



Features



David Lawson

After 30 years of teaching, our beloved tennis coach, David Lawson, plans to retire. Upon being asked what he plans to do after retirement, he says with a laugh, "Whatever my wife wants me to [do]."

His love for athletics began in college. At that time, however, he was a graduate assistant for football. Previously, tennis was perceived as feminine but Lawson realized that in college he could get closer to the "cute girls" if he played it. Later on, he found out tennis was a great sport.

Lawson attended El Rancho High School and college later at University of California, Berkeley. There, he received his Physical Education major as well as a Psychology and Sociology minor. Later, Lawson attained a teacher's credential and Master's in Education at Whittier College.

He feels the most impressed about the students he teaches because of their resilience.

Some advice that Lawson has for graduating seniors is, "Don't just concentrate on academics because there's also spiritual, physical and emotional development. There are more things we don't see than see. There isn't only one aspect in life so focus on being balanced."

By Features Editor Dalla Wong

Sharon Schuman



Ever since she was in college, Sharon Schuman knew that she wanted to become a teacher. She spent a few years at Garfield Elementary, graduated from Temple City High School and attended California State University, Los Angeles. She earned a Bachelor's degree in English, as well as a Master's in Education with a reading specialty. With her grandparents residing in Alhambra, as well as her brother graduating from Alhambra High School, Schuman has close ties to the city.

When Schuman applied to become a teacher at AHS, there were five openings in the English Department which gave her the opportunity for an interview for a position and soon, Schuman became one of AHS' most well-respected teachers. Her genuine interest and admiration for her students are ever-present.

"Every year I've ever taught has been memorable [...] for one reason or another. I'll either have a student that has enlightened me, been a really fine writer or there is just something special [about him/her]."

Her advice to graduating seniors is simple yet meaningful: "Always have a back-up plan."

In her retirement, Schuman plans to write a novel and teach recreational classes on rubber-stamping at a Michael's craft store.

By Staff Writer Michelle Paulino



Henry Chau

In 1988, Dr. Henry Chau applied for an opening position in the Alhambra Unified School District as a biology teacher. At a young age, Chau had a natural curiosity in biology and even majored in the subject as an undergraduate student at Hong Kong Baptist University. Subsequent to those four years, Chau received his master's along with a Doctorate in Zoology at Oklahoma State University.

Throughout his years of instruction, Chau has grown closer to AHS and has learned a lot from its students.

One of his most memorable moments was when a former student came back to AHS and told him that his advice—"always be like a fighter"—was the one thing that truly got him through college.

Now, after 25 years of teaching at AHS, the self-proclaimed "rookie" plans to retire. Following retirement, he wants to relax, to go hiking and kayaking and, most importantly, to relish life with his family.

To the graduating seniors, he says, "Enjoy the learning experience and try to find the best ways to improve your [education]. Always be like a fighter."

By Features Editor Cynthia Luong



Mary Cannon

Teaching English for the Alhambra Unified School district for 19 years, Mary Cannon has been guiding students with a sugar-sweet demeanor. She knew since her freshman year at Irving High School in Irving, Texas that she wanted to teach English after discovering that organizational study skills, such as color-coding notes, helped her, as well as others, remember information.

After attending seven colleges, including Dallas Baptist University (formerly known as Dallas Baptist College) and California State University, Los Angeles, where she worked for eight years in the student office helping people with disabilities, she earned a degree in English. When a program for the deaf in the Pasadena School District was closed, a job opportunity opened at AHS.

With an evident passion for her students, Cannon offers advice to graduating seniors: "Know everything you can about language and how it works because if you know what the language is asking of you, you can give your best [and] most clear answer back. Language is the key for everything."

In her retirement, Cannon plans on returning back to Pasadena City College to enroll in library tech courses.

By Staff Writer Michelle Paulino



Gary Neeley

Gary Neeley, one of our Physical Education teachers, has taught at AHS for 39 years. He enjoyed sports, so he became involved in teaching.

He graduated from Whittier College, where he received his Master's degree in Education with a minor in Social Science History and a major in Physical Education.

Neeley has four grandchildren and a wife who has retired. When asked what he was going to do after retirement, he replied, "Travel, work around the house, relax and do a lot of nothing."

He is very involved with students, staff, administration at school and believes that it's a good place to stay and be.

The advice Neeley would like to give to our graduating seniors is, "Things are going to work out and get better. Even though it's depressing because of the economy, sit back and wait for things to turn around because everything is a cycle. Good things happen to good people."

By Features Editor Dalla Wong



Jan Crawford

Jan Crawford began her career at AHS in 1980. At the time, Crawford thought that she would only be teaching at the school for a semester; however, she ended up teaching for over three decades.

Crawford choreographed practically her whole life. As a fifth grader, she had already started teaching a baton routine to second graders. Growing up, Crawford learned a lot of her skills from her mother, who was also a former dance teacher.

Her drill team's accomplishments range from going to Japan twice with all-expense paid tickets, to appearing on *Time magazine*, to performing at the World Cup and the 1984 Olympics and even appearing on Dick Clark's Special during primetime.

Crawford wants to retire so that she could have more time to focus on everything else. She lives by the motto—"I'm too busy to tell you how busy I am."

Upon retiring, she has a few words of encouragement for the graduating seniors, "No matter how bad you're feeling, the show always goes on and tomorrow will be better."

By Features Editor Cynthia Luong



Teresa Diaz

Teresa Diaz has been a teacher at Alhambra High for 32 years, teaching both Math and Spanish throughout. As a high school student, Diaz excelled in math and in her senior year she received an award for her skills. It was at that point that Diaz decided she would make a career out of what she was good at.

She majored in Math and Spanish at California State University, Los Angeles in 1976 and studied there until she received a bachelor's degree in both subjects.

Diaz taught math for 10 years and moved onto to Spanish for the rest of her 32 years here. And now that it is time to say goodbye, Diaz will be working at Disneyland. "For those students that know me, I am about everything Disneyland, I have spent 35 years of my life preparing to work [there]."

"My advice to students is to study three things: what you are best at, what you like most and what will make a living for yourself. And eventually find something that will incorporate all three."

As a last word to Alhambra, Diaz says "When asked if I'm retiring, I say, 'No, I am graduating with you.'"

By Staff Writer Astrid Tovar



Kathleen Tarr

A strong interest, coupled by the advice of former favorite teachers, was the very thing that brought Kathleen Tarr to the position of an educator.

Tarr graduated from Lowell High School in Whittier, California, received her B.A. and teaching credentials at California State University, Fullerton and attained her master's degree at California State University, Los Angeles. During those years, Tarr double majored in English and Theatre Arts.

Some of Tarr's most memorable times at AHS were during her third and fourth years of teaching, when she and another drama instructor brought a group of students to Stratford, England over spring break and another class the following year to New York during winter break.

After 37 years of a long career, this beloved teacher plans to retire. After retirement, Tarr plans to travel, take more exercise classes, visit retired friends, provide aid to her daughter's career, work on politically active campaigns and catch up on some sleep.

To the graduating seniors, this English educator would like to say, "They need to discover or reinvest personal energy in reading because they've lost that important art. They spend too much time gathering information over the Internet and have lost the importance and love of the written word."

By Features Editor Cynthia Luong



Candace Collins

Candace Collins has been at AHS for 33 years, considering she became a freshman in 1966. Because of her familiarity to the campus and staff, it is sorrowful to acknowledge that Collins will be one of the staff members leaving AHS at the end of this school year.

"No one really inspired me to become a teacher, I just knew [it was right for me]," Collins said. From the early age of four, Collins knew this was the right career and that set goal was all she needed. After graduating in 1970, she went on to study at East Los Angeles Community College and California State University, Los Angeles to major in business. During this time Collins worked as a teacher's aide in the Alhambra Unified School District at Park School.

Collins plans to be a substitute teacher for elementary school students after leaving AHS. Before she leaves, Collins wants to say to the graduating class of 2012, "Choose a career that you have a passion for and that you will love. Otherwise, you will live an unhappy life."

By Staff Writer Sarah Takhar



John Allen

John Allen has taught for thirteen years in various subjects, such as consumer math, electronics, computer repair and servicing, exploratory electronics and woodshop at AHS and has decided that this year will mark the end of his time here.

Allen attended Woodrow Wilson High School and later South Pasadena High School during his senior year. Growing up, Allen knew that he wanted to be a teacher because both his parents were teachers. Unfortunately, he could not afford to do so until he became a Lieutenant for the California State University of Los Angeles police department for twenty-three years. The colleges he attended after high school include Pasadena City College, California State University, Los Angeles, Rio Hondo and East Los Angeles Community College.

Allen's last words to the graduating seniors are, "Keep the faith and work hard because job markets [are] going to be bad for a while. [Also], get as much education as possible and be flexible in what you can and want to do."

By Staff Writer Sarah Takhar



Elizabeth Renaud

Mrs. Elizabeth Renaud was motivated to become a teacher during one deciding Easter early in her life. Her adopted sister was incredibly excited to dye Easter eggs, but didn't know how. "I taught her how to dye Easter eggs and it was a great feeling to be able to teach someone something they didn't know."

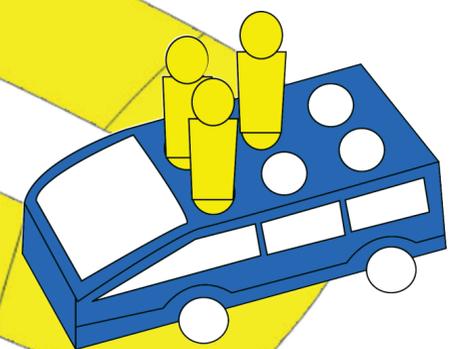
She received her education in New York, at Iroquois Central High School in Elma. She then was accepted into Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

Renaud came to AHS from Fremont School, where she taught eighth grade. She mentions lightly, "When I first got here, one of my biggest challenges was getting used to ninth graders." In her last year here, she has taught English to freshmen.

After retirement, she and her husband are planning to move to New Hampshire where they have purchased a country general store to manage.

As a snippet of advice to the graduating seniors, Renaud says, "Do not take the path of least resistance; don't stop or give up just to take the easy route."

By Staff Writer Astrid Tovar



NOTE: World History teacher, Mrs. Penny Mitchell, retired earlier this year.