

GIFTED STAFF SPOTLIGHT

GIFTED APPRECIATION WEEK FEB 24 - 28

PAGE HONORS GIFTED STAFF

Because Gifted Appreciation Week is February 24 - 28, the Pattonville Association for Gifted Education (PAGE) would like to take this opportunity to spotlight gifted teachers.

Pattonville has a top-notch gifted program, and our students are thriving. This is largely due to the dedicated teachers and staff of the gifted program, which includes ALPHA, SIGMA, PEGS, and the high school English gifted courses. Parents and students are encouraged to bring thoughtful cards to gifted staff letting them know the important role they play in students' lives. Please join us in honoring the staff, and we hope you learn a bit more about them!

PAGE Executive Officers



Dr. Janet Baldwin: High School

students and the process of learning. I enjoy researching new ideas and unique methods of learning to share with gifted learners. The quick pace and the in-depth discussions in class invigorate me," says Baldwin.

Dr. Baldwin was born in Missouri, finished her undergraduate degree in just two and a half years, and more recently spent time studying at Exeter College, Oxford, England.

"I love reading, going to the movies, playing the piano, spending time with friends and family, and appreciating beauty

in the world around me."

Dr. Baldwin also spends time looking for dead people! She loves genealogy – researching her family's history to see how they fit in the bigger picture of world and American history.

Dr. Janet Baldwin has been teaching for 27 years and has been at Pattonville High School teaching in the gifted program for 8 years. "I love the

Maureen Hoeft: High School



Maureen Hoeft has been at Pattonville High School teaching in the gifted program for 6 years. She enjoys getting to know her students and says that she can “hear” their voices when she reads their writings, which she has always found to be a sign that she knows them as individuals.

“I enjoy reading plays with my class, having class discussions about themes in the books we read, and seeing their creative projects that I ask them to make in response to their reading instead of essays sometimes,” Hoeft says.

Her favorite place to vacation is anywhere there are mountains and beaches, and her favorite food is a giant bowl of cereal!

Mrs. Hoeft’s favorite movie is *Runaway Bride*. “It may seem like a typical ‘chick flick,’ but there are some real truths of life in it! It’s about a person figuring out who she is and what she wants out of life and from herself,” says Hoeft.

Christine Elkins: SIGMA/Holman

Little do her middle school students know, but Ms. Elkins has read the Percy Jackson series!

St. Louis native Christine Elkins is in her first year in the gifted program.

“The relationships with the students and faculty is what I like best about being a teacher here at Holman. I am learning every day from these groups of people,” says Mrs. Elkins.

Her favorite activities with her students are doing debates and having in depth discussions. She also likes

to put up word riddles on her board, have students come up with their own answers, and be able to support their answers.

Seattle is her favorite place to vacation and she enjoys reading, playing basketball, and doodling. S’mores are her current favorite snack, and her three favorite movies: *To Steal a Million*, *The Interpreter*, and *Remember the Titans*.



Lori Kappler: SIGMA/Heights



Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Lori Kappler loves teaching middle school students. “It is never boring! I learn something from them each day,” says the Pattonville Heights Sigma teacher.

Kappler has taught for 21 years with 11 years in

the gifted program. She taught middle school science before becoming a gifted teacher.

Among her favorite activities with students, Kappler enjoys the Missouri Stock Market game, Model United Nations, building Frank Lloyd Wright houses, and Human Brain wikis.

Her favorite food is anything Mexican; favorite vacation is the beach; favorite movie is *Pride and Prejudice*, and her favorite bands are Maroon 5 and Muse.

When she’s not in the classroom, Kappler loves reading, scrapbooking, and spending time with her children.

Cheralyn Kirton: ALPHA

Cheralyn Kirton has been a teacher for 13 years and an ALPHA instructor for 6 of those years. "Sampling food during International Adventures," is what she likes best about being an ALPHA teacher!

She loves learning

and trying to solve problems before her students do, which can be quite a challenge sometimes. When Mrs. Kirton is not teaching, she enjoys listening to many kinds of music, reading, watching her children's sporting events, and redecorating

her home - when she can find the hammers and paint brushes her husband attempts to hide from her.

She vacations anywhere there are palm trees, and she can't say no to chocolate!



Mrs. Kirton is originally from Springfield, IL, and is a descendent of Abraham Lincoln!!

Nancy Brennan: ALPHA



Nancy Brennan has been a teacher for 30 years and has taught in gifted classrooms for 27 years.

"I love the wide varieties of children and subjects I get to teach," says Mrs.

Brennan. Some of her favorite activities at ALPHA are the Bubbleology bubblegum bubble-

blowing experiment and mirror writing like Leonardo da Vinci. Mrs. Brennan was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her two favorite places to travel are to Vermont to visit her sister and Yosemite National Park.

Nancy loves kayaking and hiking, reading, and working on all kinds of puzzles. Her favorite movie is *The Last of the*

Mohicans, because she likes the adventure, the history, the beautiful music, and the scenery that reminds her of where she grew up in New York.

She loves lots of different kinds of music, but her favorite musician is probably Harry Chapin or Jim Croce. She also likes Emeli Sande and Javier Mendoza.

Mrs. Brennan has changed tires and oil, helped rebuild carburetors, done brake jobs, and even changed the universal joints on cars.

Denise Cavanaugh: Secretary for Gifted Program

Denise Cavanaugh has spent 26 years at Pattonville. This is her 7th year with the Gifted Program. She enjoys working with the students and says it amazes her how our gifted students' minds work. She often visits them in class, asking them questions

about the projects they are working on.

Mrs. Cavanaugh was born in St. Louis but enjoys traveling beachside - Hilton Head, South Carolina, is her favorite. She loves catching a show with her husband and country music is her absolute favorite: Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban, and Lady Antebellum are a few of her

favorites. Watching Cardinal baseball, decorating, training with her dog, and gardening are some of her activities outside of the classroom, and you might be surprised to learn that Mrs. Cavanaugh used to sing in a band throughout high school and college. Her band would play at weddings, Christmas parties, and New Year's Eve parties!



Denise is responsible, along with Jane Wolf, for getting PHS A+ Certified.

Elizabeth Brisch: ALPHA

Elizabeth Brisch has been teaching in Pattonville for 23 years. She taught at Willow Brook Elementary for 12 years before coming to the gifted program.

"Although I enjoy each of the activities I get to do with the

ALPHA students, I always look forward to the Fantasy Baseball World Series, the Psychology and You final presentations, watching the



Robolab students problem-solve with their robots, creating bottomless boats for the Australia unit, and teaching about China's population with a yummy dessert. I love working with students. Watching them grow and develop into kind and caring young people makes my heart happy. The relationships I build with students can last a lifetime," says Mrs. Brisch.

She was born at Missouri Baptist Hospital here in St. Louis, and is a Pattonville Alumni. When she isn't working with her students, you can

find Mrs. Brisch scuba diving, boating on Table Rock Lake, or playing with her two adorable granddaughters.

Reading, baking, and watching baseball are a few of her other favorite activities.

When asked about her favorite movies, she has three.

"My favorite musical is *Grease*. My favorite non-musical movie is a three-way tie between *When Harry Met Sally* (makes me smile), *What About Bob* (makes me laugh), and *The Notebook* (makes me cry)."

Mrs. Brisch was in the 50th graduating class of Pattonville High School and was the quarterback of the Powderpuff football team. Sadly, her team lost. But she can still teach her students to throw a spiral.

Venita Winslow: ALPHA

Another St. Louis native, Venita Winslow says one of the best things she likes about teaching is watching the *light bulb* turn on when a student finally gets it.

She also loves to run into former students, especially when they share their successes and the positive impacts she made on their lives.

A teacher for 30 years, Mrs. Winslow spent 23 of those years at Pattonville, with 24 years in the gifted program. Some of her favorite

activities with students include building balsa wood bridges, watching students' reactions to results of experiments they are conducting, teaching students how to do logical reasoning activities, and learning about their personal lives while eating lunch with them.

Although she admits they are unhealthy, her favorite foods are candy and other sweets. A close



runner-up is shrimp and lobster.

And while she doesn't have a favorite movie, her favorite musical artists are Luther Vandross, Ashford & Simpson, and Mariah Carey. Her favorite place to vacation is in the Caribbean or any place that is warm and tropical with a beautiful

beach. She enjoys photography, bowling, walking, traveling, and attending plays and musicals.

Debbie Green: ALPHA



Debbie Green has been teaching for 34 years with 14 of those years in gifted education. She also serves as the District A Director for the Gifted Association of Missouri. Green enjoys creativity, games, asking open-ended questions, and getting to know all of her students.

Her favorite movies are some you may have heard of - *Gone With the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Splendor*

in the Grass.

When she is not in the classroom, you might find her on a warm beach somewhere collecting sea shells or reading a good book.

Mrs. Green also enjoys attending films, plays, and concerts.

Mrs. Green worked for the NFL at two Super Bowls!

Tracey Robinson: PEGS/Remington

Interviewing Mrs. Tracey Robinson, math & science teacher at PEGS (Program for Exceptionally Gifted Students), revealed some very fascinating facts. Mrs. Robinson was born in Kirkwood, Missouri. Her favorite foods are chocolate and pizza, and her favorite movie is probably *Stargate*.

Her favorite place to vacation is her family cabin. Her favorite hobbies include collecting coins and Peanuts® things, as well as going to museums & historic sites, creating websites, and “keeping her children busy.”

Although some of her talents (such as walking on the top of her

toes and doing backbends) have been lost over the years, she does have other talents – such as multitasking and getting things done. Another interesting fact that many people may not know is that Mrs. Robinson is allergic to eggplant.

Mrs. Robinson has been a teacher for 22 years and has been teaching in the gifted program for 12 years.

Her favorite things to do with her gifted students in 2nd - 5th grades are science activities and math games.

Lastly, her favorite part about being a teacher is spending time with her students. Mrs. Robinson is a phenomenal teacher who is unique in many ways.



Dodie Logue: PEGS/Remington



In honor of Gifted Appreciation Week, today I did an interview with Ms. Logue, one of the PEGS teachers. She is the teacher in charge of literature and social studies. She has been in the PEGS program for 2 years so far, and I hope that she stays for many more years.

Where were you born?

I was born in Rock Hill, South Carolina. I went to college in Illinois, and then I came to Missouri.

Where do you live?

I live in Manchester.

What do you like best about being a teacher/staff member?

I like laughing with the kids.

How long have you been a teacher/staff member? In the gifted program?

I have been a teacher for 16 years, and have been a gifted teacher for 8 of those years.

What are some of your favorite activities to do with your gifted students?

I like to do anything to do with technology, and doing very messy art

projects.

What is your favorite food?

I like any kind of pizza.

Do you have any favorite movies or musical bands?

My favorite movies are *The Matrix* and *The Sound of Music*.

Where is your favorite place to take a vacation?

Any beach.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

I like reading, painting on top of photos, and golden retriever rescue.

Do you play any instruments?

I play the flute, and I started when I was 12. I am now 42.

What is something that not many know about you?

Well, I was the spelling bee champ in grade school. Also, my legal name is Theodosia Nowell Logue.

*Student Interviews by PEGS
Remington 5th Grade Students*

Have You Joined PAGE?

What is PAGE?

PAGE (Pattonville Association for Gifted Education) is a group composed of parents of gifted children who attend a Pattonville Gifted Program, as well as teachers and staff members who work in the Pattonville Gifted Program. PAGE believes that parents are their children's first teachers and that parent involvement is essential to a child's academic success.

PAGE's Mission

To provide resources to support the gifted program and to offer

enrichment opportunities for our students.

PAGE Enrichment Opportunities

- ◆ Field Trips
- ◆ Family Fun Nights
- ◆ Community Service Projects
- ◆ Ice Cream Social
- ◆ Guest Speaker Appearances

PAGE Membership

To be a PAGE member you must have a child(ren) enrolled in the

Pattonville Gifted Program. Membership forms are located in the ALPHA office and online at www.gifted.psd3.org/page.

To make the most of our students' education, we urge each parent to get involved!

PAGE Membership Meetings

PAGE meetings are scheduled throughout the year. Meetings are held in the evenings at the ALPHA Center and open to all PAGE members.

For more information on PAGE visit at www.giftedpsdr3.org/PAGE OR
[http://www.facebook.com/groups/
PattonvilleAssociationforGiftedEducation/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/PattonvilleAssociationforGiftedEducation/) or
contact Amanda Ohlsen at amandaohlsen@sbcglobal.net
or (314) 541-6657

PAGE Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas. Please check area(s) of interest.

- Computer work Help in the classroom Student activities
 Garden work Hospitality Newsletter or buzz book
 Call as needed Attend PAGE meetings Interested in an officer position
 Programs/Family Activity Night

Return this form to the Alpha Center or email amandaohlsen@sbcglobal.net.