

Anthony Wayne Alumni Association Newsletter

Winter 2020



FIVE INDUCTED INTO THE AW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



Teri Utz Bersée



Jim Conrad



Randee Debolt Masciola

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Five Anthony Wayne alumni were inducted into the Anthony Wayne Alumni Association's Hall of Fame.

On Friday, September 6, during the home football game, Jim Conrad, Teri Utz Bersée, Roberta Huber Sunkle, Andrew Smith and Randee Debolt Masciola took to the field for special recognition.

Then, on Saturday, September 7, at noon, the AWAA hosted a lunch to present inductees with Hall of Fame plaques.

Jim Conrad, Class of 1965, played cornet in the band his freshman and sophomore years, then played basketball, baseball and ran on both the track and cross-country teams. He attended Ohio Northern University, serving in the Student Education As-



Andrew M. Smith

sociation, Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Alpha Theta, education and history honorary societies.



Roberta Huber Sunkle

Photos Courtesy of AW Alumni Association
Jim spent his entire career in edu-
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FIVE INDUCTED INTO THE AW ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

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 cation with Toledo Public Schools, participating in innovative collaborative teaching plans at DeVeaux Junior High. After retiring in 2014, Jim returned to his hometown of Waterville and became active in the Waterville Historical Society. He has held leadership positions in the group and has been the president since 2014.

Jim mentions Jane Congleton, Estella Wreede, Janet Gebhart and Joe Becker as influential teachers in his tenure at Anthony Wayne Local Schools.

“Coach Dick Albaugh provided me with many of the life lessons that helped me achieve success as a teacher and person,” Jim said. “My Anthony Wayne experience left me with an overwhelming yearning to come home and give back to my community.”

Randee DeBolt Masciola, Class of 1991, played softball and varsity soccer and served as captain of her soccer team. Randee participated in French club, FFA and ski club. After graduation, Randee headed to Ohio State University, where she earned both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in nursing. Randee attended Case Western Reserve, graduating with her doctoral degree in 2016.

A nurse practitioner, Randee's specialization is in women's health. She has volunteered with Mentor High School, serving on community wellness committees from 2012 to 2014. She taught first aid to Girl Scouts and is currently a Girl Scout troop leader.

“Growing up in the Anthony Wayne community, I never knew people did not give back to their communities. It was an expectation since I was in grade school ... the ideals of education, leadership and community service run deep in every aspect of my life,” Randee said. “These hallmarks of my education and life experiences at Anthony Wayne have been instrumental in foundational concepts. I plan to continue to exemplify these qualities of

the General spirit in my children, my students and in my community.”

Roberta Huber Sunkle, Class of 1956, participated in theater, band, yearbook, Latin club and library club. While at the University of Toledo, Roberta was a member of the band. After graduating from U.T. in 1961, she began teaching home economics and served as a McCall's pattern representative and a food stylist.

In her community of Fairview Park, Ohio, Roberta serves on community council, church council, the herb society, Relay for Life and is a member of her homeowners' association committee. She is a volunteer for Buckeye Girls State and she has raised funds for children's theater.

Roberta and her late husband, Dr. Robert Sunkle, raised four daughters and have five grandchildren. Roberta credits both Mrs. Van Fleet and Roy Williamson with instilling in her a love of knowledge.

“They taught me that there wasn't anything I couldn't do,” she said.

Andrew M. Smith, Class of 1973, was active in several sports and enjoyed summer recreation activities headed by coach Dick Albaugh.

Andy credits Albaugh and John Briggs, his calculus teacher, with his decision to change his major at Bowling Green State University from civil engineering to teaching.

After graduation, Andy taught and coached until he became a school administrator in 1990. He earned a master's degree in education in 1993 and an education specialist degree in 1996, both from the University of Toledo. In 2003, he earned an educational doctorate in organizational leadership and policy studies from Bowling Green State University.

He recently returned to the Toledo area after a career in education as superintendent of Marion Local Schools and as the county superintendent.

Andy explains that his educational philosophy came directly from his experiences in Anthony Wayne Local Schools.

“One of my classmates could look at a piece of machinery and figure out how it worked, what was wrong with it if it wasn't functioning correctly, and repair it. His mechanical, carpentry and plumbing skills went far beyond what could be learned. Most people called him a natural. Through conversation and working with him, I learned his skills were not innate, he just learned differently,” Andy said. “Schools needed to be equipped to teach students who learned all ways ... I spent a great deal of time and effort as an administrator with staff development to make sure we taught students in the manner in which they learned best.”

Andy continues to be active in community athletics and coaching opportunities.

Teri Utz Bersée, Class of 1971, participated in thespians, cheerleading, art club and yearbook. She also served as senior class president.

Teri attended Bowling Green State University, the University of Toledo and the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Illinois. As an accomplished artist, Teri served as a graphic design artist for Owens Corning Fiberglas and other local firms. She provided a studio for art classes for local students of all ages in a studio that was originally housed in the old Waterville School, and then in her own barn.

Teri has raised organically grown vegetables, providing the community with CSA shares. She has volunteered both at Toledo Botanical Gardens and the 577 Foundation, educating the public on organic gardening. Teri has worked with Pollie Young Miller to support the Waterville Historical Society. She also has served as a judge for the Anthony Wayne Area Arts Commission.

As a student at Anthony Wayne, Teri says, “we learned about expectations, our own and others', and working together with others was huge ... all of these experiences gave us great insight to the future ... and ourselves as individuals.”

Waterville Bodyworks Founders Lead Roche De Boeuf Parade

BY KAREN
GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

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permission of The Mirror*

Since founding Waterville Bodyworks in 1983, Randy Sikorski and John Spilker have been supporting the community both personally and professionally.

“We’ve been a big part of keeping great traditions going, like the Easter Egg Hunt, Breakfast With Santa, Roche de Boeuf Festival – those are just a few,” Randy said. “We’ve been on boards, committees and more, sometimes heading them or working behind the scenes. We are honored to have our work remembered. One year, John was Citizen of the Year and I was Hometown Hero, along with my wife Beth. Then it seems like John and I swapped titles the next year.”

This year, the Waterville Bodyworks owners were grand marshals for the Saturday, September 28 Roche de Boeuf parade, which stepped off at 10:00 a.m. in downtown Waterville.

“John, an Anthony Wayne grad, and Randy have supported so many community events over the years,” said Co-

rina Pflieger, Waterville Area Chamber of Commerce executive director. “We felt it was time to honor and recognize them for all they do for Waterville and the Anthony Wayne community.”

As the two prepared for the parade, they began listing many of the organizations and events they’ve touched over the years.

Both have served Waterville, when it was a village and today as a city, on the Historic District Commission, Safety Committee and Personnel Committee. They worked to make the area safer by helping fund Waterville’s first K-9 officers, Chaco and Buster, and supporting the Fort to Port project.

They noted last year’s 35th Anniversary Waterville Bodyworks Classic Car Cruise-In at Conrad Park raised over \$8,000 and thousands of pounds of food for the Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministries.

“People ask us to help because we get it done,” Randy said. “We put a lot of time and effort in to make it right. We don’t just sit on a committee. We couldn’t do it without the help of our families and friends. It takes many hands to make it all happen.”

John has been involved with Waterville Rotary, Anthony Wayne’s STRIVE program, the annual Fishing Derby and other events. During Roche de Boeuf, John is usually working at the Rotary’s Buck-A-Duck fundraiser for polio prevention.

For 30 years, Randy has been a part of the Waterville Community Foundation, and he credits the group of founders for persevering to keep the nonprofit viable and effective. Today, the foundation provides scholarships to area high school seniors and supports philanthropic programs.

Randy is also involved with the Masons and the Shriners, including Browning Masonic Community. He assisted with raising funds to get their Pathways dementia facility built and open in the past few years. Randy worked the Masonic booth at Roche de Boeuf.

Holidays are especially fun for the Waterville Bodyworks team. In the spring, they arrange, with the assistance of other local companies, for the annual Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny arriving via fire truck at Conrad Park, where hundreds of children run for thousands of colorful eggs, win prizes and get a photo with the bunny.

Summers are more fun since Waterville Bodyworks was part of the Bring Back the Boom movement – to return Independence Day fireworks to the city.

In the fall, uptown Waterville Bodyworks headed downtown to pass out candy and join Waterville merchants’ annual Halloween Boo-To-Do for kids. Last year, on Veterans Day, they supported the Rotary’s Pancake and Sausage Supper at the Waterville Primary School.

Last Christmas season, they placed a giant Santa’s Mailbox in front of their shop to collect letters from children.

“These guys are more than just Waterville – they’re community supporters,” Beth said.

John and Randy encourage everyone, especially the younger generations, to get involved in the organizations and committees that put together community events and make the area a fun place to live and work.

“If you have an idea for an event, get some people together, make it happen,” Beth added.



John Spilker and Randy Sikorski, founders of Waterville Bodyworks, were last year’s Roche de Boeuf parade grand marshals, in recognition of their decades of contributions to the community. The parade stepped off at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 28, in Waterville.

Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

AW Grad Lindsey Overmyer Earns Ohio State Fair Title

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER
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permission of *The Mirror*

For 11 years, Lindsey Overmyer devoted most of her free time to feeding, grooming and training lambs. All that hard work finally paid off as her lamb was named the Reserve Champion Suffolk Market Lamb at the 2019 Ohio State Fair.

The Whitehouse teen competed against 273 exhibitors with 699 market lambs to earn what is essentially second place in the breed.

"I've been working toward this for 11 years. It's super-competitive with a lot of amazing people," she said.

Suffolk is a smaller pure-bred lamb that has a black face and legs and a white body with sparse wool. Lindsey and her brother Joel joined 4-H, eventually settling in with the Monclova Plowboys, and began raising 12 to 18 lambs a year.

"My mom didn't know anything about lambs either, and she became the 4-H mom," Lindsey laughed.

Lindsey and her brother Joel also own and breed nine ewes, giving them even more lambs for show. Training a lamb requires spending time with them: feeding, exercising and hands-on training.

"The more time you invest, the better they act with you," Lindsey said. "You have a complete connection with them if you start with them when they're younger. If you get them when they're older, they can get an attitude."

Lindsey credits Luke Ryan, of Ryan Club Lambs, for teaching her how to show. As a result, she's traveled around several states, showing lambs and taking them to livestock exhibitions with what she calls her "lamb family."

"I meet a lot of people and make connections," said Lindsey, a 2018 Anthony Wayne graduate.

Because she was still 18 on January 1, 2019, Lindsey was able to remain in 4-H even as a freshman studying health sciences at Ohio State University, but this is her last year. She headed home when classes wrapped up in May. When friends asked her to come hang out in Columbus over the



Monclova Plowboys 4-H member Lindsey Overmyer (right) rejoices after her lamb was named the Reserve Champion Suffolk Market Lamb at the 2019 Ohio State Fair. She is pictured with (from left) Luke Ryan of Ryan Club Lambs; Kaitlyn Stillion, Ohio Lamb and Wool Queen; Joel Overmyer and Matt McGuire. Photo Courtesy of the Ohio State Fair

weekends, she had to pass, as she was busy taking care of her four-legged charges.

"My friends think I'm crazy, but they just weren't raised around livestock. They'll just have to deal with my lamb obsession," she said.

Being a part of 4-H has provided many opportunities to learn, she said.

"It's a ton of responsibility: making a schedule, taking care of the animals

every day. I also learned time management and leadership," Lindsey said, explaining that she now works with younger 4-H members to understand how to show.

As for her winning lamb, it was purchased for \$1,565 from sponsors, including Ryan Club Lambs, Rebel Sons Club Lambs, Crystal Spring Club Lambs, McGuire Family and Katie Bylow.

AWHS SEEKS INFORMATION TO HONOR VETS

Anthony Wayne High School is working to identify all the alumni and staff who have served in the military. This information will be prominently displayed on a Wall of Honor in the high school as a form of recognition and remembrance,

The goal is to include as many graduates and staff from Monclova High School, Waterville High School and Whitehouse High School prior to the first graduating class of Anthony Wayne High School in 1951. If you know of anyone who would be included, please complete an online survey at <https://goo.gl/forms/QRmJL8o8Uhw0Hnft2> or share the link to the survey via social media.

This link can also be found on the district website at www.anthonywayne.schools.org.

Looking For Outstanding Alumni . . .

The Anthony Wayne Alumni Association is looking for nominees for future classes of the Anthony Wayne Alumni Hall of Fame. A nomination form is enclosed for your use.

- **Due March 30 of the calendar year to be considered for the fall of the same year.**
- Nominees shall come from correct submission of this form. You must be an Anthony Wayne High School Alumni to prepare a nomination form.
- There are 3 categories of Nominees: Alumni, Faculty/Staff, Community

HOF Mission Statement: The AW Alumni Association’s Hall of Fame was created to honor both alumni athletes and non-athletes, as well as other individuals, who have impacted the school through their participation in academics, activities, creative arts, music, sports and/or their support of the educational environment at Anthony Wayne High school, in addition to significant contributions and impact in their own communities, and/or in their professions.

Nominee Criteria:

Alumni: The Anthony Wayne graduates are expected to have distinguished themselves in academics/athletics and/or activities (i.e. band, choir, dramatics, government, etc.) and have made significant contributions in career achievements and/or community service. All alumni honorees must have been graduated from Anthony Wayne High school a minimum of ten (10) years.

Faculty/Staff Members: Persons nominated as Faculty/Staff members must have been employed for ten (10) years and must be retired for at least five (5) to be eligible. When considering faculty/staff members, the panel should look at the significant or unique contributions that he/she made to the educational environment that would separate him or her from his/her peers.

Community Member: In assessing the merits of community nominees, the major factor should be what contributions he/she has made that directly benefitted the Anthony Wayne Local Schools and the community which supports them.



“HALL OF FAME” Nomination Form



Nominee Type: Alumni _____ Faculty/Staff _____ Community Member _____

Year of Graduation: _____ or Year Retired (Faculty/Staff): _____

Name of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

Phone Number of Nominee: _____ Email Address: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Year Graduated: _____
FIRST MIDDLE/MAIDEN LAST

Email of Nominator: _____ Phone Number: _____

On the back of this page, please write a brief statement about the nominee and why you believe they have made a significant impact on the school, their community and/or their profession which would justify their consideration into the AW Hall of Fame. Please keep in mind the criteria above when nominating an individual, faculty or community member. Remember this nomination form will reflect on your nominee.

- A follow-up form will be sent to the nominee asking for more information regarding life and accomplishments.
- If a nominee is not selected in current year, their application will be considered again for an additional 2 years.

Nominated by:

Place Stamp Here
The Post Office
Will Not Deliver
Without Postage

ANTHONY WAYNE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PO Box 2441
Whitehouse, OH 43571-0441

Please Fold Along the Dotted Line and Seal with Tape.

Statement on Nominee and Reasons Why You Are Nominating

Cut along dotted line

With 4,538 K-12 Students, AW Schools Enrollment at All-Time High

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

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of The Mirror

Anthony Wayne Local Schools enrollment is at an all-time high, with a total of 4,538 students in K-12, Superintendent Dr. Jim Fritz told the board of education during its September 9 meeting.

Enrollment grew from 4,507 last year and 4,382 in the 2017-18 school year. This year's average class size is 342 – or 357 in grades 5-12 and 320 in K-4. The eighth-grade class is the largest, with 394 students, while kindergarten is the smallest, with 274.

The high school has 1,451 students and the junior high 684 this year, while Fallen Timbers Middle School has 684 students.

Whitehouse Primary School saw the largest growth of the primary schools, adding 55 students for a total of 522.

"That's due primarily to the growth behind the board office," Fritz said, referring to the Steeplechase subdivision.

Enrollment in the primaries has fluctuated over the years. Monclova at one time had 710 students, but now has 577, while Waterville is at an all-time high of 581.

"We have room to grow in Monclova, and we've added classrooms in Waterville," Fritz said.

Waterville is expected to grow, especially as a 252-unit apartment complex is being constructed on Pray Boulevard. Another 174-unit villa development is in the works around The Shops at Fallen Timbers, which also has nearly 200 single-family homes being planned – both of which would impact Monclova Primary and grades 5-12.

With all of the development planned, the district must continue to look at long-range plans to possibly add a fourth primary school. Keeping the elementary buildings at 500-600 is ideal, he said.

Previous discussions have focused on adding a building – possibly a middle school – to school-owned property near the board office, then converting



With 394 students, the eighth grade is the largest class in Anthony Wayne Local Schools, which this year has an all-time high enrollment of 4,538. Eighth-graders in Kelli Euler's health class (above) sit in a new classroom that occupies former office space.

Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

Fallen Timbers Middle School to a fourth primary building.

Fritz said he didn't see offering all-day kindergarten while the district operates out of three buildings. While many parents opt to have children in all-day programs in area child care centers or parochial schools, these students enter the system in first grade.

During the meeting, the district also:

■ Congratulated Ahmed Amrou, Shelby Tupciauskas, Hailey Reid and Albert Zhu for their success in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) international conference this summer. Ahmed won silver and the other three students won gold medals in the conference. Students thanked Penta Career Center and Family and Consumer Science teachers Amanda Valdez and KayLynne Schaller.

■ Heard an update on construction projects. The tennis courts, auxiliary gym and cafeteria are complete. All of the entryways on the Finzel Road campus are done. Whitehouse Primary School was ready for move-in over winter break.

■ The public toured the old Whitehouse Primary School on Tuesday, October 7, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Students decorated the halls to welcome visitors. The board held its meeting in the school on that date

beginning at 6:30 p.m. Another tour was held after the old school was empty in January.

■ Heard that HVAC specialist/supervisor John Dobson will retire on December 31, while Waterville teacher Becky Johnson will retire at the end of the school year.

■ Approved donations of \$24,000, including \$12,000 from the Waterville Parents Association for STEAM projects and \$10,000 from America's Farmers Grow to Waterville Primary for Project PRAIRIE (Prairies That Invigorate Inquiry Learning).

AWHS Class of 1970 – 50th Reunion

The AWHS Class of 1970 will be having its 50th Reunion on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the Monclova Community Center. There also will be a Tailgate Party at the Friday night (September 11) home football game. Check us out on FACEBOOK at "AWHS Class of 1970" for all the latest information! Contact Beth Willets Heinlein at bheinlein@sbcglobal.net or Karen LaRue Wiggins at t-kwiggins@bex.net. We also gather for lunch every second Monday at 1:00 at Shawn's Irish Tavern in Waterville. Always eager to have other classmates join us!!

AW's Hannah Pruiett to Study Ballet in Pittsburgh

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

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permission of The Mirror*

Nigel Burgoine remembers the day that he first challenged Hannah Pruiett to learn the fouetté turn – a classical ballet move that the then 9-year-old had never tried.

“She put 100 percent into learning the fouetté. She conquered it straight-forward,” said Burgoine, the artistic director for Ballet Theatre of Toledo.

“Mr. B always comments on this,” said Hannah. “He likes to use that story to inspire the little girls.”

Hannah’s diligence, determination and grace are among the reasons why Burgoine recommended her to his peers at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT), which offers year-round training for aspiring ballet dancers.

On September 1, the Monclova Township teen moved into a dorm near PBT with 20 students from across the United States and abroad. During the day, she dances. In the evenings, she takes online classes.

“Hannah will go study and be seen by the company,” Burgoine explained. “All you do is dance, dance, dance. She takes classes in virtuosity, pointe and pas de deux (dancing with a partner).”

Hannah first became interested in dance at age 3, when her mom Kelley was looking for an outlet for her daughter’s energy. When Hannah was 6, she wanted to quit, but Kelley convinced her that the hard work would pay off eventually. At age 10, Hannah decided she wanted to be a professional dancer and stuck with it.

“I like how hard it is. There’s something always to improve. We’re always very active, running around and turning. I like the expression of it all, too. It’s calming, and you can forget about

everything else.”

Thankfully, Hannah has been injury-free despite the rigorous daily workouts. Scoliosis caused a 30-degree curve in her spine. She wears a brace 12 hours a day and looks in the mirror to focus on her posture and make sure she’s not leaning.

“It doesn’t affect my dance. Most people don’t notice it, but I do,” she said. “Some days I’m sore, but if I stretch and warm up, it’s better.”

Last year, she played the lead role in Ballet Theatre of Toledo’s presentation of *The Ugly Duckling*.

While her 4.75 GPA would certainly have gotten her into a college of her choice, Hannah’s goal was to land a paid apprenticeship as a dancer with a company.

“It’s what I’ve done my whole life. Why work so hard to quit now? I can’t imagine going to college and studying business or medicine,” said Hannah.

While in Pittsburgh, she will spend her senior year in a different school. Learning from a variety of teachers en-

hances a dancer’s knowledge and also provides valuable exposure. Hannah received offers from other prestigious schools, but challenges with finding housing made PBT the right fit. Through it all, Hannah did all the research and planned her audition trips, said her dad, Tracy.

“We’re just along for the ride,” Tracy said. “She’s taken all the initiative and done all the planning.”

Because young women are prevalent in the field, Tracy noted, Hannah has to work much harder than a young man in ballet – and work, she has. Even at home, which has a basement equipped with a ballet studio, Hannah spends her free time working on dance and form.

The window of opportunity for



Hannah Pruiett was the lead dancer in the Ballet Theatre of Toledo’s *The Ugly Duckling* last year.

Photos Courtesy of Ballet Theatre of Toledo
dancers is small, Burgoine explained. He should know: At age 11, he left home and performed in shows, landing a job in theater at age 17.

“Your body can only go so far – like 28 or 30,” said Burgoine, who danced for the Royal Ballet of London before becoming a teacher.

In Hannah, he sees the winning combination of musicality, stamina, mental focus and ease on stage that could propel her into a role with a company.

“You have to make it look easy. Your legs may be aching and your back may be sore, but you’ve got to finish with a smile on your face,” Burgoine said. “No one wants to see your hard work. You should be able to spin on stage, stop on a dime and do it 10 times with a smile.”

With all of that physical work, Hannah stays fueled with pasta, protein, peanut butter and bananas, she said. Hannah said she misses her dad’s cooking, Friday night Anthony Wayne football games, her parents and her brother, Ryley, a freshman at the University of Cincinnati.



Hannah Pruiett

AW Grad Maria Connelly Primed for Senior Season at EMU

BY YANEEK SMITH
MIRROR REPORTER

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permission of The Mirror*

Maria Connelly was an elite golfer during her time playing for Anthony Wayne Lady Generals. Now, she's representing her community at the highest collegiate level as a Division I student-athlete at Eastern Michigan University.

Connelly, a two-time state qualifier during her days at AW, was ready for her senior season with the Eagles. She's hopeful she'll have a successful season and believes EMU has a chance to compete with the best teams in the Mid-American Conference.

Last year, Connelly finished 19th at the MAC Championships and had three other impressive showings: 21st at the Perry Park Spring Fling; 22nd at the Dolores Black Falcon Invitational; and 23rd at the MAC Fall Preview.

As a sophomore, she fought through a broken bone in her foot and missed some time but was able to have a good season. She finished fifth at the Rio Verde Invite and was 35th at the MAC Championships.

During her freshman season, Connelly saw limited action but fared well when she got the chance, placing eighth at the Rio Verde Invite and 13th at the Kzoo Classic.

The last season came under the direction of head coach Stephanie (Smoot) Jennings, a Pemberville native who attended Eastwood High School before becoming a golfer at EMU.

"There's definitely a difference – it's always different with a new coach, but it's something I've gotten used to," Connelly said. "Both were just incredible coaches. I think both of them are good coaches for me because they cater to us as individuals.

"On the course, I like to be on my own a little bit, and both coaches were great about catering to individual players' needs. I was sad to see Coach (Pina) Gentile go, but Coach Jennings has re-



Former Anthony Wayne golfer Maria Connelly drives the ball off the tee while playing for Eastern Michigan University during a recent match. Connelly finished 19th at last year's MAC championships.

Photo Courtesy of Eastern Michigan University

ally made it a good experience for all of us, too."

Needless to say, Connelly is primed for a great season as her career comes to a close.

"I'm super excited. Each year, you have certain expectations, (and) every year has been a positive experience," she said. "I feel like our team has the potential to do well. We lost two of our seniors, but I feel like the freshmen we have will contribute, (and) the players we have now are really close, and we get along really well.

"We all push each other, we all want to practice and compete. I think we have some potential to perform well."

Off the course, Connelly is majoring in accounting and is set to graduate in May. Following graduation, she will remain in Ypsilanti for another year as she works to obtain a graduate degree.

"I'll actually stay (in Ypsilanti) for graduate school. I'll be at EMU for an-

other year to graduate with my master's degree," she said.

"I'd like to stay involved with the team somehow while I'm taking classes, too. After that, the plan is to take the CPA exams and go from there."

In high school, Connelly played for Jim Hutchinson and Rob Schmidbauer. In addition to qualifying for the state tournament twice, she was the Northern Lakes League Player of the Year three times. As a senior, she led the Generals to a conference championship.

"I think (my coaches) were very good at helping me to mentally stay strong (and) they were always very positive. They always knew when to step back or when we needed them; they would always be there," Connelly said.

"For me, I like to just play so I don't want to overthink anything. They helped me to grow stronger mentally as a golfer and stay in it mentally. They were both very positive influences for our team, which was very important. You can't have a team that doesn't believe it can reach its goals. They did a good job of keeping us up-

lifted."

Hutchinson talked about Connelly's mindset.

"Every shot she took seriously – she was into every shot she took," he said. "I think her father might have been a state champion in golf and he worked with her and made her the golfer she is.

Connelly said she owes her father, Dan, and her mother, Lynn, a debt of gratitude for supporting her throughout her career. Dan actually won a state championship as a senior at Perrysburg High School.

"I am lucky to have the support of both of my parents. I've seen people who have been forced by their parents into sports, but my dad has always been the perfect balance of unending support without ever pushing me," Connelly said.

"He knows my swing and game as well as anyone and it's definitely com-

Anthony Wayne Grad Recognized by Central Michigan University

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

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permission of The Mirror*

When Allison Brookshier arrived at Central Michigan University, she needed a part-time job.

"It was the dining hall or this," she said, referring to the CMU Phonathon.

As a member of the student team, the 2016 Anthony Wayne graduate found herself calling alumni, parents and friends of the university to welcome them to events, update information, raise funds and answer questions from future students.

On Friday, September 13, Allison was presented with the CMU Alumni Association's Future Alumni Leader Award.

The CMU Alumni Association honors individuals and corporations that make significant achievements professionally and in their communities. The recipients are nominated and selected by alumni, faculty and friends of CMU. The Future Alumni Leader Award is the only one given to an undergraduate.

"Allison was selected as a student who shows her passion for STEM, rigor in education and excellence in leadership," said Brittany Milan, associate director of alumni engagement at CMU.

Allison said she's passionate about interacting with alumni and speaking with students about the university. The job requires being knowledgeable about the university, friendly and genuinely positive about CMU. She is now the lead supervisor of the department.

Allison works 20 hours a week,

leading a staff of 15 students who make over 100,000 calls to prospective CMU applicants. She was recognized internally within Phonathon as a three-time Caller of the Month in 2018.

"I'm a super-shy person. When I first got this job, everyone asked me, 'Are you sure you want to do this?' But it's completely changed how I communicate and interact with people," Allison said.

A biochemistry major, Allison said those communication skills have helped her while she presents information on genomics research. Genomics focuses on the structure, function, evolution, mapping and editing of genomes. A genome is an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes.

As a research assistant to professor Deric Learman, Allison has a deep understanding of the behavior of microbacterium and is credited in two published research papers relating to microbiology. Allison has presented her research at three conferences.

Allison is also the president of the Society for Women in STEM and is involved in the Organization of Women Leaders. She is the recipient of several scholarships. Allison is currently applying for doctoral programs at schools around the country, as she wants to become a professor or work in a health-related field such as biomedical research or bio-informatics.

While at Anthony Wayne, Allison was active in Interact, French club and National Honor Society. She credits hanging out with friends who are



Allison Brookshier
Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

super-intelligent and into science – plus taking AP biology with Jamie Redway – with inspiring her to pursue a science education.

Because her father didn't graduate from college and her mom, Kelly Hoen, earned her degree in finance when Allison graduated from high school, Allison qualified as a nontraditional or first-time student with the McNair Scholar Program. She has a full-ride scholarship to CMU.

As she was honored on Friday, September 13, she was joined by her family and long-time boyfriend Gage Ritenour, a 2015 AW graduate who recently earned a degree in marketing from Xavier University.

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Check out the updated Anthony Wayne Alumni website, awalumni.org and leave a comment on the "Get in Touch" page or make a donation on the "Donate" page.

Find the newsletter, events, hall of

fame list, photos and more on the website – pass the word.

The Anthony Wayne Alumni Association Trustees would like to invite you to join the Alumni Association by becoming a Lifetime Member for only

\$50 by completing the form in this newsletter.

Nominate someone for the Hall of Fame by March 30 of any given year (nominations received after this date will be considered the NEXT year) by completing the form in this newsletter.

Purchase 50/50 raffle tickets at all home football games, support wine tasting and Chick-fil-A fundraisers. Also check out our Flower Power fundraiser.

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AW SCHOOLS WELCOME NEW TEACHERS AND STAFF, INCLUDING TWO AW GRADS

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With retirements, moves and a bump in enrollment, Anthony Wayne Local Schools had new teachers and intervention specialists when school opened this year.

Monclova Primary

- Jennifer Drennan, second grade teacher, is returning after a 10-year hiatus to raise children. A graduate of St. Ursula Academy and Wheaton College in Illinois, she previously taught first grade and was literacy tutor at Monclova Primary. Married to high school math teacher Nick Drennan, they are the parents to three daughters and an English bulldog named Agnes. Jennifer enjoys reading, traveling and exercising.

- Aspen Rettig, a third grade teacher, is a University of Toledo graduate who began her career as a student teacher for Nicole Kemmer at Whitehouse Primary. Aspen spent her summer as camp director for West Side Montessori. Recently married, Aspen enjoys spending time with family and friends, walking her golden doodle puppy and running.

Waterville Primary

- Stephanie Eckler, a second grade teacher hired to meet an increase in enrollment, is a Delta High School and Bowling Green State University graduate who taught second grade for four years at Liberty Center Elementary. A Maumee resident, Stephanie enjoys hiking, biking, skiing and reading.

- Katelyn Bixler, fourth grade teacher, is an AW graduate who held several leadership positions while earning her degree from the Ohio State University. She taught third grade at Crim Elementary in Bowling Green for a year.

Whitehouse Primary

- Ellyn Haviland is the morning kindergarten teacher at Whitehouse Primary School, where she served as an intervention specialist this past year. A Sylvania Northview and BGSU graduate, she did her student teaching at Whitehouse Primary. Ellyn enjoys spending time with her cat, traveling and reading.

Fallen Timbers

- Janet Jacobs, fifth grade science and social studies teacher, recently filled two



Anthony Wayne Local Schools welcomed several new teachers and intervention specialists during the August 12 board of education meeting. New this year are (from left) Katelyn Bixler, Janet Jones, Kylie Vogel, Stephanie Eckler, Taylor Robinson, Kara Maxey, Melody Vartanian, Jennifer Drennan and Aspen Rettig. Not pictured: Jordan LeFevre and Ellyn Haviland.
Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

long-term substitute positions in the district. Certified in science, social studies and as an intervention specialist, Janet previously taught sixth grade science and social studies for Fayetteville-Perry Local Schools in Southeast Ohio. She lives in the district with her husband.

- Taylor Robinson, sixth grade language arts teacher, is a Toledo School for the Arts and BGSU graduate. Taylor did student teaching at Oregon City Schools and spent the summer as head teacher at Wonderland of Learning. She has a passion for dance and choreography.

- Melody Vartanian, Fallen Timbers intervention specialist, is a BGSU graduate certified to teach both mild/moderate and moderate/intense students. She previously taught at Clay High School and Deveaux Elementary before joining the Wood County Educational Service Center Community Learning Center as a program assistant.

Junior High

- Jordan LeFevre, a 2004 AW graduate, is the junior high assistant principal. With a bachelor's degree in middle childhood education, Jordan began teaching at Bennett Venture Academy before joining the junior high staff as a reading, language arts and social studies teacher for five years. With a master's degree in educational administration and supervision, he was hired as prin-

icipal of Patrick Henry Middle School in 2017. He lives in Whitehouse with his wife Leslie and two children.

- Kara Maxey is a math teacher at the junior high. A Bowling Green High School and BGSU graduate, Kara previously taught seventh grade math for four years at Bowling Green Middle School. Recently engaged to her fiancé, Mike, Kara enjoys beach vacations, exercising and walking her dogs, Ryder and Sadie.

High School

- Kylie Vogel, an intervention specialist, is a Bellevue High School and University of Toledo graduate. She loves working with special needs individuals, especially assisting them in pursuing their interests and participating in sports. In college, she was active in an organization called Rally Cap, which makes sports accessible to all. Kylie enjoys spending time watching her family members participate in sports.

Other new hires approved by the Anthony Wayne Board of Education during the August 12 meeting: special education aides Carey Phillips and Bethel Tyger, high school; Christy Brooks and Jeffrey Dawson, Fallen Timbers; and Annamarie Foltz, Waterville. Also hired were Dawn Wright, Fallen Timbers cafeteria and playground aide; Lillian Thomas, Monclova food service worker; and Robin Lipinski, Waterville cafeteria/playground aide.

AW Senior Alyssa Vossen Receives Top Honor in Sea Cadet Corps

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER
Content edited with
permission of The Mirror

A naturally quiet teen, Alyssa Vossen knew she would need to master a commanding voice and display confidence if she was going to achieve her goal: being named recruit chief petty officer (RCPO) in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' Senior Leadership Academy.

"She practiced giving commands at home, until she felt comfortable and confident. She mentally prepared to be strong and assured. As a result, she was selected as RCPO and went on to earn RCPO Honor Staff Cadet," said Alyssa's commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Stoyanovich.

Alyssa's venture began at age 13, when she began looking at options for hands-on military experiences for teenagers.

"I have a deep respect for the military. My dad (Robert) retired from the Air Force after 23 years. I like the military environment," Alyssa said. "I wanted to join the Marine Corps, but there were no young Marines units. Then I found this."

The Sea Cadet Corps has 10,000 members, with rankings similar to the U.S. Navy. Recruits who achieve CPO by their senior year are qualified for the Student Leadership Cadet Council (SLCC). Alyssa was one of just 30 students nationwide to meet the criteria. Once in that top tier, her peers addi-



Alyssa Vossen

tionally voted her as one of two honor cadets.

Referring to her giant eagle-topped trophy, Alyssa explained what it took to achieve that honor, starting with a 10-day boot camp as a recruit at the Naval Station Great Lakes during the summer before her freshman year.

As a squad leader for recruits, Alyssa takes her responsibility seriously: demonstrating how to wear an immaculate, inspection-ready uniform to drills; and encouraging squad members.

"I have witnessed the growth and development of CPO Vossen from an untested cadet to becoming a strong and thoughtful leader," Stoyanovich said.

As a leader, Alyssa is in charge of 300 recruits during the summer program – delegating and overseeing their progress. She launched an Instagram account to market the unit and she published articles in the Sea Cadet Quarterly magazine.

Alyssa said, "This program is the best decision I made in my life."

"I love history and to write," she explained.

At Anthony Wayne High School, Alyssa is president of the Quiz Bowl and is involved in National Honor Society. In addition to studying AP calculus, AP literature, honors Spanish 5 and AP U.S. history in high school this year, Alyssa is taking world civilizations and international relations classes through Bowling Green State University.

While she could move up two pay grades immediately if she joined the Navy, Alyssa said she's considering a career in law.

Alyssa's younger brother Bobby heard about the program and is now in his third year as a cadet.

Methods for Contributing to the AWAA Scholarship Fund

•**50/50 Raffle Ticket Sales** at every home football game. Plus second chance packets with gift cards, coupons and various other incentives are announced directly after the 50/50 winning number is announced near the end of the halftime break.

•**Chick-fil-A Sandwich Sales** at the alumni soccer games, usually in early August. Another Chick-fil-A sandwich sale occurs at the home football scrimmage game near the middle of August.

•**Wine Tasting Event** held at Majestic Oak Winery in Neapolis sometime every June. Includes wine or beer tasting, raffles and live entertainment.

•**Flower Power**, a spring flower, bulb, seed and berries sale. It is an online sales event. Go to AWAA Facebook page or website and click the link. Ordering may commence on February 1, 2020 and continue through May 1, 2020.

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High School Counselor Karen Bixler Named Certified Staff Member of the Year

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

*Content edited with
permission of The Mirror*

When Karen Weber Bixler learned that she was named Certified Staff Member of the Year for Anthony Wayne Local Schools, her first thought was to credit the rest of the counseling team at the high school.

“The neatest part is that it’s not about me. It shows our district and leadership values the role of the counselor in the school. We have a wonderful team here,” Bixler said.

That doesn’t surprise Assistant Superintendent Kevin Herman.

“Her consideration for others is one of the characteristics that makes her so special,” he said.

Every day, Bixler is considering about 375 others – the number of high school students whose last names begin with S-Z. As a counselor, she helps students plot out their schedules, make academic decisions, get career counseling and look at college choices. At the same



High school counselor Karen Bixler was named Certified Staff Member of the Year for the Anthony Wayne Local Schools.

Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

time, counselors work with students on their emotional and social needs – some of which can arise suddenly and require a lot of focus.

Bixler earned her master’s degree in counseling after nine years of teaching English in Rossford, Virginia Beach and Sylvania Northview.

“I always knew I wanted a career in education. It’s our family business,” she said, explaining that her brothers are both in education.

It’s tough for high school students to have an idea of what they want to do with the rest of their lives, but she encourages them to start with making a list of what they do and don’t like.

“I tell them that life is a marathon, not a sprint,” she said. “Sometimes it’s hard to watch them figure that out. I would like to be able to help more – even fix it – but it’s part of their process of growing up.”

While Bixler makes presentations to classrooms and large groups, the one-on-one time with students is essential to the counselor’s role, she said.

“We have a good community and supportive families. We’re very lucky here,” she said. “The best part is the kids. I love watching as they come in here as freshmen and see them grow up. I see them do great things. Several are still in touch with us.”

Karen and her husband Bill live in Monclova Township. Both of their children are AW graduates. Son Ryan, Class of 2012, works for Proctor and Gamble in Grand Rapids, Michigan, while Katelyn, Class of 2014, is a fourth-grade teacher in Waterville.

Calling All Members

As an AWAA member, the association would like you to consider asking any friends or family to join the AWAA. A lifetime membership is only a one-time fee of \$50, which is a real bargain.

Please Help Us

In an effort to keep our membership contact information current and up-to-date, please jot down any new mailing or email addresses or phone number changes and mail to Anthony Wayne Alumni Association, P.O. Box 2441, Whitehouse, OH 43571-0441.

Jim Fischer, AW Grad, Named Zoning Inspector

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

*Content edited with
permission of The Mirror*

After spending months looking for a qualified zoning inspector to replace the late Eric Gay, Waterville Township trustees agreed to come up with a different solution.

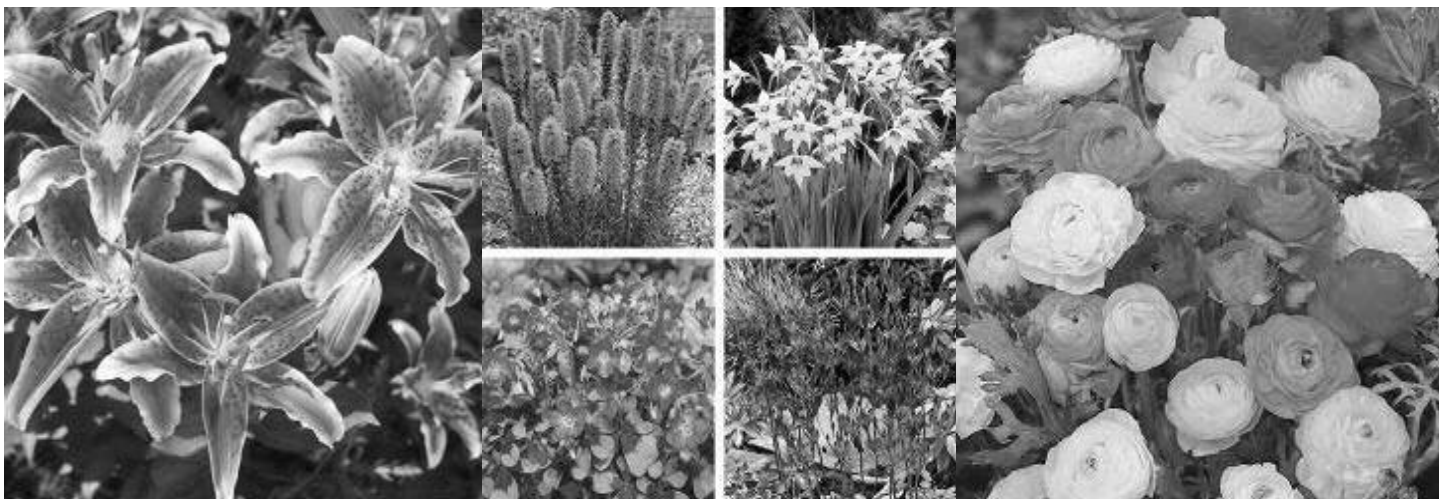
During their September 25 meeting, trustee Brett Warner said he and property standards officer Jim Fischer agreed to combine the two positions into one job to be handled by Fischer, an AW grad.

As property standards officer off and on over the years, Fischer addressed issues such as weeds, garbage and abandoned cars. The zoning inspector issues and tracks permits for homes, additions and other structures, and

serves as a liaison with the county planner, trustees and solicitor on zoning issues. Gay held the position for about 22 years until his death in March. Trustees were unable to find a qualified resident to fill the position, but Fischer already has what it takes, Warner said. Fischer has been filling the role since April. He will be paid about \$7,596 for the newly combined job.

With his appointment, Fischer is required to resign from the Zoning Commission. Keith Moosman was appointed to fill his place, while former property standards officer Bob Long was named alternate.

A search continues for a qualified resident to fill the role of fiscal officer, a position that has been vacant since the end of May.



AWAA Spring Flower Sale Fundraiser

The AW Alumni Association Spring Flower Program containing the best quality Spring Planting Bulbs, Seeds and Berries is available to you after February 1, with orders taken through May 1. The supplier ships products purchased through the Spring Program direct to you beginning in late March and continuing as ordered.

Many folks like to begin planting in early May, or around Mother's Day. The turnaround time from ordering to shipping is pretty quick and the packaging and instructions are excellent.

The Alumni Association is hoping to raise enough money to fund a new scholarship or two this spring. Hopefully, you'll help us out and beautify your yard at the same time!

Be sure and check the AW Alumni Association Facebook page and/or our web site at awalumni.org after February 1st for ordering choices and other details. Also, you could type the following link into your browser to access the ordering form and choices.

<http://awalumniassoc.fpfundraising.com/>

Thanks and Go Generals!

Jon McAfee President AWAA

Area Holiday Events

Whitehouse Christmas Tree Lighting

On December 1, the community gathered for the annual Christmas Tree lighting. Many in attendance were inspired by the beauty and felt that it produced a feeling of pride, camaraderie and joy for the holidays.

* * *

Monclova Community Center Celebrates Season

The Monclova Historical Foundation and Community Center hosted Monclova's Christmas celebration on Wednesday, December 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Highlights of the evening included lighting the Monclova Christmas tree, enjoying treats, singing Christmas carols, taking family pictures or selfies with Santa Claus, crafting for kids and more.

The tree was donated in 2017 by Brookwood Nursery and newly planted

by Garrett Bookenger and Troop 104.

The Monclova Community Center is located at 8115 Monclova Road, Monclova. The event was free with a canned food donation.

* * *

Waterville Celebrated the Season with Holiday Bazaar and Light Up Waterville

The Waterville Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

The bazaar included local crafters and artists, including Mary Kay Cosmetics, Sunny Meade Alpaca Store and more. Attendees saw Santa and his elf from noon until 3:00 p.m.

This was a family-friendly event with free admission and free parking. In addition, guests stayed for a tour of Story-Point before or after shopping.

The day started with Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the Anthony Wayne High School softball program, at Shawn's Irish Tavern, 105 S. Third Street, Waterville, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Santa arrived at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast consisted of pancakes, eggs and sausage. Guests donated cold-weather gear or a new toy for those less fortunate at Shawn's.

Garden Smiles' artist and owner George Carruth autographed new purchases on Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 8, from noon to 5:00 p.m. Visit Garden Smiles at 122 Mechanic Street, Waterville.

Light Up Waterville also featured tractor wagon rides, ornament decorating, letters to Santa, hot chocolate and Santa at Dale's, a scavenger hunt and the tree lighting and Christmas carols by Zion Lutheran Church at 6:00 p.m.

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The AWHs Alumni Association is seeking current information about former AWHs students. Please use the space below to share what you have been doing since your graduation. Please include information about additional education, family, hobbies, community activities, etc.

Attach additional paper if necessary.