

FOND Farewell



Eugene VandenBoss

Professor Eugene VandenBoss retired from the mathematics department after 35 years at Adrian College.

VandenBoss' favorite math classes were linear algebra and foundations of mathematics, which introduces number theory and Wilder's notes on the linear continuum. In addition to math, he also taught computers. He began teaching programming in 1970, and has followed the progression of the PC-type computer since its inception.

"Gene was a very interactive professor with a unique perspective and challenging teaching style," **Mike Duffy '82** said. "He pushed me to do my best, and beyond.

"It was always enjoyable to see Gene fire a piece of chalk or an eraser across the room because of a wrong answer."

VandenBoss earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree and doctoral degree from Michigan State University.

In addition to the classroom, VandenBoss has served on almost every major committee at Adrian College, and has pursued an interest in photography both on and off campus.

VandenBoss says he'll take his retirement one step at a time, but he wants to do some traveling, including to the area of Oregon where he grew up. He'd like to set up a TI-99 and Apple II lab in his basement, and follow his interests in editing and burning videos on DVDs, and using digital cameras.

Wilnella Bush

Wilnella Bush is retiring after working for over 31 years in the music department.

Bush started as an accompanist at the College. She has been teaching music theory and keyboard (piano and organ) since 1973, and has served as the chapel organist.

English Chair Cindy Bily took her first piano lesson from Bush about 15 years ago.

"It's been such a privilege to work with Wilnella all these years. I've learned so much from her—about the piano, of course, but about how to coach my students without making them feel small, about how to motivate them, even about how to scold them," Bily said. "I think I'm a better pianist thanks to her, and I know I'm a better teacher thanks to her fine example. I'm going to miss her so much."

Bush received her musical training from the University of Michigan, including a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and a specialist in music degree.

She taught vocal music in the public schools for 13 years, and has served as organist and choir director at Tecumseh United Methodist Church for many years. She has also served as accompanist of the Lenawee Community Chorus.

In her retirement, Bush plans to continue her work at her church, and looks forward to spending time with twin granddaughters, ages 1. She also plans to practice the organ more, learn some new music, and enjoy free time with her husband.



George Shirk

George Shirk, chair of the teacher education department, is retiring after five years at Adrian College. Before coming to AC, he retired from 27 years in the teacher education department at the University of Toledo. Before that, he taught chemistry and math in Illinois, at both a community college and in the public schools.

Shirk earned a bachelor's degree from Augustana College (Ill.), a master's in teaching degree from the University of the South (Tenn.), and a doctorate from the University of Illinois.

In his retirement, he'd like to travel, pursue his interest in genealogy, and go back to teaching math.