

**Hamilton School District
2010-11 Retirement Tributes**

Lannon

Nancy S. Collopy

Lannon Elementary School fourth grade teacher Nancy S. Collopy is an eternal optimist who brought with her a positive attitude and a happy smile every day. At the same time, serious, real-world learning occurred daily in Nancy's classroom.

Nancy was in the field of education for 20 years, 14 of them in the Hamilton School District. She was an Early Reading Empowerment teacher at Lannon for seven years before teaching at the fourth grade level. She taught previously in the Bloomington Public Schools in Minnesota and in Menomonee Falls. She earned her degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Nancy brought the world to Lannon and to her class. Students and staff benefitted from her visits to Africa and China by gaining a view of people beyond the local community. Many children at a school in Ghana were able to continue their education through Nancy's organizational efforts, and Lannon students learned the value of giving. Each year, she led fourth-graders through the history of immigration by having them create a living wax museum. The culminating project was the presentation of their research at the Milwaukee Public Museum. It created a memory none would forget.

Nancy is a true professional whose passion for the best education for all children will always be remembered.

Janet Muehlbauer

Janet Muehlbauer has worked in the Hamilton School District as a cleaner since 1997. After a brief stint at Hamilton High School she came to Lannon Elementary School where she worked for 13 years. During that time, Janet became an important thread in the fabric of Lannon's culture.

Not only was she excellent at her job, she went above and beyond on a daily basis. She was a friendly confidant to all staff, always interested in the happenings of their lives. Often, the entire staff was greeted by a handmade card and a little treat from Janet.

Children are important to Janet and providing the best schooling experience for them was her goal. Again, this went beyond cleaning classrooms and bathrooms. Janet was also a secret Leprechaun and other such mysterious characters who visited classrooms at night. Students were thrilled to find what was left behind in the morning

Lannon students and staff will miss Janet, but knowing that she will continue to visit and volunteer in the health room provides the school with some comfort.

Maple Avenue

Sandra Dziubek

Sandra Dziubek has been a great asset to the Hamilton School District lunch program for 34 years. Sandra started as a substitute for the food service department and worked her way up to her current position as head cook for the elementary schools based at Maple Avenue Elementary School.

Sandra, a School Nutrition Association-certified manager, has taken her job seriously with the intent of always serving the best quality food to students. Maple Avenue's kitchen operations consistently passed annual inspections with flying colors due to Sandra's leadership. The lunch program there runs smoothly and efficiently as a result of Sandra's guidance and hard work. She oversaw the preparation of approximately 1,000 meals each school day.

In addition to earning her School Nutrition Association certification, Sandra successfully obtained her School Food Service two-year certificate from Waukesha County Technical College and a Wisconsin restaurant management certification.

In addition to her important role in the school lunch program, Sandra contributed to the success of annual staff, student and family events, including the Intergenerational Folk Art Fair, All-District Volunteer Breakfast, Muffins with Moms and Donuts with Dads.

She will be greatly missed by all those who benefited from her culinary skills and leadership.

Marcy

Barbara F. Gogan

Dedication, commitment and compassion are the words that quickly come to mind when thinking of Marcy fourth grade teacher Barbara F. Gogan. Barbara is a teacher full of energy and enthusiasm. She not only taught various grade levels with many colleagues, she mentored several new teachers. The impact she has had on fellow staff members and students is widespread.

Barbara came to the Hamilton School District in 1976, first as a long-term substitute teacher at Maple Avenue Elementary School and then teaching at Butler, Marcy and Willow Springs elementary schools and serving as the district's Chapter I cognitive coordinator until 1983. She returned to the district in 1993, teaching first, second and fourth grade Marcy students for the past 18 years. Barbara earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio and her master's degree in education, curriculum and instruction at Concordia University.

Year after year, past students come back to visit Barbara and connect with her. She has made a lasting impression on them because of her down-to-earth style and ability to bring learning to life. She goes beyond the basics to provide students with the connections they need to give meaning to their lessons. Her students achieve at high levels because of her determination to help them meet her high expectations. Barbara's sense of humor has also brightened many days. There is never a time when she isn't smiling or bringing light to someone's day.

Suzan Markham

Countless Wisconsin students have explored the world of art under the tutelage of Suzan Markham, who has been an art teacher in the Hamilton School District for 23 years. She taught at Marcy Elementary School since 1988, and through the years, took on teaching responsibilities at Maple Avenue, Lannon, Willow Springs and Woodside elementary schools and Templeton Middle School.

Suzan opened the world of art to students through Russian palaces, the works of Georgia O'Keefe and clay sculptures. She introduced them to the world of color, lines and shape. Most notably, Suzan was an eager participant in community art shows and the district's Community Calendar. Her students' works

could be found at both the Pauline Haass Public Library and the Butler Public Library. Through the years, she took great pride in student work and their accomplishments.

Before joining the district, Suzan taught in the Howard-Suamico and Wrightstown school districts for 11 years and spent numerous summers teaching her own art programs in the Southern Door and Ashwaubenon school districts, University of Wisconsin (UW)-Green Bay and the Neville Museum in Green Bay. She earned her bachelor's degree in art at UW-Green Bay College of Creative Communication.

Woodside

Anne Janssen Gavigan

Woodside Elementary School special education teacher Anne Janssen Gavigan is a child-advocate at heart. She is known for going above and beyond to serve her students and the families who entrust their children to her on a daily basis. Anne faces any challenge a child encounters with thoughtfulness, compassion and long-term goals in mind.

Anne has taught students at Woodside with emotional and behavior disabilities for the past eight years. Before joining the district she taught for more than 16 years and was a special education diagnostician. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and completed graduate studies at Edgewood College in Madison.

Anne sees the good in all people, and that optimistic attitude carries over to all who have the pleasure of collaborating with her about student programming or school initiatives. Anne's enthusiasm for education and dedication to Woodside is inspiring. Her retirement is a tremendous loss to the Woodside special education department and entire school community. She will be greatly missed.

Jackie Rottler

Jackie Rottler bleeds the Woodside Elementary School blue and gray and is a cheerleader for the programs and children of the Hamilton School District. As a fitness education teacher, Jackie has done a great job of instilling in students the knowledge and skills to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. She wants to help each child realize that as long as one's best effort is given, success is always possible.

In addition to being the Woodside fitness education teacher, Jackie has served as Hamilton High School driver education teacher for 30 years and coordinator for 21 years. She joined the Hamilton School District in 1981, and over the course of her career, she taught physical education at every school in the district. She was named the 2007 Wisconsin Physical Education Association Educator of the Year. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Jackie is on the Wisconsin Traffic and Driving Safety Education Association Board and numerous community foundations and charities.

She earned her bachelor's degree in physical education with a minor in safety, driver education, health, coaching and recreation from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Besides her impact in the classroom, Jackie is active on school committees and goes the extra mile to make any Woodside or district event a special one. Her leadership and enthusiasm for developing well-rounded children will be greatly missed by Woodside students and staff.

Kathy Theis

Woodside Elementary School fourth grade teacher Kathy Theis is an educator who leads by example. She is a teacher who strives to continue her professional growth. Whether it is curriculum, school initiatives or the latest technology, Kathy has been at the forefront of implementation. She is a team member who provided valuable years of teaching experience to any school initiative, but a very fresh, innovative perspective as well.

Kathy joined the Hamilton School District in 1974 and taught at Maple Avenue Elementary School for four years. She returned in 1997 where she taught at Willow Springs Elementary School until 1999 when Woodside opened, and she has taught there since. She taught outside the district for seven years.

She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois.

Children placed in Kathy's classroom received a high quality education from a high quality educator. She was especially skilled in helping students who needed a calming, nurturing presence. Students excelled behaviorally and academically because of her desire to maximize their potential during and after school hours. She will be greatly missed.

Templeton Middle School

Diane Krause

Diane Krause is Templeton Middle School seventh grade communication arts teacher who is a dedicated and conscientious instructor demonstrating a lifelong commitment to educating middle level students. During the course of her career, Diane has been unwavering in her dedication to deliver challenging, motivational and relevant instruction to her students, and to develop classroom activities that engage her students in the process of learning.

Diane has spent her entire 36-year career in education at Templeton. She earned her bachelor's degree from Carthage College and her master's degree from Aurora University. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Diane has served as intramural volleyball coach, cheerleading advisor, track coach, Ski Club advisor and afterschool student supervisor.

She consistently set high expectations for achievement and encouraged her students to develop personal responsibility for their own learning, improve their critical thinking skills and apply information learned to real world situations. In addition, Diane focused on developing positive rapport with her students and working with them to create a positive and respectful classroom environment.

James Lesperance

James Lesperance is a dedicated, caring and nurturing educator who over the course of his career at Templeton Middle School has consistently modeled his passion for improving the educational as well as social and emotional lives of his students. As a special education learning disabilities teacher, James understands the significance of developing positive relationships with students to support their success. As a result, he has specifically focused on developing positive rapport, increasing self-confidence and advocacy skills and working with his students to create a sense of family and joint respect in the classroom.

James has been a teacher in the Hamilton School District since 1973. He earned his bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Wisconsin -Whitewater

James has been outstanding in his commitment to making positive connections with parents and has always been available for communication, even well beyond school hours.

Alexa R. Smith

Alexa R. Smith is a Templeton Middle School learning disabilities teacher who has taught in the Hamilton School District since 1986. She is a sensitive, nurturing and facilitative instructor who worked diligently to support academic growth and achievement of her students. She increased the personal advocacy skills for the special education students with whom she worked.

Alexa consistently demonstrated her commitment to collaboration as she worked with her colleagues to create individualized plans to meet the learning needs of her students. When working with the thousands of students she has served, she has provided extra support and encouragement and has been patient and caring. In addition to her instructional responsibilities, Alexa served as the advisor to the Templeton Computer Club.

Prior to joining the staff at Templeton, Alexa taught in New Berlin for six years and in Harford for one year. She has been a teacher in Wisconsin for 32 years. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her master's degree from Aurora University.

Hamilton High School

Susan Blackford

Special education teacher Susan Blackford has been an inspiration to many during her 26 years with Hamilton High School. During that time, she has been a respected, tireless advocate for her students. Susan not only taught students in the exceptional education setting, but she guided them in making decisions that had an impact on their futures.

Susan earned her bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and her master's degree from Silver Lake College in Manitowoc. She taught in other Illinois and Wisconsin school districts for six years before joining the Hamilton School District in 1985. Along with her teaching responsibilities, Susan was a high school volleyball coach for 20 years and coached Templeton girls track and volleyball.

With passion for her students and understanding of curriculum, Susan raised student expectations and created meaningful educational opportunities. She truly cares about all of her students, and has time and again bent over backwards to help them with their often troubled lives. She is well respected both inside and outside her department and will be missed dearly, but remembered fondly.

Christine Dolphin

Hamilton High School teacher Christine Dolphin has contributed her talents to the school's Fitness and Health Education Department for 36 years. During that time, she made lasting impressions on her students and colleagues.

Christine began teaching at Hamilton soon after earning her bachelor's degree in fitness and health education from the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, during her career she coached girls basketball for four years, girls volleyball for one year, girls track for two years and girls golf for two years. For the past 10 years, she taught volleyball to students in grades 4-8 during summer school.

Christine frequently worked with students to achieve higher levels than they believed they could. She has been a dedicated teacher who consistently held students to high expectations and worked to ensure they met those standards. Her colleagues describe her as smart, talented and a team player. Hamilton wishes Christine and her family all the best as she retires.

Bill Drogemuller

Bill Drogemuller contributed his talents to Hamilton High School's Guidance and Counseling Department for the past 22 years. Evidenced throughout his tenure was his devotion to mentoring young adults as well as his allegiance to student advocacy.

While working with students he demonstrated the ability to use difficult issues as teaching moments, guiding students in their quest for personal growth. Throughout his career he had an impact on the lives of students and encouraged them to become active and involved members of the Hamilton community. Bill spent many years contributing his time as game manager and announcer for many activities. He has served as an instructional leader for his department and took on student interns.

Bill began as a guidance counselor in the district in 1989. In addition to providing Hamilton students with counseling services during his career, he was the Lannon and Marcy elementary school counselor for two years. He earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Carthage College and a master's degree in exercise physiology from Indiana State University. In 1989 he earned his master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Before joining the Hamilton School District, Bill was a physical education teacher and gymnastics coach at Brookfield East High School.

Ann C. Ferguson

Ann C. Ferguson has been a caring and dedicated teacher at Hamilton High School for 18 years. Under her tenure, Spanish has grown into a high quality program that strives to ensure students are ready for the global society.

Ann earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. She earned her master's degree in Spanish literature from the University of Northern Iowa Institute in Spain. She first taught at Nicolet High School for seven years, and later became a Spanish translator for adoption documents for seven years. During this time, she taught Spanish part-time at Longfellow Middle School in Wauwatosa and then Brookfield East and Central high schools.

Ann uses humor and storytelling to engage students in the Spanish language and culture. She clearly has a passion for the Spanish language and sets high standards that she knows students can meet. She has served as a department leader for the World Languages Department and as a mentor for new teachers. Staff will miss her warm smile and positive attitude. She will be missed by all who have been fortunate enough to work with her.

Tom Konkol

Tom Konkol has been a fitness and health education teacher for 34 years at Hamilton High School. During that time, he taught thousands of students and made lasting impressions on each of them.

Tom earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse and master's degree from Aurora University. In addition to teaching fitness and health education, Tom coached boys soccer for 22 years, girls soccer for 20 years, boys cross country for seven years, girls basketball for five years,

boys track for three years and boys baseball for one year. He taught summer school for 12 years, served as instructional leader for four years and was the Students Against Destructive Decisions advisor for two years. Before joining the Hamilton staff, Tom taught for a total of three and one-half years in South Beloit, Illinois and a private boys home.

Tom's dedication and commitment benefitted many Hamilton students. He taught the value of personal responsibility and helped prepare students for life outside of Hamilton. Students and staff will miss him and wish him success and happiness in his retirement.

James Lawinger

James Lawinger has been a technology education teacher and coach in the Hamilton School District for 38 years. James earned his bachelor's degree in industrial arts from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville. As Hamilton High School approaches 50 years in operation, James was a part of many of them. He inspired thousands of students in the discipline now known as Applied Engineering and Technology and served as department chairman for 10 years.

James is probably most well known as the autos teacher, yet he taught many other classes in the technology education field including woodworking, metals, graphic arts and photography. Outside of the classroom, James was highly involved in sports. He coached softball for 33 years, football for 30 years, basketball for 21 years and track for four years, along with intramurals for 17 years. One of his many coaching accomplishments was taking the 1986 boys basketball team to the state tournament. In addition to coaching in Hamilton, James coached basketball, baseball and football in Germantown and Palmyra.

As an integral piece of Hamilton for many years, James has been a part of many students' lives. He will be remembered for a long time to come.

Patricia Mitchell

Patricia Mitchell is a dedicated, caring and passionate guidance counselor. She has serviced countless students throughout the past 28 years at Hamilton High School. She places the needs and best interest of students as first priority.

Patricia earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and her master's degree in counseling and guidance from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater.

Students know Patricia to be someone who encourages and supports them as they strive to improve their academic, social and emotional performance. She has endless energy and a wealth of knowledge about programs and serves as coordinator for many of these.

Because she is goal-driven and committed to student growth, she served on numerous committees at the district and school level. Additionally, she devoted many hours of her time as an advisor for clubs and activities, all focused on giving back to the community. She has touched the lives of many young people and inspired many others to be contributing members of society. Patricia will be thoroughly missed. Hamilton students and staff members wish her the very best.

Michael J. Oswald

Affectionately known by students and staff as "Big Mike," Michael J. Oswald has been a pillar in the district's Buildings and Grounds Department. As a custodian in the Hamilton School District

for 34 years, generations of Hamilton High School students know Big Mike to be someone available to help out when needed.

His kind personality has endeared him to those with whom he works. A humble man who carries a broad smile on his face, Michael's presence brightens the environment for students and staff alike.

There will be big shoes to fill, literally and figuratively, upon his retirement.

Mary Ripple

Mary Ripple has been an exceptional education teacher at Hamilton High School for the past 33 years. She earned her bachelor's degree in behavioral disabilities from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and her master's degree from Silver Lake College in Manitowoc.

The entire school community has benefited from Mary's commitment and dedication to Hamilton. She worked tirelessly to ensure students have access and opportunities to find success as they leave Hamilton. She created a classroom environment of support, positive concern and interest for each student. She demonstrated a great deal of patience with her students and helped them reach their educational goals through her reassuring presence and encouragement.

Mary worked with hundreds of staff members over the years and all have a deep abiding respect for her professionalism. Mary mentored many staff members and worked to create high standards. Her passion for students is seen in her genuine ability and desire to get to know her students. She has been a magnificent asset to her department and the students of Hamilton High School. Her retirement is a void that will be hard to replace. Hamilton wishes Mary the very best in her future endeavors.

Robin B. Tessereau

Robin B. Tessereau retired before the start of the 2010-11 school year to pursue teaching at a Department of Defense Dependents School that serves school-age children of active duty military and civilian employees in Germany.

Robin had been a Hamilton High School German teacher for 12 years. The first two years in the district, she also taught exploratory-level German at Templeton Middle School. She taught at the Milwaukee German Immersion School for eight years before joining the Hamilton School District. She earned her bachelor's degree in German from the University of Illinois.

In addition to her classroom responsibilities, Robin was the Goethe Institute Social Studies Network coordinator for Wisconsin, GAPP Wisconsin advisor, Ripon University Distinguished Educator recipient, Wisconsin Council on Economics Education award-winner and National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar award-winner. At Hamilton, she was advisor for numerous organizations including National Honor Society, German Club and German National Honor Society. She also served as the World Languages Department's instructional leader.

Robin challenged her students academically by providing high quality learning activities and creating valuable experiences. She was passionate about providing students with opportunities outside of the classroom as well. She taught students the importance of academics and service.

Two additional Hamilton High School staff members retired this year, but requested no public recognition.