

# Saying goodbye to this year's retirees

Thirteen faculty and staff members ready for their own new destinations

by NT News Writers

## Christine Peters



Christine Peters has been a Special Education teacher at New Trier's Northfield campus for 32 years. Throughout her time she has enjoyed teaching teens and being able to advocate for them when they face tough times.

Highlights of her career include realizing that teachers are capable of touching students' lives in ways they may never know, as well as all the valuable lessons her students have taught her. In her retirement, she plans to pursue all the things she is passionate about, including volunteering with Curt's Cafe, traveling, helping LGBTQ youth and their families, doing yoga, and gardening.

## Sheila Ransom



Sheila Ransom began working at New Trier in 1994 in the Psychology Department. She is currently a Psychological Assistant and the Box Office Manager for theater performances. Her most remarkable moment occurred during her first year at New Trier. Right before winter break, she enjoyed watching the choir groups sing festive songs in the Rotunda. Regarding her plans for retirement, Ransom said, "For the first year of retirement, I plan on not having a plan. Everything will be about taking care of me, me, and me."

## Virginia Krebs



Virginia Krebs, New Trier's payroll manager, has been working at New Trier for 26 years. Her job is to ensure that the school staff get paid correctly and on time. During her time at New Trier, she has witnessed the opening of the Northfield campus. She also got to meet former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld through a NT event, which she cited as one of the highlights of her job. Following her lengthy career at New Trier, she will retire at the end of July. However, she does not plan to simply stop working. She will take the summer off before pursuing a part-time job next year.

## Pam Asplund



Pam Asplund is an Application Support Specialist with 26 years at New Trier. She looks forward to working part time at her local Ace Hardware store because, in her words, "who doesn't love a good hardware store?" She recalls her most memorable moment at New Trier being 9/11. "It was scary and we were eager for information," Asplund said. "Staff and students gathered around to watch in silence as the now famous airplanes crashed into the Twin Towers. That day changed us all."

## Michael Baeb



After 30 years as a teacher, coach, and adviser, Michael Baeb is trading out his structured days for a more relaxed retirement. Baeb said, "I don't have anything really specific that I'm planning to do. My goal is to do whatever, whenever." He plans to take advantage of every opportunity that comes his way. While the excitement for his new phase of life is evident, he does expect to miss all of the people and experiences he's encountered through working at New Trier. Habitat for Humanity, traveling for athletics, and bonding with colleagues were just a few of his favorite memories. Thinking back on his years spent at New Trier, Baeb said, "In many ways this really has been a dream job."

## Kaye Boling



After 26 years of teaching Special Education, Kaye Boling has decided to retire. Boling has taught high school students for 34 years and expects to continue teaching as a long term substitute at Libertyville and Vernon Hills High School. After retiring from New Trier, Boling said she is looking forward to spending time with her family and her husband, Tom. "A highlight during my time at New Trier was making connections with my students," Boling said. "The other great highlight for me was to work with the most amazing and dedicated teachers I have ever known in my 34 years as a high school teacher. We've had a lot of laughs along the way."

## Gladys Bell



Campus Security Guard Gladys Bell has devoted 14 years to protecting New Trier students. Bell said she will miss her experience at New Trier, but above all, she will miss connecting with the students. "Just being in their presence, talking with them, and seeing their energy," Bell said, "it keeps you young and you want to help them." With her newly freed up schedule, she will be working on her garden as well as doing a fair share of traveling, including going on a wedding cruise with her family. Bell said she is grateful to have been given the opportunity to work at New Trier: "I'm so glad I came here and I always thank the friend who introduced me to this job."

## Susan Shneider



Susan Shneider, a long time French teacher at New Trier's Northfield campus, will be retiring at the end of this school year. Her favorite memory from her time working here was the time she spent with her students, whether that be planting the Petit Prince garden, sharing books that touch people's hearts, or listening to her playlist (cue "Dingue, dingue, dingue"). She will also miss the French class's *esprit de corps*, but she knows her students leave with *savoir-faire, joie de vivre*, and a little *je ne sais quoi*. However, she also has fun plans for retirement. "I'll watch the sunset, listen to the stars at night and 'waste' time with the ones I love," Shneider said. "I might even tame a fox or two."

## Randy Oberembt



Randy Oberembt has been working as the Athletic Director for nine years at New Trier, but has been involved in education for over 40 years. Oberembt worked closely with the Missions Statement Project, which creates student athlete surveys to better assist interscholastic programs inside of New Trier. He also aided in bringing turf fields to the Northfield campus. In 2015, Oberembt earned a Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois High School Association. Oberembt plans to stay in the Chicago area, watch more athletic events, and come back and visit the staff. The Assistant Athletic Director Deborah Ofcky said, "He has built a very strong legacy, just with the amount of lives that he has touched."

## Deborah Johnson



After 43 years, Social Studies Department Chair Deborah Johnson is saying goodbye to New Trier. Johnson said one of the most rewarding things about working at New Trier has been interacting with students as well as faculty members. "It's the inter-personal communications with people that I will miss," Johnson said. "It's a wonderful school community. There are a lot of interesting things to do and wonderful people to meet." Despite her admiration for her department, school, and coworkers, Johnson said, "It is time to go. There is a point when you have to say, 'Okay now I'm going to go do something else and live a different life.' That's why I tell people to appreciate it all now." Following her retirement, Johnson is looking forward to traveling, gardening, exploring Chicago, and "not having a regular schedule with bells."

## Steven Viktora



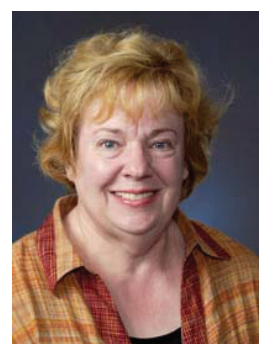
Steven Viktora has been the Math Department Chair for the last 25 years. Hired in 1991 directly to the position of Department Chair, he has helped to shape the Math Department into what it has become: a program that teaches students to value mathematics and become confident in their ability to solve problems. Viktora is soft-spoken but known for encouraging teachers to try new educational styles that provide a unique education to every student. Viktora and his wife Deborah Johnson, the Social Studies Department Chair, will retire together this year. To celebrate his accomplishments at New Trier, the math teachers wore matching shirts that pictured his face. It is a true testament to how respected he is by his colleagues. Viktora has no specific plans for retirement, but his impact will forever be a part of New Trier High School.

## Michael Hoss



After 40 years of service, Michael Hoss will be retiring from the Physical Plant Services. In the 2015-2016 school year, Hoss enjoyed moving trees from Woodland Avenue and watching the tech building finally be torn down. In all his time at New Trier, Hoss especially appreciated his time spent helping Robert Spagnoli and other students on the Quaker State Challenge, a high school competition to restore old cars within a budget. For the coming years, Hoss plans to travel, ride his Harley and spend more time with family and friends. For Hoss, New Trier has been more than just a work place. "My father started working here in 1960, along with many other of my family members," Hoss said. "My family has a total of 80 years at New Trier. I'm thankful for all of the teachers and coaches I've gotten to work with."

## Kathleen Flanigan



After teaching chemistry at New Trier for 23 years, Kathleen Flanigan has decided to retire. As an adviser and teacher, Flanigan has always been very impressed by the dedication and hard work from her students over the years. She has also seen many changes during her time at New Trier. "When I arrived in 1993, we did not have personal computers," Flanigan said. "We shared a phone line with other teachers and we never used the Internet at school. Cell phones and email were nonexistent." Flanigan has five grandchildren and is looking forward to spending more time with them while retired. She also has trips planned that she is anticipating upon leaving New Trier. However, she will be back as a sub for a geoscience class first semester next year.

## Correction

"The Learning Center helps students stay on track," published on Friday, April 29, listed only Nora Crumley in the byline. Both Nora Crumley and Beth Wall contributed to the article.