

Teacher handles changes

Classes go from typewriters to computers

By AMIE RITTER

From manual typewriters and stenographer notebooks to computers and the Internet, teacher Candy DeJmal has seen a lot of changes in her career.

Classes for office machines, secretarial office procedures, shorthand, and typing have been replaced with computer technology, awareness and accounting.

She grew up in Oberlin, the daughter of Dale and Eris Young, and graduated from Decatur Community High School. Her older brother Gary is an optometrist in Manhattan and her younger sister Terri teaches art here.

Mrs. DeJmal knew at a young age that she wanted to be a teacher.

"I decided I was going to be a teacher in the second grade when I was the teacher in the class play," she said. "To my knowledge, I never changed my mind."

"I was inspired by many teachers as I grew up in Oberlin. In fact, I have always been surrounded by educators who took an interest in me, had high expectations of me, and provided me with many opportunities to learn all that I could."

During junior high she began to do office tasks for her parents, who owned a construction business and later Dale's Fish 'N' Fun.

"I loved the work and took all the business classes offered during high school," she said. "When it came time for college, since I had always known I wanted to be a teacher, I put the two interests together and decided to become a business teacher."

She graduated from Fort Hays State University and has a bachelors and a masters degree in business education. She began her teaching career as an instructor at Colby Community College.

"I was very fortunate to start my teaching career at Colby," she said. "The mentors I worked with, Grace Mary Melvin and Karen Flanagan, served as good models for me in my professional growth."

At Colby she taught office assimilation, business communication, office machines and secretarial office procedures.

She married Joe DeJmal, and they moved to Mahaska, where Joe owned and operated a custom harvest business. Mrs. DeJmal taught business at Fairbury High School in Nebraska, a daily commute of nearly 20 miles, and taught there for 11 years. Both of her children, Ryan



CANDY DEJMAL, business and computer teacher at Decatur Community Junior/Senior High School, looked over Seth Ritter's computer project during class.

and Trena, were born in Fairbury.

"During this time, I was again surrounded by excellent teachers," she said. "All these experiences built a good foundation for what I stand for as an educator and my love for helping my students become the best they can be."

In 1983 the Dejimals moved to Oberlin to join her family's business, and a few years after that she started teaching at the high school in the at-risk program with Oran Milner.

"He was a very dedicated educator, and I learned so much as we worked together in the program he developed for our school district," she said. "I have a lot of respect for Mr. Milner, and he became an inspiration to me as he helped students succeed in the classroom."

After Mr. Milner retired, Mrs. DeJmal continued with the at-risk program for six years and then an opening came up in the business department. She's been teaching computers and technology ever since.

"I enjoy all my classes," said Mrs. DeJmal. "I teach grades 8-12 and get a lot of variety with the constant changes always taking place with technology. I started teaching with manual typewriters in a class of 37 students. I've taught from manual typewriters to electric typewriters to computers and the Internet," said Mrs. DeJmal. "I've been through generations of technologies."

Now she teaches in two vocational programs: business and computer technology, with classes such as computer awareness, computer applications, and accounting; and

communications technology, which includes television communications.

"Being a business and computer teacher, it seems like changes occur on a daily basis," she said. "When I first began teaching, I was the presenter for each lesson. With technology present in the classroom, my role as a teacher has changed more to that of a facilitator."

"Today's students are talented and love all areas of technology," she continued. They are creative thinkers, good problem solvers, and like to work both independently and in groups, getting the most out of the software and hardware available to them."

Mrs. DeJmal is also the vocational coordinator for the district and is the Colby Community College Outreach coordinator in Oberlin. She teaches business and computer outreach courses for the college.

She is the National Honor Society advisor and a junior class sponsor.

"My favorite part of NHS is the service projects we do for both the school and community," she said. "We have worked hard throughout the past few years to instill in the NHS members the importance of service to others. Hopefully, this NHS ideal will continue to be important to the members as they continue beyond high school."

Teaching is a family affair. Not only are she and her sister teachers, but so are her daughter, Trena Miller, and nephew, Tucker Woolsey. Trena is a first-grade teacher at Windy Hills Elementary School in Kearney, and Tucker is the principal at Quinter High School.

"I enjoy teaching with my sister," said Mrs. DeJmal. "Because she is so creative and artistic, I depend on her for ideas and suggestions in both classroom and NHS projects."

Mrs. DeJmal also got to teach with her nephew. Tucker's first teaching job was teaching computers in Oberlin after Sharon Addleman retired.

"That was a special year for me," said Mrs. DeJmal.

Daughter Trena now lives in Elm Creek, Neb., with her husband, Robert, who works for Dawson Public Power in Lexington. They are expecting their first baby at the end of May.

The DeJmal's son, Ryan, lives in Shawnee. He is a design engineer for Garmin Ltd. He and his wife Christy, a nurse practitioner, have a 10-month-old son, Evan.

When she's not at school or doing the books for Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Mrs. DeJmal enjoys spending time on the computer and with her family.

"When my husband and I made our decision to move to Oberlin to join my family's business, we knew our children would be educated in an excellent school system," she said. "I was happy to become a part of the teaching staff and have a lot of pride and respect for all the positive education that takes place at our schools. We have good students, and we are so fortunate to live in a community that supports these schools."

"I am proud to say that I returned to teach at my alma mater, a school where pride in education is a tradition."



By the DCBS Dictator Staff

Speech team takes third place

By KAITLYN GILLESPIE

The Oberlin speech team placed third out of 16 teams at the Dighton speech tournament on April 16.

Placing first in extemporaneous speaking was Aaron Helm. Chenaniah Langness came in fourth.

Annamarie Larue also placed fourth in informative speaking, followed by Katrina Wentz in fifth place.

Rory Wendelin placed sixth in humorous solo acting.

Other Oberlin students competing were the improvised duet acting teams of Rory Wendelin and Jenny Hirsch, Ethan Merrill and Cameron Nedland, and Jenny and Heather Ploussard; and the duet teams of Amber Mason and Cameron Ned-

land, Jacinta Carter and Chenaniah, and Jenny Hirsch and Tricia Dorshorst.

Competing in oration were Aaron Helm and Farra McChesney, Emma Merrill, Makenzie Nelson, and Sarah Russ competed in poetry, and Amber Mason and Haley Barrett competed in prose.

Tricia Dorshorst and Katrina Wentz competed in serious solo acting, and Ethan Merrill competed in humorous solo acting.

"Our team was a little tired and not quite up to the task at hand on this day," said Coach Leigh Davis. "This tournament was run very differently from others we attended, and it presented new challenges."

Kayettes to hold banquet on Thursday

By MARCIMETCALF

Kayettes will be hosting a banquet on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Decatur Community High cafeteria. Everyone who comes is asked to bring a dish for the potluck meal.

This is the first time Kayettes have had a banquet in quite some time. At

the banquet, awards will be given for highest points and involvement throughout the year. The 2007-2008 officers will also be installed.

Anyone who would like to come is invited. Kayettes, please invite friends and family to make this a great time.

School Menus

April 30-May 4
OBERLIN SCHOOLS

Monday: Breakfast: pancake sausage on a stick. Lunch: potato bar, chicken nuggets, dinner roll.
Tuesday: Breakfast: waffle, ham patty. Lunch: burrito, corn.
Wednesday: Breakfast: breakfast burrito. Lunch: hamburger, French

fries. **Thursday:** Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: Little Smokies, au gratin potatoes. **Friday:** Breakfast: cherry or apple turnover. Lunch: pizza, green beans. Juice and fruit served with breakfast. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.

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