-grounded in her philosophy and beliefs about art education and children, Suzi has provided us all with new perspectives on the fine arts, education and how we interact with one another.*

*When she's not teaching in the art room, she works with peers on art integration, sets up art shows and travels between Mann and Longfellow. Regardless the task, Suzi is always willing to help find positive solutions; collaboratively developing plans for the success of our students. She truly has a heart of gold and is the Excellence in our PRIDE program. For all she has done and all that she is, Mrs. Morrison will be deeply missed by Longfellow and Horace Mann Elementary Schools. Fortunately for Iowa City, Suzi will be continuing to educate our community even after her days in Room 122 are done. Thank you, Suzi.*

## Mike O'Leary

*Mike O'Leary was principal for 21 years at Coralville Central before retiring. During his years he was an advocate for students, teachers, and parents. While at Coralville Central, he planted over 100 trees and won the 2007 Urban Forestry Volunteer of the Year Award. Mr. O'Leary also won the 2012 Advocacy Award by the Iowa Association of School Libraries for his long time support of libraries*

*After retirement, Mike continued to help in many ways. After the flood of 2008, Mike helped the City of Coralville remediate flood-damaged properties. He was so skilled that the State of Iowa flood mitigation team hired him to work for them and became his boss's boss!*

*Mike has come out of retirement twice to serve as principal of Hills and Hoover Elementary Schools. Although he has only been at Hoover since January, he has teamed up with a teacher to create a garden for each grade level.*

*In his spare time, he recently built his own house and spends every Wed evening with his young grandson. His dedication to education, conservation, and just being an all-around "Good guy" is a way of life and an inspiration to all who know him.*

## Anne Oxley

*Anne Oxley's title is office secretary and para educator, but these two names do not adequately describe Anne's contribution to our school community.*

*Anne begins her day by greeting children with a warm welcome in the traffic circle and monitoring teams on and two. During lunch, Anne is our "go to" person. She makes sure everything runs smoothly, takes care of anything that arises even if it is as simple as finding the ketchup, and is very careful to keep our students with food allergies safe. Throughout the day, Anne tends to our students' myriad of needs in the health office and she does so as if they were her own. She dries tears, cleans ouchies, and listens with patience.*

*Anne Oxley fills our office with a positive spirit which spreads throughout our building and into the hearts and minds of every student, staff member and parent she meets!*

## Becky Pedersen

*Becky Pedersen has worked 18 years for the Iowa City community School District. Seventeen years have been at Horn Elementary teaching first and second grade. She is a passionate and dedicated teacher who strives to meet the needs of all students. Becky has brought so much joy to Horn and has been a wonderful staff member and friend. We wish her well on her retirement and will miss her greatly.*

## Mike Recker

*After graduating from the University of Iowa, Mike Recker began teaching math at Kirkwood elementary in 1978. He moved across the parking lot 10 years later and has been at Northwest ever since. Over the past 25 years, Mike has become an institution at Northwest Junior High. He has taught thousands of students and tutored hundreds more. Chances are, if you wanted to learn math, or needed some extra help in math and lived in Iowa City, Mike Recker taught you. Mike possesses the perfect demeanor for working with junior high students--his patience is legendary. It is nearly impossible to rattle him and, as he puts it, after over 25 years of teaching junior high students, there is nothing he hasn't heard or seen. In addition, Mike has been a tireless advocate for students in poverty. For the past 15 years, Mike has mentored girls and boys at The Spot and other community centers. In retirement, Mike plans to visit National Parks, follow the Hawks and the Cyclones and continue to help kids learn the fundamentals of prealgebra.*

## Jeanine Redlinger

*Jeanine Redlinger began her teaching career at Iowa Mennonite High School near Kalona where she taught social studies classes. She then worked for Grant Wood AEA teaching at the youth shelter school and at the Iowa Medical Classification Center where she helped to establish Iowa's special education practices within the state prisons. She taught at both Northwest Junior High and South East Junior High, then just South East for seven years. She then transferred to City High where she has been teaching social studies for the past fourteen years.*

*Jeanine has had a positive impact on thousands of students in her teaching career and we at City High wish her all the best in her retirement.*

## Lauren Reece Flaum

*The DPO wishes to recognize Lauren Reece Flaum. Lauren passed away in July of 2012. Lauren played an important role in the Iowa City Community School District, serving on the school board and also as president of the board. During her tenure and under her board's guidance, Lauren helped lead the district effort in the successful passing of a school bond vote that built Tate High School, North Central Junior High and Van Allen Elementary. She also generously donated her time to the PTO at Roosevelt Elementary School, where she served as president. She is remembered by many for the passion she demonstrated for our schools and for our district. Even after her time on the board, she stayed involved in district matters and voiced support for issues of equity in the school district. Lauren was also an accomplished writer whose work touched on living with cancer. Before moving to Iowa City, she had worked as the pastry chef to former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, and she shared her culinary talents with her friends and family. She also shared her love of theatre with local children, directing several children's plays in our community. We honor the memory of Lauren Reece Flaum.*

## Deb Reese

*Deb Reese has participated in the Mark Twain PTO since 2004. Deb was PTO treasurer for 5 years and co-president for 2 years. The most rewarding part of being in the PTO for Deb was her close involvement in her children's education and providing things to the students that "normal" funds would not allow - the playground, computers for the library and classrooms, etc. Deb has an associate's degree in office administration and medical transcription that allows her to work from home and "be available to my kids more easily than some moms." All of Deb's children went to Twain; Savannah (junior) starting in second grade, Makayla (freshman) and Olivia (sixth grade) from K through 6. Deb's neighborhood was redistricted from Hills to Twain and she believes it was the best thing for her children's education. Deb has been a wonderful and dedicated asset to the PTO and Twain community. She will be greatly missed!*

## Nancy Ritter

*After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa, Nancy Ritter started teaching 41 years ago in Colorado when no such thing as an IEP existed. Her starting salary was a whopping \$5,200 a year. She returned to the Midwest and, after teaching 18 years in Illinois, spent the last 17 years teaching at Grant Wood Elementary. Nancy feels blessed to end her career working with such wonderful and resilient students and families. She has also been fortunate to work with such a hardworking and awesome staff. Nancy looks forward to spending lots of time with her grandchildren and family. She is planning a celebration in September to mark the 150th year that the farm has been in her family. Nancy grew up on the farm and currently still resides there. Nancy will be greatly missed by the students, staff and families of Grant Wood. Her smile, love of children and her willingness to go above and beyond for anyone were just a few of her traits. She touched the lives of many children who were fortunate enough to call Mrs. Ritter their teacher.*

## Jared Ritz

*Mix enthusiasm, energy, a strong work ethic, a passion for teaching, and a love for technology together and you have the recipe for an outstanding teacher! Mr. Ritz joined the Lincoln Elementary faculty as a first grade teacher this year. He graduated from the University of Iowa in December 2011 and completed a long-term Kindergarten substitute position at Van Allen during the spring of 2012.*

*In Mr. Ritz's classroom, it is common to see the first graders blogging, interacting with the SMARTBoard, and using computers to extend their learning. As one of Lincoln's Instructional Technology Mentors, Jared works with other teachers to enrich their SMARTBoard instructional skills. Last fall, Mr. Ritz volunteered to start up Lincoln's LEGO Robotics Club and serve as its first coach. With his leadership 25 intermediate students were challenged to build and program a robot, use an engineering problem solving model, and collaborate as a team. The Lincoln family greatly appreciates having such an enthusiastic and innovative addition to our school.*

## Doug and Laurie Schillinger

*For years, North Central Junior High has been blessed with great parents. Doug and Laurie Schillinger are in the top part of that list. They have supported North Central in a wide variety of ways. Both Doug and Laurie volunteer to help whenever help is needed. They have been a terrific addition to our junior high dances by setting up games and other activities for students to enjoy. They volunteer to help chaperone on field trips when parents are needed. Doug also has been a boys' basketball coach at North Central, providing a very positive experience for all, including students with disabilities. The Schillingers exemplify our Knights' Code of Integrity, Self-discipline, Commitment, and Courtesy. We look forward to working with them and their family in the years to come.*

## Deb Scholerman

*Deb Schoelerman is retiring from South East Junior High. She started her teaching career at Highland High School. She then taught at Durant High School where she taught all four levels of Spanish and led several trips to Mexico with her students. From 2001 to 2005 she taught at Castilleja School in Palo Alto, CA. Deb joined the South East staff in 2005 and has taught both 7th and 8th grade Spanish. She has enjoyed working with the excellent South East staff the past 7 years. She looks forward to spending more time with her husband, visiting her grandchildren and working in her garden.*

## Peg Schollmeier

*Peg Schollmeier has worked at West High School as a School Counselor for twenty years. She started out her education career as an elementary music teacher and then worked in residence life at several universities before coming to West High in 1993. She has thoroughly enjoyed working at West and will miss working with the students and staff. In retirement, she plans to travel, catch up on reading, do some volunteer work and just have time to do all the other things that she hasn't had time for while working.*

## Karen Smith

*Karen Smith serves as our building secretary at Van Allen Elementary. She is our warm welcome to all who enter our doors. Karen is the empathetic voice at our end of the telephone for parents calling in a child's illness or accident and the source of all the necessary information parents need in order to support their child's success in school.*

*You will frequently find Karen tying a bow on an untied shoe, giving a hug to a student with a skinned knee, showing the radar to a student who may be anxious about the weather, or calmly deescalating a child who may be visiting the office. She is a secretary, a colleague, a nurse, a mom, a friend, and most frequently the glue that keeps our fast-paced office running smoothly. Above all, Karen gives of herself in service to all of us at Van Allen.*

## Adnan Somic

*Adnan Somic personifies some of the many great things about Garner Elementary. As Head Custodian, he takes exceptional pride in keeping our building clean and safe for the students, staff and visitors. He is a favorite among the kids, always ready with a joke, funny face or fun headwear. One of the most prized PBIS rewards in our building is Apples with Adnan, where the kids get to have a snack and chat with one of the funniest guys they know. He is always willing to lend a hand and go the extra mile. Adnan is an avid Cubs fan, a soccer fan and enjoys good food and travel. He is truly a Great Gator!*

## Melody Strom

*I graduated from Concordia Teacher's College in Seward, Nebraska in 1976 with a degree in elementary education and a minor in classroom music. First I taught 2nd grade and music in Flushing, New York for 3 years then I moved back to Iowa with my husband in 1979 to teach Title 1 Reading and Math in Manilla, Iowa for a year. I completed my masters at the University of Iowa in 1983, with a permanent professional degree and Masters in learning disabilities/behavior disorders, while supervising reading clinicians. I worked in Marion, Iowa as a resource teacher for 2 years, and a teacher for the self-contained classroom with integration the third year. Since 1986, I have worked with the ICCSD as an elementary resource/learning support teacher in 6 different elementary schools, the last 12 years at Wickham Elementary. In 2006, I received the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce "K-8 Teacher Excellence" award. I have had the joy and honor of teaching students who have become successful and, at least three are in teaching. Several of my student teachers in the past are now teachers at ICCSD, including one in my building.*

## Jill Trimble

*Jill Trimble has spent all fourteen years of her career teaching kindergarten at Hills Elementary. She is a dedicated, caring teacher who has high expectations for her students and connects with them on their level. Jill's involvement at Hills reaches far beyond her classroom. She was involved in the creation of Hills' 21st Century Grant for after school tutoring. The program ran activities like Nursery Rhyme Time, Wee Cooks, and Summer Blast Off for incoming Kindergartners.*

*Jill also tutored kindergartners and ran the summer library program. She has facilitated many school-wide fundraisers, including "Duct Tape Whaaat?" to raise money for the Heifer Project in third world countries and a mini-dance marathon. She has raised over \$1500 with these events this year alone! As if this were not enough, Jill also has been a "Girls on the Run" Coach and organized "Do You Give a Knit?" to cover the trees at Hills Elementary. Hills is lucky to have Jill for all these reasons. We hope she never loses her high energy level and commitment to kids!*

## Tammy Turner

*Tammy Turner is a regular presence in Shimek Elementary, where her two youngest children attend school. In October, she answered the call to volunteer and oversee/supervise the Shimek School Store with the fourth graders and the Shimekville Post Office with the third graders. She enjoyed her time with the students so much that when she heard the second volunteer position had not been filled, she volunteered for that time slot as well. Tammy arrives each day smiling and excited to work with the children. She consistently exhibits patience, kindness, and the desire to work with children. She has also volunteered for the Shimek School Store in previous years as well as the Shimek Fall Supper, Book Fair, Shimek's Spring Carnival just to name a few. Tammy Turner, thank you for your time and efforts! The children, Mrs. Chapman, and Mr. Sproule all appreciate all you do!*

## Jim Walden

*Jim has worked for 16 years in the district, all at West High where he is a librarian. He will certainly miss the exceptional kids he works with; every day his belief in young people and the future of this country are re-affirmed. Jim will also miss the great faculty of dedicated professionals at West. It has been an honor to work with them. In his retirement, Jim plans to work part-time for the US Forest Service, and will split time between his house on the continental divide in Montana, and a place in the mountains of northern Arizona.*

## Emy Lou Weldon

*Emy Lou Weldon has been head custodian at Mann for seventeen years. Emy Lou might be cleaning something one minute and then listening to a student who needs someone to talk to the next minute. She keeps Mann sparkling and makes sure things are working properly. Emy Lou is also quite crafty and always has items she makes for sale at the yearly Mann Silent Auction. When it is her weekend to do building check she is at school no matter what the weather to make sure the boiler is running if it is winter and things are okay if it is warmer weather. Her summer is spent waxing our floors, cleaning desks and making sure Mann is ready for the next Year's students.*

## Julie Willman

*Julie Willman has worked for the Iowa City Community School District for 15 years. She served at Longfellow Elementary as a building secretary and more recently, as district data manager at the Education Service Center.*

*As building secretary, she was loved by students, staff and parents and always went above and beyond the call of duty to meet the needs of others.*

*As data manager, she has trained district staff in the use of PowerSchool and maintained an accurate and vital tool for district wide use. She always has time to help others and is a terrific asset to the district.*

## Deb Wretman

*Deb Wretman started her career in education teaching junior high social studies and coaching 6 on 6 girls' basketball in Ankeny. After getting her Masters in Administration, she worked at Urbandale High School as Assistant Principal for three years. Upon meeting her husband, Rich, she moved to Iowa City where she became the Assistant Principal at South East Junior High School in 1989. She has served as Principal at South East since 1995. Upon her "graduation", she will enjoy time with family (husband Rich and daughter Lauren), travel and explore new opportunities.*