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Three teachers with a combined 100 years of experience retire

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Three teachers with a combined 100 years of experience retire

The Michigan Conference is deeply grateful for the service that these teachers have given on behalf of young people across our field.

Denise Curnutt was born to Fred and Doris Grundset Schaller two days after Christmas (but whose mom always had a birthday celebration separate from Christmas). The oldest sibling of Greg, John, Ann and Anthony, she grew up on the St. Joseph River, exploring, swimming and sledding. Teaching was her goal from a young age.

She attended schools in Berrien Springs and, after graduating from Pacific Union College, started teaching at a two-teacher school on the Oregon Coast. In Tillamook she met and married her husband, Charlie; after teaching seven years, Denise stayed home for seven years with the arrival of Willy, followed by daughter, Kelsey.

Moving to Michigan in 1992 to teach at Ruth Murdoch Elementary turned into a 30-year experience, five years teaching grades 1 through 3, followed by 25 years in kindergarten.

Always energetic, creative, cheerful and organized in her teaching, Denise guided young children in a hands-on, developmental, whole-child program, treating students as the deep, creative thinkers they could be. There wasn't a subject she didn't enjoy delving into with her class. Five years were spent on the development team for the new NAD kindergarten curriculum, *Stepping Stones*. She was known as the plant and card lady, and a Chicago Cubs fan, at RMES.

In retirement, she's looking forward to writing, reading, hiking, traveling, painting, gardening, doing 562 house projects, more family time, and getting a dog.



▲ Denise Curnutt



▲ Tamie Hasty

Tamie Hasty was born in Sioux City, Iowa, to Raymond and Viola Bailey. She has three older sisters and one younger brother. In fourth grade she laid sod, and helped her mom prepare food for the men building the new church. A few years later, she was given permission to paint a Noah's Ark mural on the Sabbath school wall.

Tamie graduated from Oak Park Academy; during the summers, she worked at camps in Iowa, North Dakota and Minnesota as the head cook for 7 out of the 10 years of working at camp. She graduated from Union College, teaching at Dakota Adventist Academy for three years, getting married to Adam Hasty the summer before her last year at DAA.

The couple moved to Pipestone, Minn., where Tamie taught in a one-room classroom. During those six years they welcomed their three children, Matthew, Sara and Emily. The family then moved to Lincoln, Neb., where Tamie was a stay-at-home mom for the next six years, teaching two classes at College View Academy the first year of their move.

For the past 26-1/2 years, Tamie has taught in Cadillac, Lake Orion and Ionia, Mich. Most of these years were in a



▲ Karen Johnston Gotshall

one-room classroom. The couple plans to retire in Colorado where they will be closer to two of their children and grandchildren.

Karen Johnston Gotshall is retiring after 20 years of teaching ministry in the Michigan Conference. Karen knew early on that God was calling her to be

a teacher. During her elementary school years in South Lancaster, Mass., she ran “summer school” for her siblings and neighborhood children. During academy, Karen was involved in children’s Sabbath school divisions and vacation Bible school programs.

While in college at Andrews University, she spent two years as a student missionary in Hong Kong, teaching English to junior high students. After completing a double major in Elementary Education

and General Science, Karen taught in Flint before returning to Andrews University to complete a master’s degree in Reading.

Karen stayed home for almost a decade to raise her young children. She then re-entered Adventist education as a teaching principal in Coldwater, Cedar Lake and Warren schools. Next, Karen taught at Ruth Murdoch Elementary in Berrien Springs and, most recently, Holland.

Two challenging but valuable experiences during Karen’s career were teaching

in a one-room school and providing education online during COVID.

Karen is married to retired pastor, Dave Gotshall. They have three married children and three grandchildren. Retirement plans include travel both in the U.S. and internationally, spending more time with family, gardening, biking, boating and, of course, substitute teaching. ■

Jeremy Hall, superintendent of Education, Michigan Conference



Academy students recognized for ‘Caring Heart’

The Lake Union and North American Division’s Office of Education believes that teaching young people to be actively involved in witnessing and service activities is central to the educational goals of the school and the mission of the Church. For this reason, the secondary student Caring Heart Award for Christian service has been established to give recognition to those students who have demonstrated a personal commitment to active service and witnessing activities.

Through the Caring Heart Award, the importance of witnessing and service activities is emphasized and given appropriate recognition along with academic, athletic, music and other school awards and honors. An additional purpose of this award is to foster increased awareness and participation in witnessing and service activities by all students.

The Caring Heart Award is provided to each NAD-accredited senior academy that has selected an eligible candidate. The award consists of a special scholarship award certificate with a value of \$500, paid by the Union, and accompanied by a plaque and engraved Bible provided by the NAD Office of Education.

Read about the recipients for the 2021–2022 school year on the next page.