



# The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

Issue 5, Volume 42

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

June 2014



## Shining Through the Night

### Huntington's Relay for Life is an Unbreakable Tradition

By Charles Beers

#### » news in short

> Nicole Castaldo has been appointed to assume the post of orchestra teacher and director on September 1.

> A pair of Huntington High School English classes was honored at the Walt Whitman Birthplace State Historic Site in Huntington Station for their submissions in the 28th annual Young Poets contest.

> The Huntington High School Key Club has captured the prestigious New York Blood Services Gold Award for collecting more than 200 pints of blood during three drives at the school this year.

> The Calculus Posse dominated the Huntington High School French Honor Society's fourth annual dodgeball tournament, which doubled as a Relay For Life fundraiser. They earned a handsome trophy and a \$100 donation to their Relay for Life team.

It is impossible to deny that Huntington High School is one of the most charitable schools on Long Island, if not New York State as a whole. It seems that every week the Blue Devils are coming up with new ways to give back to their community. We have Stuff the Bus, a fundraiser which piles boxes upon boxes of food and supplies into food pantries, putting smiles on the faces of countless hungry families. We have the Blood Drive, where students selflessly donated 200 pints of blood to the Long Island Blood Services. But perhaps the greatest example of Huntington charity, the Blue Devil staple for the last three years, is Relay for Life.

For one explosive night, students of all ages come together to celebrate the struggles of cancer survivors, remember the loved ones we have lost, and continually fight back through donations to the

American Cancer Society. It is a simple idea. Students gather beneath their tents with their friends and



walk the track throughout the night, as well as participate in memorable Zumba dances and hula hoop laps. It is an amazing night not only for the fun times we share, but also for the emotionally heartfelt stories that come to light as the sun goes down.

For many, Relay for Life is a chance to let all the pain out. Cancer survivors constantly take the stage at our events, sharing their inspiring stories that they may not have been comfortable sharing before. Hector Alvarado, for instance, gave a particularly moving reflection on his battle with cancer which drew massive applause from the hundreds in attendance. He, along with the countless other survivors who donned the signature purple shirts, released purple and white balloons, each signifying a person who had defeated the threat of cancer. Seeing the crowd of balloons disappear into the sunset was extremely uplifting, serving as a vital reminder of the strength of our community.

Not all of the stories had such a happy resolution. Some speakers, such as 10th grader Samantha Conte who spoke about her dad, tearfully remembered how their loved ones lost their battles.

See "Relay" on page 3

## Mr. Gilbert: Years of Dedication and Memories

### The Blue Devils Say Good-Bye to an Artist, Rock Star, and Friend

By BRIAN McCONNELL

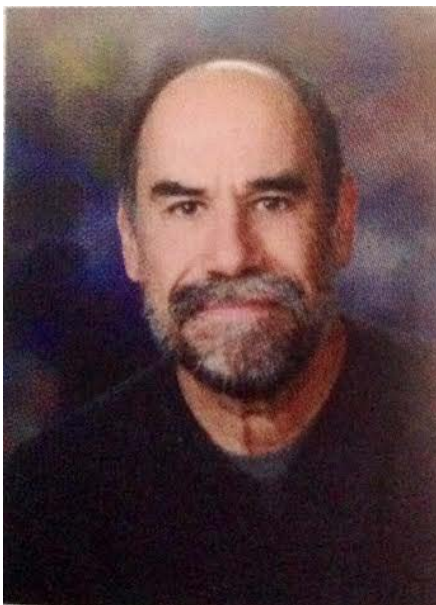
After 31 years, Mr. Ken Gilbert has become a familiar face to Huntington High School's students, alumni, and even parents. However, few know that beyond the calm, casual substitute and stage magistrate there lies a rock star, artist, and overall very interesting man who started working full-time at HHS in 1984 and has remained humorous and present throughout all that Huntington has brought him.

Coming from a small town upstate named Danville, Mr. Gilbert first got involved in music as a 10th grader. Atop a flatbed truck in the parking lot of

the Danville IGA, young Ken and a few friends performed what would be known as the first of "a lot of bands" Mr. Gilbert has played in so far. However, upon graduation, Mr. Gilbert entered SUNY Brockport to become a Physical Education teacher. After three weeks, he "could not stand the locker room smell," and switched his major to become an Earth Science teacher instead.

When a fundraiser was held for a professor who had been in a bad car accident, Mr. Gilbert decided to show his support by performing

a song with his voice and



his guitar. Following his

evidently excellent performance, a professor approached Mr. Gilbert and inquired as to his major. Mr. Gilbert said, "I'm going to teach Earth Science," and the professor responded with, "Not anymore." Switching to a Music Education major, Mr. Gilbert graduated from Brockport and continued on to grad school at SUNY Geneseo, finishing off his education to teach music to students from kindergarten through sixth grade. Here began Mr. Gilbert's decorated career as a teacher and musician. Singing and teaching in both the city and on the

island, Mr. Gilbert performed "only tasteful pop rock" and taught "whatever they asked me to do." In the '80s, Mr. Gilbert came very close to signing a record deal in California, but everything "went to heck" when lawyers got involved. Meanwhile, he was teaching ESL and Earth Science, substituting, and even served as the school librarian for six months. Mr. Gilbert, Huntington High School's go-to guy for all these years, has made it plenty clear that he does believe "it is good to try new things."

Given that he is such a talented musician, it seems fitting to know

continued on Page 3, "Mr. Gilbert"

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## Ms. Ironman Says Goodbye Our Inspirational Nurse Looks to the Future

By LEAH BUTZ

After an incredible 31 year run helping students in the school district, longstanding Huntington employee Martha Ironman, our well-loved school nurse, will be retiring at the end of this school year. After moving here from Woodhull Intermediate School, Mrs. Ironman has become an irreplaceable part of Huntington High School, lending a hand in all sorts of activities.

Mrs. Ironman is very well known for helping out the Huntington Blue Devil Marching Band, of which two of her three daughters were members. As president of the Band Parent Association, Mrs. Ironman headed a charge to fund the band and give band members a season to remember, after budget cuts made money tight in the music department. "Mrs. Ironman has been a huge part of the marching band, always there to help out and put a smile on our faces, and we can't thank her enough for her constant dedication to the

program," said member Kayla Eidle, drum major for the upcoming 2014 season.

worked tirelessly, making sure the assembly would inspire many students of all ages to feel better about their bodies and

New York, Georgia, and Florida crossed off the list. "In two weeks I'll be running a race in Pennsylvania," she added. Starting in

person and will be missed by the entire high school." Mrs. Ironman will be well-missed in the upcoming years at Huntington High School. However, her amazing run will not soon be forgotten. Huntington High School would like to wish her good luck in any and all adventures she takes on in the future, and we hope she holds us in high regard in her memoir.

"My greatest moments at Huntington High School have been seeing so many students succeed, and do such wonderful things. Lasting memories of attending the plays, concerts, talent shows, football, and baseball games are memories I will always cherish," Mrs. Ironman said.



Mrs. Ironman was also a major voice in the organization of Cameron Diaz's visit to the high school in early January. Ms. Diaz's publication, The Body Book, is a testament to overall health and body image that Mrs. Ironman knew would help many Huntington students. She

persist in their nutritional diets.

We've all been wondering what Mrs. Ironman will be doing in the future. "This past year I've done a lot of running," she said. She plans to run a race in every state in the union, and she already has

the fall she will be running two races, one in Indiana and one in Chicago, just as we are starting the new school year.

Sophomore Bailey Riordan said, "Mrs. Ironman is the only lady I know who would go to Disney and run a 5K with a student. She is an amazing



## Three Valuable Devils Take Their Leave

By CHARLES BEERS

There is an old saying that it takes a village to raise a child, and the students of Huntington High School are fortunate to have such kind, encouraging people who touch their lives every single day. These men and women have many roles in and out of our building, and oftentimes we fail to recognize the impact they have until they have made the decision to take their own path away from us and move forward with their own lives. Three of these "unsung heroes

in our building have decided to move on and we must take a moment to recognize and thank them for all that they have done for us and our school community. Each in his own way has had an impact on the lives of the students at Huntington High School and they will be missed.

Ms. Joan Camp-

ton, known throughout the building for her assistance in countless study halls

and monitoring the hallways for the last twenty-nine years, always brings a warm smile and happy attitude every day.

Mr. Robert Gi-

arraputo has been keeping the students of Huntington High School safe for the

twelve years, working as our infallible security guard.

Ms. Amy Smith, a most valuable and trusted member of the physical education

and athletic office, has worked as a secretary for the past nineteen years keeping athletes, coaches, and parents informed of all pertinent sporting events. Most notably, Ms. Smith was appointed as the district's liaison to MSG Varsity, making certain that our Blue Devil athletics, clubs, and academics are acknowledged for their impressive performances on the television network.

Congratulations on your retirement! You will be sorely missed!

*"Three of these 'unsung heroes' in our building have decided to move on and we must take a moment to recognize and thank them for all that they have done for us and our school community."*

## Relay for Life Shines Again

Nearly everyone in attendance had been affected by cancer in some way, making these tragic stories even more poignant. However, like the Luminaria, things eventually got brighter. Conte reminisced on how her teacher, Mr. Cohen, helped her recover after her loss. This was another, equally important message. Conte's story demonstrated how much the Blue Devil community is there for each other during times of hardship and loss, proving that Relay for Life is more than just a day. Rather, it is a state of mind. We all possess the ability to help those dealing with loss and grief, whether it is due to cancer or other struggles. Relay for Life is the catalyst, an opportunity for the high school to prove how much we care for those affected by the tragic illness and an effort to grow from these losses.

The results, for the third year in a row, were staggering. In the end, when the sun rose that Sunday morning, the high school had raised an overwhelming total of \$117,895.31. Once again, Huntington eclipsed the impressive \$100,000 mark.

Many individuals rose to the occasion this year, including Emily Saltman, Sydney Johnson, and Jaclyn Schultz, who raised an extraordinary \$1,875, \$3,185, and \$7,250 respectively. In addition, several teams stood out among the 86 groups who participated. The teams Lady Killers By Day Cancer Killers By Night, Kickin' Cancer, and Pirates of the CUREibbean raised incredible amounts: \$3,915, \$4,350, and \$8,785 respectively. Overall, the school had another commendable year in terms of donations, which the American Cancer Society will no doubt be thankful for in their quest to find a cure.

Not only was the night a success in terms of fundraising, but it was also a showcase of Huntington talent. You could hear the high school from miles away, as music was also blaring and the participants were active from dusk until dawn. Huntington musicians, such as the jazz band and chorus members, took the stage with pride and played their

hearts out in countless memorable songs. One of the highlights of the concert was Chelsea Holmes' smashing rendition of "Let it Go." Since their team was based on the movie Frozen and all of its members dressed in a distinctively



snowy outfit, it was only fitting that she would take on the popular song.

In addition to great music that kept the blood pumping throughout the night, there was also plenty of things to do on and off the track. While many members were devoted to their laps, some deviated towards the bounce houses and dunk tank. There students could send their teachers into an icy bath. Mr. Leavy, Chairperson of the Humanities, aided this

fundraiser and many students were hysterical when the humanities teacher appeared drenched after countless dunks. Along with these activities, many of the students tested their skills at Kan-Jam, a classic competition amongst the Blue Devils. These games took up most of the field, along with a variety of other sports including soccer and football. In short, no matter where you spent the night, you could always stumble upon something fun to do.

As the sun rose after another tremendous night of fun and remembrance, one cannot help but realize the impact Relay for Life has on the every member of Huntington as a whole. No other fundraiser can generate such a massive, emotional response from the Blue Devil community like Relay. For months, students were active in seeking donations from their families, neighbors, and friends, all to aid the important search for a

cure. Students, teachers, parents, and staff devoted time and effort for every collection, every advisory meeting, and every floor plan, even going as far to tape Mr. Gilmor to a wall to get the public hyped for the event. The custodians and grounds crews worked tirelessly getting the fields ready for the arrival of the excited participants, and their efforts did not go unnoticed. And it never disappoints, because that is the beauty of Relay, for everyone came together with a positive attitude and a willingness to help make this event a perfect night for all. Relay is an indescribable night: inspiring, heart-rending, and unforgettable. But most of all, Relay is a symbol, a reminder that we all have the ability to fight against cancer, or any illness for that matter, as well as support those who are affected by it. Like the radiant Luminaria that shone through the night, Relay for Life illuminates the darkness of cancer, continually reminding us to celebrate, remember, and always fight back.

## Mr. Gilbert's Memorable Career

Mr. Gilbert's own favorite music and musicians. After much deliberation, he decided that his favorite group would have to be Yes. Mr. Gilbert also added that he heard the best lyric ever in "Wichita Lineman" many years ago, and has yet to hear one better: "I need you more than want you, and I want you for all time," written by Jimmy Webb. Mr. Gilbert was fortunate enough to meet Jimmy Webb last year at USDAN, and encourages students and musicians to meet Mr. Webb when the opportunity arises again. Further, Mr. Gilbert did mention that he believes Hoagy Carmichael had the best job ever, because he wrote "Stardust" and never needed to work again.

Now that he won't be working anymore, Mr. Gilbert says that he intends to do four things: play guitar more, golf, paint & draw, and travel. Of course, guitar is understandably a significant part of his life, and Mr. Gilbert will not likely find trouble seeking opportunities to engage in such talent. On the other hand, Mr. Gilbert is not as talented at golf despite his enjoyment of

the "nice walk spoiled," as it was described so famously by Mark Twain. Mr. Gilbert says that his skill is characterized by the term "hacker," but he values the mental and physical escape to the outdoors more than scoring well. Frequenting county courses like Sunken Meadow and Crab Meadow, Mr. Gilbert believes in a phrase that states golf is meant for "gentlemen only, ladies forbidden." Upon being asked if he wears funny-looking clothes when golfing, Mr. Gilbert responded with, "I've been wearing jeans and a t-shirt since I was 16." He also explained how he gets away with wearing such casual attire to formal events such as weddings, by wearing a men's jacket over his usual outfit, which works well enough to incite honest compliments. Mr. Gilbert describes his artwork as paintings

and drawings of "strange things," which he creates mostly for himself. However, thanks to Mrs. Worth and her gallery called South Street, in Greenport, some of Mr. Gilbert's pieces have been sold, to both his wallet and his heart's pleasure. Mr. Gilbert also deliberated for a while on his favorite painting, and decided upon Christina's World, by Andrew Wyeth.

there during the upcoming year.

Having spent 15 years in charge of Huntington High School's stage, Mr. Gilbert says that his favorite things about working at HHS are "my stage crew kids and my paycheck, in that order." Among the innumerable stories he has of his time with the stage crew, Mr. Gilbert recalled one time

*"Now that he won't be working anymore, Mr. Gilbert says that he intends to do four things: play guitar more, golf, paint & draw, and travel."*

However, Mr. Gilbert did not take long to think of places he'd like to see in his fourth pursuit, travel. After having been to Alaska last year and Hawai'i seven years ago, he hopes to spend time in Ireland, Italy, the Western U.S., and the Florida Keys, among other locations. Japan is a likely destination in the near future, as Mr. Gilbert's daughter will be teaching

in particular when a boy named Nick went beneath the stage to get a 1x3 piece of wood (a 1x6 cut in half, as Mr. Gilbert specified).

After Nick didn't comeback for about 20 minutes, Mr. Gilbert decided to go check on him, and found Nick stuck underneath the huge stack of wood he had attempted to pull a piece from. Mr. Gilbert asked why Nick had not called for help despite being trapped under the wood, to which Nick responded, "I figured someone would come down and check on

me." Fortunately, Nick was correct, and was fine following his rescue.

Mr. Gilbert described how a tombstone includes a person's birth date, a dash, and their death date. He went on to say that everything is affected by that dash, and it's the dash that counts. Mr. Gilbert decided that his dash is going to be characterized by his doing "what makes him happy," and he recommends that students who are now transitioning out of high school into adulthood should "work hard and do what you want to do." He says that if one can "be happy in work," one can be "happy in life." Mr. Gilbert also advised that students do not "get married too young or have more than eight kids," and given that Mr. Gilbert followed his own advice and is happily married, with one daughter whom he is very proud of, Huntington is going to be at a loss without Mr. Gilbert's wisdom and presence in years to come as he enjoys the retirement he has earned through years of dedication.

# The Dispatch

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*The Dispatch* is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1200 students attending HHS, *The Dispatch* is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. *The Dispatch* staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2012-2013 school year.

*The Dispatch* of Huntington High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions, comments, and letters to the editor should be sent electronically to [hhsdispatch@gmail.com](mailto:hhsdispatch@gmail.com) or submitted to *The Dispatch* mailbox located in the main office.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

*The Dispatch's* goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, *The Dispatch* will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

*The Dispatch* accepts advertisements from local businesses and student organizations. The basic rate for advertisements can be provided on request to any interested organization. Requests for specific pricing, and examples of past advertising may be requested via e-mail through [hhsdispatch@gmail.com](mailto:hhsdispatch@gmail.com). The Editorial Board reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed inappropriate, specifically those that reference illegal or controlled substances, products, services and/or paraphernalia.

## 7 Tips for a Spectacular Summer

By Donovan Richardson

Finally, after a perpetually white winter and a long-awaited spring, summer is here! Although no list can possibly include all the things you can do in the summer, here is a countdown of what we believe to be the best!

7. GET A JOB. As many teens realize, there are countless opportunities to earn money while school is out. Saving up money for college is a common motivation for students to start working over the summer, when school is not a scheduling issue. Earning money is, for many people, the most profitable way to stay productive over the summer. In addition to adding to your bank account, you can make new friends at your new profession and keep active when you run out of things to do.

6. ENJOY THE OUTDOORS. Leaving home isn't always necessary to enjoy the summer. Enjoying the warm weather by playing sports, soaking up the sun, and socializing outside is much easier in the summer than in the cooler months. All of this you can do with your friends at home, or on outings during the longer days of the year. Although it never seems long enough, two months out of school gives plenty of free time to enjoy life outdoors.

5. GET READY FOR COLLEGE. Many graduating seniors will get the opportunity to educate themselves about their new college lives. With orientations already starting, the transformation from senior to freshman will be occurring for high-schoolers all around the nation. With only months until classes begin again, bags will need to be packed and farewells said to prepare our seniors for their next chapter in life.

4. FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS. Fourth of July barbecues are an indispensable part of summer. Although all the ribs, wings, and burgers are eaten too excessively and probably are too fatty, barbecues often make meat-eaters wonder why anyone would become a vegetarian. These barbecues are often combined with a showing of fireworks to make for a picturesque summer night. Even though it is just a day, the memories of Fourth of July fireworks can last an entire summer!

3. LISTEN TO MUSIC. A festive feeling often comes with the summer, when outdoor festivals and concerts become popular. Listening to music is just more fun when it's sunny. Sure, you can blast music in the car with the windows closed during the snowy months, but its more boring. So grab your iPods and pick

a good summer playlist!

2. TAKE A VACATION. One of the most popular and ubiquitous summer activities is going on vacation. Since much of the northern hemisphere is at its warmest, and the southern hemisphere is not too cool either, anywhere as close as West Neck Beach or as far as Rio can be a great spot to enjoy the summer. Whether they are cross country road trips or weekends near the water, vacations are always an enjoyable part of the summer.

1. TRAVEL ABROAD. Educational trips run by EF Tours offer educational experience that can enrich your summer and fill them with experiences that will never be forgotten. As well as giving great educational opportunities to teenagers, these trips with classmates are certainly unique experiences. This summer, the trips that they offer include exploring the Mediterranean, France, and Italy.

In the end, no matter what choices you make over the summer, it is important to relax. After months of hard work, difficult exams, and the stresses of planning the future, it is time to unwind and let it all out. Congratulations everyone. We've earned it.

# Ms. Montefusco's Amazing Journey

## Huntington's Respected Science Teacher Looks Back on Her Career

By CAITLIN KNOWLES

As the 2013-2014 school year draws to a close, we should all reflect on the amazing experiences we've had this year and the lasting memories we have created. More importantly, we need to recognize the individuals who have helped to make this year and many other school years at Huntington High School memorable. This year, we say goodbye not only to roughly three hundred seniors, but also to several retiring teachers, one of which is Ms. Marguerite Montefusco.

Ms. Montefusco has had an enormous impact on our school during her 24 years of service. Her dedication to science and commitment to enlightening all of her students have been re- nscis programs. Not only has Ms. Montefusco enriched the school academically, but she has also been a positive influence in many students' most treasured scientific memories. Even several years after certain students had her as



*"Ms. Montefusco is a teacher who always goes the extra mile to ensure that students are learning what they need to and understanding the material while still managing to have some fun doing it."*

clear staples of her teaching career in every subject she has taught. Although Ms. Montefusco is most well known now for teaching Honors Chemistry, she has taught Biology at Huntington as well. Ms.

Montefusco enriched the school academically, but she has also been a positive influence in many students' most treasured scientific memories. Even several years after certain students had her as

as freshmen (back when Honors Chemistry was offered to freshmen) or sophomores with fondness and nostalgia. From the shaving cream lab to the element projects, some of the most exciting and enjoyable experiences in chemistry have occurred right in Ms. Montefusco's classroom. Ms. Montefusco's talent for selecting activities that are both relevant to the curriculum and engaging for students is unique, and she will always be remembered for this skill even after she leaves Huntington High School.

Ms. Montefusco is a teacher who always goes the extra mile to ensure that students are learning what they need to and understanding the material while still managing

students so that they can reach their full potential in chemistry and overall academics. Even if we may have complained about certain assignments in the past (Did someone say formal lab reports??), I think that we students as a whole are thankful that Ms. Montefusco was able to teach us skills that would prepare us for even more advanced classes in the future.

Ms. Montefusco has been a fantastic teacher throughout her time at Huntington High School, and she is very deserving of all praise she receives. When asked to describe her experience at Huntington, the teacher put it simply, stating, "My 24 years have been an amazing journey." Ms. Montefusco's contributions to

our school will always be remembered, and we will definitely miss her next year.

Montefusco even started Huntington High School's Science Research and Fo-

a teacher, they still recall their scientific endeavors from those distant days

to have some fun doing it. She constantly finds new ways to challenge her

Thanks for all your hard work, Ms. Montefusco!

# Ms. Kehn Leaves Her Mark

## The Heart and Soul of the Science Department Had Exceptional Diligence

By KATIE DUVAL

Behind every science class in Huntington High School is the work of Ms. Kehn, retiring after 25 years from her role as lab assistant.

Ms. Kehn was a vital part of keeping the science department functioning. She kept the science rooms stocked with supplies, fed the animals, set up labs, and, in general, made it possible for the system to operate smoothly.

Ms. Kehn will be sorely missed, by both her colleagues and the students, who are so appreciative of all the work she put

work ethics." Without her diligence, the science classes that are such an important part of the students' time

*"Without her diligence, the science classes that are such an important part of the students' time at Huntington would not be as educational and valuable as they are now."*

into helping us learn. "She's the heart and soul of this department," said Mrs. Montefusco, who is also retiring this year. "She has superior

at Huntington would not be as educational and valuable as they are now. Her commitment to her position was exceptional. Love- able and full of enthusiasm

for the whole department, Ms. Kehn has the appreciation of the science teachers.

She also has the gratitude of the students of Huntington High School. All of the reasons we love science--experiments and discoveries and learning things without a text book--would not have been able to happen without her and her dedication.

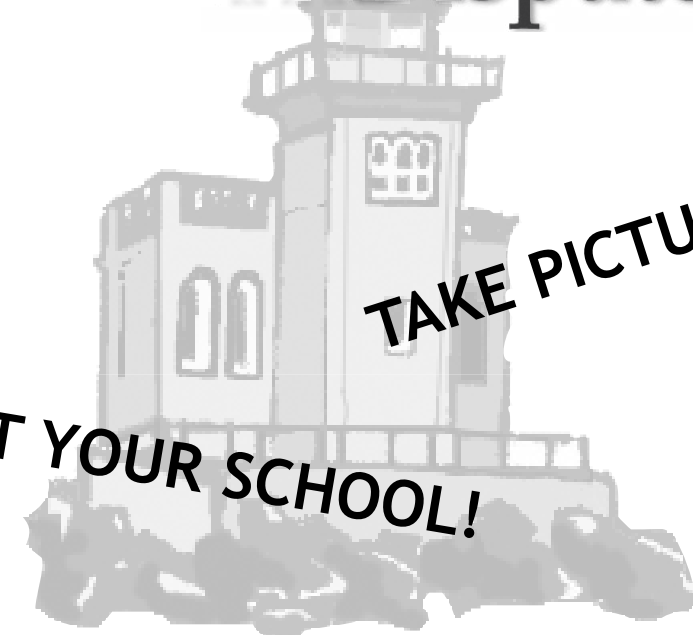
As Ms. Kehn gets ready for the next part of her life, the Huntington High School community wishes her good luck! Hopefully, her time after working at Huntington High School will be full of

good times and laughter, as a reward for her unparalleled time spent with us.

The Huntington High School Community thanks Ms. Kehn for her work here.



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Contact Mr. Florea, Ms. Antorino, or one of *The Dispatch's* editors if you wish to place an ad in the paper.



# The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

Issue 5, Volume 42

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

## Congratulations Class of 2014!

The Dispatch wishes all of the graduating seniors good luck in their future endeavors!

Please be aware that not every senior's college choice is listed. Only those students who have granted permission to have their plans published have their colleges included.

**A** Y'majesty Allen

Crystal Alvarado  
Suffolk County  
Community College, West-  
ern Campus

David I. Alvarado  
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Alyson G. Baker  
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Charles E. Bast  
The University of Arizona

Timothy K. Beck  
College of Mount Saint Vin-  
cent

Daryl Beecham

Bryant Benitez  
Suffolk County Community  
College, Western Campus

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Johns Hopkins University

Evelyn F. Brandon  
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**C** Diamond Cabrera-  
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Joseph A. Castillo

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SUNY College at Geneseo

Joellen Ceide  
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Suffolk County Community  
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Yao Chen  
SUNY College at Old West-  
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Jessica Chitwood  
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Aron Coraor  
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Kristy L. Delwey

Christina Dietz  
SUNY College at Brockport

Dixon Doblas  
New York University

Jane Anne Donovan  
Eckerd College

Felicia Douglas  
Suffolk County Community  
College, Western Campus

Hayley L. Drace  
University of Richmond

Austin Dunn  
University of Washington

Kelsey J. Dunne  
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SUNY at Farmingdale

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State University of  
New York at New  
Paltz

Elizabeth Eichenberger  
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Justin Englesher  
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Jonathan R. Engle  
The Ohio State University

Kyle D. Erhardt  
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of Pennsylvania

**F** Greta Farrell  
Massachusetts Insti-  
tute of Technology

Geoffrey R. Feinberg  
SUNY College at Cobleskill

Marc B. Feldman  
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Jesse Feldman-Stein  
Dartmouth College

Jose L. Feliciano

Rachel N. Feltman  
University of Michigan

Luis Figueroa

Anthony J. Fischer

Christina Flores  
Carnegie Mellon University

Calvin Francis  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical  
University

Collin Francis  
Columbia University

Marquis Francis

David L. Freda  
Nassau Community College

Nicholas L. Freiman  
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Marlene Fuentes

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Xenia Garcia Avelar  
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Jeremy E. Gelb  
University of Michigan

Alexander Gerdes

Katherine Gerdes  
Pace University, New York  
City

Brian J. Gilbert  
Brown University

Daniel Giraldo  
Alfred University

Gilda Goldental-Stoecker  
Binghamton University

Alexa Gorczycki  
University of Maryland,  
College Park

Cynthia Gowani  
University of Connecticut

Irma E. Granados-Meza  
Suffolk County Com-  
munity College, Western  
Campus

Julie E. Gray

Matthew Greenholtz  
Tech for Construction Elec-  
tricity

Rosette Grunblatt  
State University of New  
York at New Paltz

Karen A. Guardado

Yessica C. Guevara  
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Daniel J. Hochman  
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Lucie L. Lavelle  
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Hannah B. Leach

Rashaya I. Leavy  
Sargeant Reynolds Commu-  
nity College

Bryant Leon

Gavin Li  
Baruch College of the CUNY

Hannah R. LoMele  
Bard College

Joseph L. London  
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*Williams College*

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Anthony C. Ruggieri  
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Anthony E. Spinthourakis  
*Stony Brook University*

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*Suffolk County Community College, Western Campus*

**Y** Caitlin R. Yabroudy  
*Clemson University*

Ashley Lopez  
*SUNY College at Geneseo*

Ashley I. Melgar  
*SUNY College at Geneseo*

Jeavani Mendez  
*Nassau Community College*

**P** Olivia Palmer  
*Northeastern University*

Karina A. Ramirez  
*Nassau Community College*

John Russo  
*SUNY Delhi*

Michael J. Stafford  
*University of Delaware*

Frank Umana

Jason U. Yanes  
*Mount Saint Mary College*

**M** Olivia N. MacVicar-Flug

De'Vante Miller

Matthew R. Pavelka  
*University of South Carolina*

Yoselin Y. Ramirez  
*Nurse Assisting at WS BO-CES*

Jake T. Ryan  
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Alexandra L. Stahno

**V** Gerardo Valles  
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*SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry*

Emily C. Maggio  
*Auburn University*

Haley Miller  
*Suffolk University*

Brian A. Peer  
*Johnson & Wales University*

Zaira Ramirez

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*SUNY Fredonia*

James J. Montefusco  
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Marc-Henry Sanon  
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Hugo Rivas-Cardona  
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Naomi A. Moore

Thomas J. Plant  
*Montclair State University*

Oscar Rivas-Fuentes  
*Suffolk County Community College, Western Campus*

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Michael Teague

Juan Villalta Vilorio  
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Victor M. Tellez  
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Sarah Mosden  
*University of Miami*

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*Nassau Community College*

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John Shea  
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Drew Tenbus  
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Benjamin Warren  
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Jake Rowbo

Shannon Smith  
*SUNY College at Old Westbury*

Jarrold Totolhua  
*University of Hartford*

Lyndsey E. Williams  
*Cornell University*

Michael McBride  
*State University of New York at New Paltz*

Derek Nugent  
*SUNY Oswego*

**Q** Lilibeth Quintanilla  
*St. John's University - Queens Campus*

Hector Rubio

James Sosa  
*Binghamton University*

Sara E. Totura  
*Sacred Heart University*

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**O** Kyle W. O'Bryan  
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*The George Washington University*



# Ms. Mellon Reminisces

## No More DBQs For Our Beloved Social Studies Teacher

By Michelle D'Alessandro

She describes herself as energetic, short and Irish. She's Huntington's very own Ms. Mellon. She returned to Huntington in 1992 to teach after a break following her graduation from Huntington in the '70s. During this break, she led an exciting life in the entertainment industry, slowly checking all but one off her "Things to Do before 40" list. Some of her previous occupations included being an executive assistant-head of Gulf West Industries (now known as Viacom), assistant director of *Happy Days*, a TV sitcom on ABC, production assistant to Warren Beatty, working with a professional actor and many more. However, after so many years of chasing her wanderlust dreams, she was looking for somewhere to settle down, and find stability. So she taught.

Ms. Mellon taught at Valley Stream and Lynbrook before 'coming home' to Huntington. She taught government here for 22 years. Over this time period she has been the union vice president and was in charge of graduation. While at the school, she would get up early in the morning to read any newspapers she could to keep updated. She perused *The New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Washington Post* and any other political articles

she could get her hands on. Then, she would forge a lesson plan and start her day. She loves her AP classes, teaches mainly 10th and 12th grade and is a complete "political animal and Supreme Court junkie."

Brought up in a home of educators, the last thing she suspected to become was a teacher. But as one of her professors once said, "To be Irish is to be political and to be political is to be Irish". And she's Irish alright. "I lived in a very political home," she commented on her choice to teach social studies, "it was always a part of my life." Having this long-standing ground in politics when she began to look for the teaching career, it was clear that politics and government would be the way to go. She wanted to show her students how to learn from the past

and to make the world better, as well as understand that there are still things to fix, such as the cruelty and inequality that remain in the world.

She thinks that



One of the biggest things she's going to miss is the friendliness of the colleagues she has in Huntington. "I've never worked with a better staff", she reminisced about her exceptional

coworkers. In the ceremony being held in honor of her and the other retirees of the school, Ms. Tedeschi and Mr. Bruckbauer will speak for her. She fondly remembers

mentoring them when they first came to the school, and will miss them both dearly. She's had many lasting memories here in Huntington, such as having the yearbook dedicated to her in 2012, when she was "absolutely thrilled." On the other hand, the devastation of 9/11 was a low point because the event clouded the entire year. Despite all

advancing technology has been a blessing for social studies. It's 'God sent' and a 'wonderful' tool in teaching students about current politics. However, every blessing has a curse, and this one brings along with it students who are a little less practiced in working to obtain information. Either way, she loves her computer and feels it's a great source of any information she needs.

of the things she will miss from Huntington, Ms. Mellon is also looking forward to the freedom that retirement presents. She plans to wake up in the morning whenever she wants, a big liberty after all 26 1/2 years of teaching. She can't wait for ballet, tennis and tap lessons and going to the apartment she rented out in Paris over the holidays. "Maybe I'll throw in some knitting," she added. And most of all, she can't wait until she doesn't have to grade any more DBQs.

Overall, Ms. Mellon has made a lasting impact on the community of Blue Devils similar to the way we have impacted her. For 22 years, she's been a bright star in the Social Studies department, with her energy and exciting stories in the classroom. One of the most important things she's learned here is to "stay young and open to all". When asked about her choice to come and teach, she commented, "I was looking for more stability in my life, and I will never regret the decision I made to teach. They're both wonderful". A true Blue Devil at heart, Ms. Mellon's parting words are, "It's been an honor and a privilege to be part of the Huntington family... but I hope I don't knock anyone over on the way out."

# Ms. Cotler is Ready to Relax

## Retiring Science Inclusion Teacher Prepares to Travel

By Veronica Tonnisen

Among our seemingly endless list of retirees, Kim Cotler joins the ranks. Many students and teachers are despondent to see the prized science inclusion teacher retire. She began her career in 1984, in New York City, before moving to Huntington High School in 1996. "She really is a wonderful inclusion teacher, among the best in her field, I'd say," boasted

Mrs. Thompson from the computer room.

Working mostly behind the scenes throughout the school, Mrs. Cotler is said to reach out to students she works with and talks to them about different facets of their lives, "academically, emotionally, whatever," says Mrs. Elda, a coworker for many years, "She's like a sister to me." Mrs. Cotler has been

known to challenge herself at work, constantly putting the students first and presenting a real talent for connecting with those that need help.

"She is always eager to help out new teachers as a mentor to show them the ropes," comments Mrs. Beck. Shannon Malony, a ninth grader that has worked with Mrs. Cotler this year, expressed her

gratitude, "I'm really sad she's leaving. Mrs. Cotler has made science much easier for me."

When asked about her future plans, Mrs. Cotler sadly stated, "It's going to be difficult adjusting to not going to work, but I do feel now is the right time." A renowned traveler, Mrs. Cotler looks forward to relaxing on a cross-country trip around Europe, renting a van and spending

some time with her husband and their dogs. "I'm going to miss my students, of course, and my colleagues. I think I'll take up crocheting."

As Huntington High School waves goodbye to yet another well-respected and hands-on teacher and coworker, her students wish her the best of luck on the journeys to come.

## CRITIC'S CORNER

# The Amazing Spider-Man 2

## Peter Parker is Pushed to His Limits in This Stellar Sequel

By KETI TSOTSKOLAURI

The audience was weary of yet another franchise of the unforgettable Spider man comics, but the Amazing Spider-Man turned out to be a pleasant surprise. Andrew Garfield managed to portray the awkward and nerdy Peter Parker, who found himself in an impossible predicament. The Amazing Spider-Man 2 further develops Peter not just as a hero, but also as an individual and a teenager, who is growing up and learning to survive in the real world while juggling the responsibilities that come with being a hero. Although Peter grew more confident and outgoing, he still suffers from the trauma of watching his girlfriend's, Gwen Stacy, father die in front of his eyes. Peter constantly battles with his inner demons and asks himself a question every person faces at least once in their lives: Is holding on to the people you love the right thing to do if you could be putting them in danger?

Of course, the Spider-Man story cannot exist without an epic villain and the Amazing Spider-Man 2 definitely did not disappoint when they presented a new and damaged villain, Max Dillon, also known as Electro. Electro

managed to not only be a destructive force, but also gain the audience's sympathy and pity by showing his vulnerability and horrible life before an unfortunate accident turned him into an electricity-sucking brute. In one incredible scene, he says, "Soon everyone in this city will know how it is to live in my world. A world without power, without

mercy, a world without Spider-Man. They will see me for who I truly am. I'm Electro." The quote demonstrates Electro's more human and emotional side, which caused him to turn to violence in order to finally be noticed.

And ladies and gentlemen, Harry Osborn is finally back. The Amaz-

ing Spider-Man left everyone wondering about Peter's missing best friend



the audience gets a pleasant bonding time between two best friends, who can joke around like they've never been separated. The experience is very touching and relatable; it's always nice to see that time does not ruin friendships. Unfortunately, the relationship takes a drastic turn when Harry is hit by horrific news: he is dying and Spider-Man's blood is his only chance of survival. Peter is once again

and, thankfully, Harry returned in the second movie of the franchise. The young billionaire, Harry Osborn, who is portrayed by Dane DeHaan, makes a splashing entrance and manages to embarrass a few pompous lawyers along the way. Soon enough, he and Peter rekindle their friendship and

the audience gets a pleasant bonding time between two best friends, who can joke around like they've never been separated. The experience is very touching and relatable; it's always nice to see that time does not ruin friendships. Unfortunately, the relationship takes a drastic turn when Harry is hit by horrific news: he is dying and Spider-Man's blood is his only chance of survival. Peter is once again

hand he wants to save his best friend, on the other he is scared of worsening Harry's situation. He hides behind his mask and chooses to say no, but Harry Osborn, a guy who always gets what he wants, does not just give up: he comes up with a diabolical plan. Harry's journey from a friend to a bitter antago-

nist is very intriguing and enlightening, especially regarding a person's psychology when his/her life is threatened. The young Osborn was pushed to his limits, choosing to turn into the Green Goblin and take revenge on Spider-Man instead of accepting death.

Even though the Amazing Spider-Man 2 was doubtlessly enjoyable and deep, it still contained several flaws. For example, the ending was very vague and unsatisfying. Peter was experiencing the terrible repercussions of his actions, which was shown in a mere three minutes. Peter's pain and loss needed to be explored more instead of rushing through it. Also, the death of an important character needed more clarification, since many audience members were unclear of the true cause of the shocking murder.

Other than the minor imperfections mentioned above, The Amazing Spider-Man 2 was an absolute delight and definitely worth watching. The movie not only contains action, but also analyzes human interactions, growth and the inevitability of letting go.



### What Other Critics Are Saying

"There is still Spider-Man's personal turmoil, crises of romance and loyalty, that Webb occasionally holds a few beats too long. Yet the performances ring true, with arresting chemistry where it counts." -Steve Perall, *Tampa Bay Times*

"There are two types of superhero movies: the ones that brood and the ones that swing. The Amazing Spider-Man 2 is proudly the latter, filled with high-energy action." -Joe Neumaier, *New York Daily News*

"The Amazing Spider-Man is more like an old Xerox copy: Greasy, paper-thin, slightly faded, and probably made unnecessarily, but in any case destined to get lost in a pile of things exactly like it." -Kyle Smith, *New York Post*

Scan this QR Code to watch the trailer



# Best Wishes

## Ms. Leonardi's Opus

### Huntington Music Teacher Has Unforgettable Memories

By Asar Nadi

For many years, Lisa Leonardi has been the reason why her students at Huntington High School still keep their interest in music after graduating. All of her students are going to miss the bright smile that Ms. Leonardi brought to class every day.

Ms. Leonardi has been teaching strings for 34 years and is also the concert master of the Northport Symphony. In addition, she has held offices in local and state music education organizations over the years. She helped co-organize Huntington Idol ever since it began a few years ago. Her departure from Huntington High School is going to make her miss everything, including her students whom she loves as if they were her own children.

"I'm going to miss the high level of intensity that my students bring on

concert nights the most. To see how maturely and beautifully my students play each day makes me feel so happy."

Ms Leonardi is still

able to look back on many laughable times. "The funniest moment I had as an orchestra teacher was when one of my students was Secretary for Tri-M and I asked

her to take the minutes of the meetings. When she turned in the paper, it read, '2:30-3:10'. I looked at it and asked, 'What is this?' She replied, 'That's the minutes of the meeting.' I told her that Secretaries had to record what was

being discussed during the meeting, not what time it started and ended! I laminated it and had it hanging up on my wall for many years. It was hysteri-

cal!"

Mr. Schwendemann and I were voted 'Most Eccentric' and we were put in the Dispatch. I think that was one of my shining moments as an orchestra teacher."

The liveliness that Ms. Leonardi brings everyday is going to be hard to replace. However, Ms. Leonardi seems as if that the de-

partment has chosen the best fit for replacement. She stated, "The new orchestra teacher is very energetic, but she is more up on some of the alternative strings. I'm hoping she starts a fiddle club and does innovative things.

She'll breathe some new life into the students and I'm excited for her to begin her journey here."

Knowing she was retiring earlier in the year, Ms. Leonardi has been planning what she was going to do beforehand. "I sell vintage clothing at antique fairs. I did three fairs already this year and I enjoyed it. I have a lot of cool stuff and I sell it for as cheap as I can. I'm not trying to make millions of dollars, it's fun for me. I actually want to share it with people and I really want everyone to wear vintage clothing because it's fun!"

Ms. Leonardi had the best of memories that she'll never forget and will make plenty more as she continues her life after retirement.

Best of luck Ms. Leo and we'll all miss you very much!



## Looking Back on How Mrs. Hallett Made a Difference

By DONOVAN RICHARDSON

Among those of the high school community who are retiring this year is Mrs. Hallett, one of our guidance counselors. Having worked in the building for twenty-nine years, she's been at Huntington High School longer than anyone else except Mr. Gilbert, who also retires this year. As a guidance counselor, she doesn't see us on a daily basis in the same way that our teachers do, but this certainly does not make her less important to the school community.

Mrs. Hallett attributes her natural ability to

make people feel comfortable in conversation to her choice to become a guidance counselor in 1985, after being a career counselor at Hofstra University for four years. Like many other young educators, she was often closer in age to the students than to their parents, and admits that at first it was "overwhelming to talk about issues families deal with" before she had a family of her own. Nevertheless, she describes her first year as an "exciting new chapter" in her life. Throughout her career, Mrs. Hallett has dedicated herself to making a posi-

tive impact by allowing her students to realize that they have the power to achieve their goals.

During her time at the high school, Mrs. Hallett has seen several major changes including those involving administration and computer technology. Many probably wonder how class schedules are so well organized. Now it's as simple as a few clicks and the computer does the rest without too many issues; before the computers, there was a complicated process of class codes that were organized manually. It's actually really difficult to imagine a time when schedule changes were less successful and more

complicated, considering how difficult it is to manage

the high school, Mrs. Hallett insists that the wants of the students haven't

*"Throughout her career, Mrs. Hallett has dedicated herself to making a positive impact by allowing her students to realize that they have the power to achieve their goals."*

them during the first week of school during the age of computers. Before you file your complaints about how your schedule is messed up in September, remember that there was a time when schedules for all classes were done individually by hand.

Working in the same school for nearly three decades, Mrs. Hallett has recently counseled children of former students; it was an obvious sign that retirement would come soon. Reflecting on her years in

changed and that they have the "same hopes and dreams and potential" as those of the '80s. Her goal all along has been to help her students work to achieve their dreams and to know that there is always someone who will rise to the occasion to provide help. Now, at the end of her career as a guidance counselor, she will "look back on all these years and hope I made a difference". For many of us, she certainly has.

*"Her goal all along has been to help her students work to achieve their dreams and to know that there is always someone who will rise to the occasion to provide help."*