

Hoffman Estates High School



*Presents*

***THE  
RETIREE***

The Seville

Thursday, April 28, 2005

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.



6:00 – 10:00 p.m.....Cash Bar

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.....Buffet

7:30 – 10:00 p.m.....Sweet Table

8:00 p.m.....Program/Presentations

## MENU

Egg Rolls  
Cocktail Meatballs  
Fried Shrimp  
Quiche de Jour  
Bacon Wrapped Water Chestnuts  
Fried Zucchini  
Cold Canapés  
Assorted Cheese with Crackers  
Carving Station: Turkey/Ham  
Sweet Table  
Coffee

## NEW BEGINNINGS

Each chapter that is ending  
    Leads us to a new beginning.  
The past that we are leaving  
    Means a future we are winning.

Each change that fills the present  
    Sets the stage for our tomorrows.  
And how we meet each challenge  
    Helps determine joy or sorrow.

In every new beginning  
    Spirit plays a vital part.  
We must approach tomorrow  
    With a strong and steady heart.

So as we turn the corner  
    Let's all apprehension shed.  
And fill our hearts with confidence  
    As we proceed ahead.

Here's to your new  
    Beginning . . .



Mike Batina

**Career background:**

Mike started in 1975 teaching Physical Education and Health. He has also coached football and track.

**A highlight:**

The high-light of my career is visiting with former players and having them relate to me that I was a positive influence in their development.

**Miss the most?**

I will miss my friends.

**Miss the least?**

The fact that my desk was 15 feet from a washroom and hearing passing bells.

**Words of wisdom:**

Just listen to Dave and you'll be fine.

**Retirement plans:**

I plan on starting a consultation business for people who have just retired. I will consult confused retirees about any second thoughts that they may be having.



**Nelson Cleary**

**Career background:**

Nelson is completing twenty-five years of building orchestras in 211. From one district group in 1980, we now have nine established orchestras. He has taught in every high school, primarily at Hoffman.

**A highlight?**

Founding the nationally-known and respected fall chamber music retreat at Augustana College. Also, being asked to solo with the 2005 honors orchestra at Fremd.

**Miss the most?**

The wonderful, very professional staff. The energy, potential and great talent of the students. Working with Reinhard Taylor on German music presentations.

**Miss the least?**

The student cafeteria and food in the halls.

**Words of wisdom:**

Teachers have a life-long impact on students. Never pre-judge a student, never give up on a student. Treat each student with the importance you grant yourself as a teacher.

**Retirement plans:**

Violin performance, publishing of musical arrangements for school orchestras, private music instruction, possible training in string instrument making-repair, serious study of Spanish and French, travel to Europe, Mexico, Asia. A life-long goal is participation in the 70 KM citizens cross-country ski race in Sweden, The "Vasaloppet".



**Bruce Garnett**

**Career background:**

Bruce has taught Health at Hoffman Estates for 31 years. He coached freshmen football for 31 years and coached wrestling for 20 years. He also is a member of Staff Development Committee and Student Intervention Team.

**A highlight:**

The many great students that I had an opportunity to meet, teach and coach.

**Miss the most?**

The staff and the many friendships that developed.

**Miss the least?**

Grading papers and calculating grades.

**Words of wisdom:**

Enjoy and appreciate what you have!

**Retirement plans:**

Retirement home in Tennessee, fishing, golf and travel.



George Gentes

**Career background:**

George is retiring from a 27 year career as Music Department Chair, Director of Hoffman Estates High School Choirs and sponsor of the Madrigal Singers. Before coming to Hoffman he taught 5 years - Kasson-Mantorville Jr.-Sr. High School, Kasson, MN; 2 years - Renville Public Schools - K-12 Vocal Music, Renville MN.

**A highlight:**

Conducting the Concert Choir at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris in 2002 on our concert tour.

**Miss the most?**

The relationships with colleagues who share a passion for teaching and for kids.

**Miss the least?**

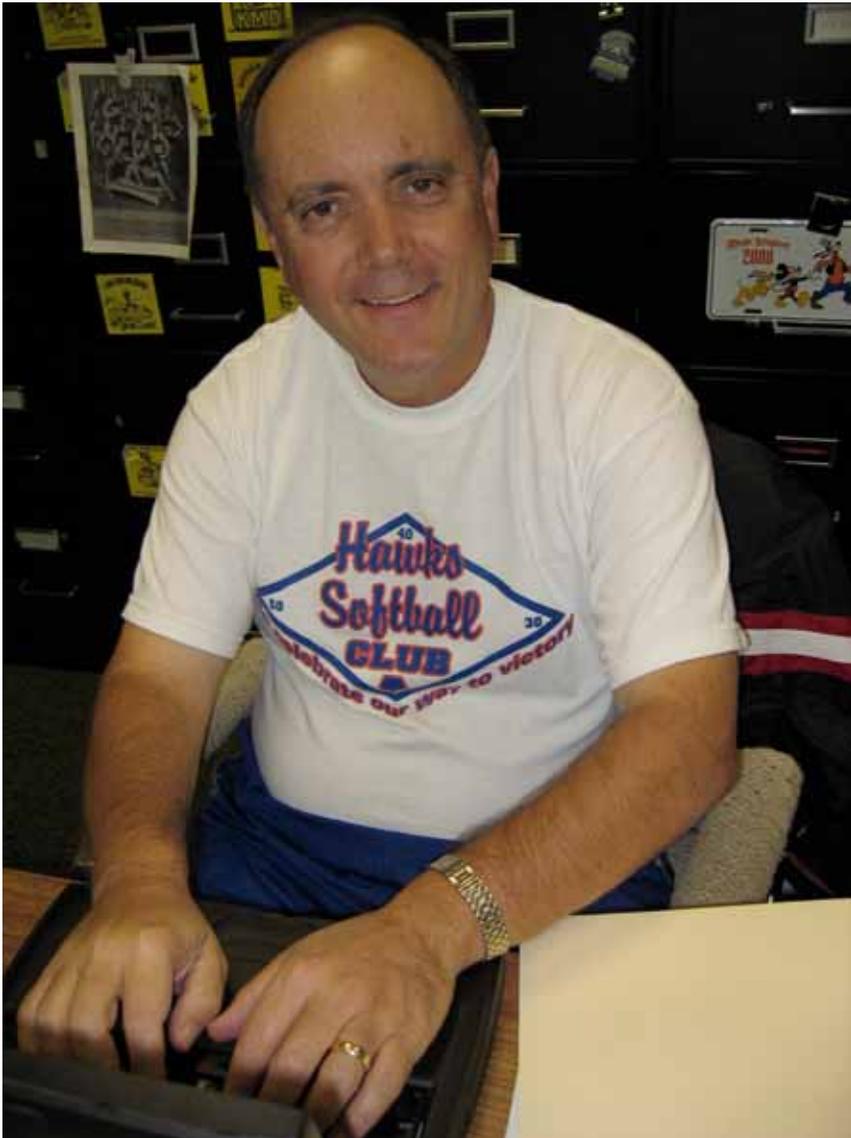
All the grading and paperwork.

**Words of wisdom:**

Take each opportunity to connect with a student, it may be the only one you have.

**Retirement plans:**

Opportunity to travel other than in the summer, Consulting/sales work for a performance travel company.



Frank Hill

**Career background:**

Frank has taught English at Hoffman from 1978-2005. He has sponsored intramurals and yearbook and coached softball.

**A highlight:**

I'd have to say it has been in day-to-day teaching and in watching students learn. Also being elected National Honor Society speaker 7 of the last 10 years.

**Miss the most?**

My colleagues, teaching.

**Miss the least?**

Grading essays.

**Words of wisdom:**

Be yourself. Look for the best in the kids. Appreciate your colleagues.

**Retirement Plans:**

Going to Hawaii with my daughter, son-in-law and grandson in September. I'll continue to coach competitive softball until my grandson plays baseball.



**Kenneth Johnson**

**Career background:**

Ken is retiring from a career teaching Biology in the Science Department.

**A highlight:**

Ask Ken!

Miss the most?

Miss the least?

Words of wisdom:

Retirement plans:

Ken will continue to enjoy spending time with his beautiful American Saddlebred.



Florence Le Duc

**Career background:**

Florence's twenty-seven years in District 211 were all spent at Hoffman – first as the assistant librarian and for the past seven years as media department chair.

**A highlight:**

Bringing the media center through the transition to block scheduling and all that shift entailed for my staff.

**Miss the most?**

Working with so many wonderful and talented teachers on research projects and experiencing the kinetic energy generated by the many classes that came to the media center.

**Miss the least?**

The long commutes in the dark early hours of the morning.

**Words of wisdom:**

Exploring and sharing new knowledge is great fun.

**Retirement plans:**

I'll be enjoying a new career as a real estate agent in my husband's firm, Keller Williams Team. There'll also be plenty of time to get away to hug and play with our grandsons.



Karen Niwa

**Career background:**

Karen started in 1972 at Conant and came to Hoffman when it opened in 1973. She has always taught math and has taught almost every course. She coached the cheerleaders, tennis team and math team.

**A highlight:**

It's all been good.

**Miss the most?**

The interaction with the students. Every class is different and they really keep me thinking.

**Miss the least?**

The homework. I've grown weary of the paper grading and preparation for 4 different classes.

**Words of wisdom:**

Enjoy every day. Don't let the little things get you down.

**Retirement plans:**

Take things day by day. Sleep later than 5:30. Travel some. Volunteer a little. Possibly teach at Harper. Play a lot of tennis.



Larry Niwa

**Career background:**

Larry began at Hoffman in 1974. He has taught Psychology, American History and Law. He coached football every year starting with varsity from 1974-1979 and then frosh from 1980-2004. He also coached baseball in 1975-1976.

**A highlight:**

Building the psychology program from one class in 1974 to two levels and nine classes on the average.

**Miss the most?**

The daily exchange with students.

**Miss the least?**

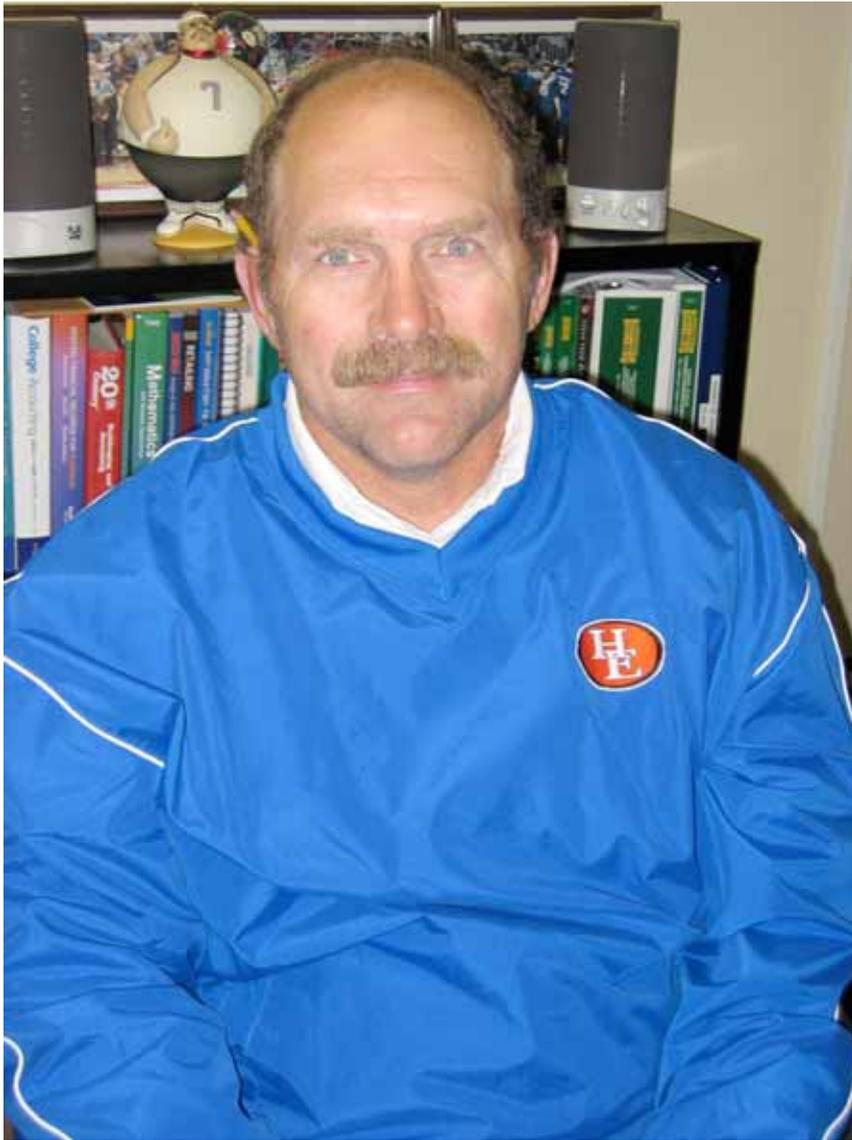
The temperature problems from one class to another. The never ending grading of papers on a strict time structure on Block.

**Words of wisdom:**

Respect is a two-way street.

**Retirement plans:**

Travel, golf, possible employment but not right away.



David Pentz

**Career background:**

Dave has served 31 years in the district in the business education department. He has coached football, baseball, and wrestling.

**A highlight:**

Watching someone, who thought they couldn't do well, succeed.

**Miss the most?**

The kids who tried. Fred Bryant, Larry, Bruce, Mike B., Mike W., Tom and Cindy. The ladies from faculty service, the custodial staff- except Larry. The business ed. department.

**Miss the least?**

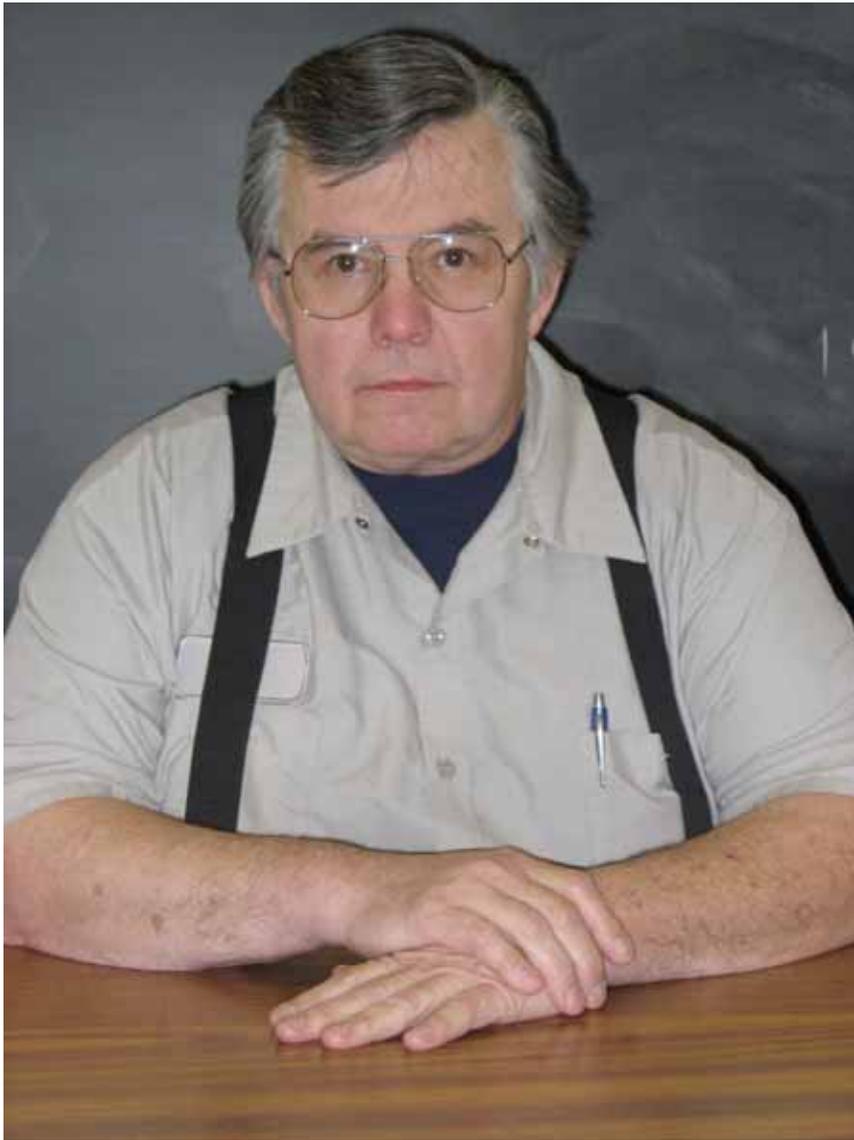
Recreating the wheel - paperwork - inconsistencies.

**Words of wisdom:**

I've been here too long - what are words of wisdom?

**Retirement plans:**

Work on the house, watch my daughter Carliann go through high school, be a pain in the butt.



Pat Reed

**Career background:**

Pat has been with the district for 22 years. He worked at Conant and Palatine as pool operator before spending the rest of his years at Hoffman.

**A highlight:**

Helping a student who passed out! I used Mr. Hill's chair from the English office to wheel her outside. I was thanked by both her, her parents and was given a big hug by Mrs. Brown.

**Miss the most?**

The kids, teachers, co-workers, all who made my everyday work a challenge, with something new and adventurous everyday.

**Miss the least?**

My supervisors telling me "Just do it".

**Words of wisdom:**

Like said above, when told to do something, "Just do it"!

**Retirement plans:**

I plan to visit my sister in Arizona, do some day trips with my girlfriend. Also work part-time doing computer research or maybe working for a door company as a sales representative/customer service. Spend time with my grandkids, family and maybe just maybe tie-the knot!



Eileen Schur

**Career background:**

Eileen has worked as a teaching assistant in special education for 26 years at HEHS. She has worked most of the years in the Behavior Disorder Support Center. (BDSC), but also in the Self Contained BD Program and in SWEP classes.

**A highlight:**

The students who come back and state that I had an impact on their completing their high school education. Most of the students that I've worked with were potential dropouts and I was pleased to be part of their success.

**Miss the most?**

The very "special people" in the Special Education Department and all the students who shared their lives with me.

**Miss the least?**

As the Special Education Department has increased the amount of paperwork has increased logarithmically - I won't miss that!

**Words of wisdom:**

Hang in there! Smile, have a sense of humor, know when to listen and most of all have patience.

**Retirement plans:**

To spend time visiting my children (Conant graduates) and grandchildren (four) in Seattle, Washington and Springfield, Missouri. Some travel and to sleep late. To have time to spend on my interests.



**Martin Sheil Jr.**

**Career background:**

Martin has spent 22 years in District 211. He has worked Custodial Maintenance second shift in the math, science, and art areas and the administrative offices.

**A highlight:**

Mr. Garber's recommendation letter so I could adopt my son.

**Miss the most?**

The faculty and the students.

**Miss the least?**

Working nights!

**Words of wisdom:**

Hang in there and keep out of mischief. Be optimistic.

**Retirement plans:**

Moving to Michigan (near Holland).



Pam Skinner

**Career background:**

Pam started teaching in the District at Fremd in 1973. After a few years off with children, she came to Hoffman in 1988. She has taught English, Reading and LINK. Pam sponsored: Human Relations, Coffee Club, Variety Show, and (would you believe) the Juggling Club at Fremd.

**A highlight:**

It has to be the harrowing and rewarding years teaching LINK with the most dedicated, creative, and fun team I could ever imagine. Having our work recognized by Those Who Excel was the real icing on "the cake".

**Miss the most?**

I will miss the creative energy and "can do" attitude of our fabulous faculty and staff. It was here when I arrived and continues in the fresh faces of the new staff. Excellence is contagious. Of course, I will miss daily contact with my buddies in the English department and around the building.

**Miss the least?**

I won't miss that sleepless night the day before school opens, the early mornings, late nights, and papers, papers, papers.

**Words of wisdom:**

Accept the challenges. Do the work. Enjoy the satisfaction. Keep the spirit of cooperation, mutual respect, and pride that makes Hoffman such a wonderful place. Always remember: "Semper ubi sub ubi."

**Retirement plans:**

I plan to travel, write, go to lunch with my sisters, and keep one step ahead of Don.



Reinhard Taylor

**Career Background:**

Reinhard's first year was at Schaumburg HS in 1972 and then he went to HEHS in 1973 when it opened. He was Chess Club, Soccer Club, Computer Club, Foreign Exchange Club, German Club, Internet Club and German Exchange sponsor as well as Assistant Boys Soccer coach.

**A highlight:**

I am most proud of having created and maintained the German program at HEHS for 32 years. During that time I have had an extremely active German Club, which has established many traditions at HEHS. I was also able to start and maintain the German Exchange program with our sister school Bertolt Brecht in Munich for an uninterrupted 26 years.

**Miss the most?**

What I will miss the most will be the variety of students that I have gotten to know. They all kept my job interesting and worthwhile. The daily excitement of not really knowing what might happen is something I will certainly miss also. And I will miss the colleagues that have made my years here at my second home enjoyable.

**Miss the least?**

I will not miss the daily paper work and the early morning start. I will definitely not miss the August dreams about the start of the new school year.

**Words of wisdom?**

Pay attention to the little things, they get the big things done. Appreciate the people who make our job easier, such as the custodians, hall monitors, secretaries etc.

**Retirement plans:**

I hope to continue staying in touch with HEHS on a part-time basis until my wife retires. I also hope to have time to take care of all the projects that I have been saving up for retirement. Some include computer work, yard work, house improvements and travel. I also hope to be able to spend more time with family and friends at times that are not dictated by a school calendar.



**Kathy Werderitch**

**Career background:**

Kathy ended her career with the district as registrar at Hoffman.

**A highlight:**

**Miss the most?**

**Miss the least?**

**Words of wisdom:**

**Retirement plans:**

Kathy now calls Florida home!



Koji Yaguchi

**Career background:**

Koji 's career was dedicated to the science department, teaching: introduction to physical science, physical science, earth science, chemistry, physics, advanced chemistry, advanced physics, and AP physics. He was also asst. boys and girls tennis coach, head girls tennis coach, and asst. boys track coach. Koji also sponsored chess team, photography club and JETS.

**A highlight:**

Meeting a wonderful art teacher, marrying her, and sharing all the ups and downs in teaching.

**Miss the most?**

The teachers that I have met along the way.

**Miss the least?**

The commute to work and the bells.

**Words of wisdom:**

Enjoy the journey. There is no finish line in learning.

**Retirement plans:**

Perhaps a new career.

## Committee Members:

Terri Busch  
Pat Eugene  
Bonnie Gordon  
Tom Kendall  
Mike LeFleur  
Tim Little  
Linda Mayer  
Alice Schmitz  
Pam Skinner  
Jo-Anne Sorensen  
Reinhard Taylor  
Janette Wanner

**Cover Design: Michael Cox**  
Advanced Commercial Design Student

**Candid Photos: Greg Rouse**

## HONOREES:

Mike Batina  
Nelson Cleary  
Bruce Garnett  
George Gentes  
Frank Hill  
Ken Johnson  
Florence LeDuc  
Karen Niwa  
Larry Niwa  
Dave Pentz  
Patrick Reed  
Eileen Schur  
Martin Sheil Jr.  
Pam Skinner  
Reinhard Taylor  
Kathy Werderitch  
Koji Yaguchi