



## Former Gilbert Community School District Employees... *Where are they now?*

### **Leah Isbell**

HS Spanish: 2008-2010

I moved to Montreal, Canada with my husband in August 2010. It has been hard adjusting to not having family and friends close by but I have been enjoying exploring the city, visiting new places and learning about a different culture. In my immediate future I am planning on taking French classes.

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### **Tom Lornston**

HS Mathematics: 1972-2006

I retired from teaching high school mathematics at GHS in 2006, after spending 34 wonderful years here. Probably most are aware that Gilbert is the only school where I taught, beginning in 1972 right out of college. Since that time, I worked about two years for a business in Ames called Real Estate Service Group. They own or maintain rental properties in the Ames area, and the owner is a good friend of mine, Dean Jensen. I began as a "gofer" working in the summers the last 4 years I was still teaching, doing a number of assorted tasks. Eventually, I became their maintenance man, and I learned a tremendous number of things on the job, due to some excellent mentors (who were quite patient on my behalf!). When I retired, I continued working with them full time, and I thoroughly enjoyed the time there. Then about two years after that, my son Seth decided to strike out on his own as a home builder/remodeler. He asked me to join with him, and I have been doing that since. We have done a number of different projects in the area, and have not lacked for work at all. Seth is an outstanding carpenter, and I try to add my skills whenever possible.

For those who may be wondering, I still ride my bicycles whenever I can, but it's not very easy carrying tools to a job site on a bike, so my days of biking to work are pretty much over. Seth and his wife Sonya have a 2-year old daughter, Grace; and Amanda (my daughter) and her husband Jeremy Jennings have a 2-year old son, Jack, and an 8th month old daughter, Brooklyn. They all live in Gilbert, so we are blessed as grandparents to see them quite often.

I would be delighted to hear from any former students (or staff members for that matter). My e-mail address is lorntson@yahoo.com, and my cell phone is 515-291-6722.

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### **Rhonda Ostrem**

Business Education: 2001-2009

Since retirement I've been working half-time at a small printing/design company, PDG Printing, in Story City. I always liked teaching computer applications—and this part time position is that class all over again! In addition to that part time position, I have continued working for our family lawn care and mini-storage business, Service Unlimited, as the bookkeeper. I've maintained the four commercial cleaning jobs that I started during my teaching career.

I seem to stay very busy, but it's a different kind of busy. My work schedule is very flexible, which is good as our mothers' are requiring more care as they age. My children and grandchildren always play a major role in my plans!

I enjoyed my eight years at Gilbert High School. The students and staff hold a special place in my heart.

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**Dick Sternberg**

High School Guidance: 1979-2005

My wife, Jean, and I are into our sixth year of retirement and are really enjoying it. We spend a lot of time around the home reading and gardening. We now have time also to travel, which is convenient for letting us travel to the Iowa City area where our oldest daughter, Leatha, her husband Mark Arant, and five of our grandchildren reside. Also, last summer we traveled to Greece and Van, Turkey, where our youngest daughter Rachael, her husband Reed Wessman, and our two other grandkids are working in Eastern Turkey. I still drive bus in the morning and afternoon and enjoy my time at the bus barn solving all of the world's problems with Mr. Squiers, Mr. Kruckenberg and the other drivers.

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**Karen Staker**

HS English: 1964-1999

**Don Staker**

HS Science: 1967-1999

Since everybody is used to calling us that, I guess it's appropriate as our title. I can hardly believe we've been retired since the last century (1999). I use that term loosely as it's about full-time work keeping the yard mowed and the flower beds weeded all summer. Actually Don does that and Karen prefers to sit around and read the latest book. What's new?? Don remains on the substitute bus driver list every year so he has actually been a Gilbert staff member since 1967—how many years is that? Remember I was an English major, not math.

We spend one month working at the Iowa State Fair every summer in the campground. Don helps chart the reserved spots from year to year, and Karen takes the fees as people come through the gate. It's always hot, as you already know, and every year we say that's the last, but the following July there we are again. We work with the same people every year so it's fun to get to see the same faces every year.

Our son Jeff teaches at Roland-Story and his children go there too, so we've attended many softball, baseball, and football games. Who would have thought we'd be cheering for the Norsemen? It's different when they are the grandkids though. Craig's are still too little (4 and 2) but we spend as much time with them as we can too. He works full-time for the Iowa National Guard.

As winter approaches, we sympathize with your snow and ice as we relax at the pool after playing tennis all morning. Since the fall/winter of 2002, we've been spending our winters in a retirement community in Mesa, Arizona. We keep busy with all the activities during the day and evenings. Our favorites are dancing and competitive tennis. We compete with 15 other parks, playing doubles, obviously. The old knees wouldn't take singles! Players are rated, and stats are kept to be sure you're playing at the correct ability level. Who would have thought that MRS. Staker would be playing tennis instead of diagramming sentences! :)

Gilbert was a big part of our lives for many years, and we continue to think of the students, parents, and staff fondly.

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**David Squiers**

HS English, School Bus Driver, Athletic Director, Coach: 1973-2002

Since retiring eight years ago, Linda and I have continued to live most of the year in our home in Gilbert. During the summer months we do move to our cabin in northwest Minnesota to enjoy the lake, the fishing, and the cooler Minnesota climate. We enjoy the memories that our children and 18 grandchildren are creating when they come to visit and the peacefulness when we are there alone.

When in Gilbert, I still keep in touch with the Gilbert School District. I have driven a bus full-time the last eight years and am working as a substitute bus driver now. I enjoy the contact with old friends, and meeting new students is always refreshing: Gilbert students are the best!

Linda and I also enjoy traveling and have made trips to Rome, Hawaii, and Washington D.C. in the last few years. We hope to see a few more interesting places in the future. We also keep busy by swimming 4-5 days a week, reading, and visiting children and grandchildren. Life is good!