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Academy 'ohana bids aloha to valued educators

Amid the flourish to complete academic commitments and attend culminating activities marking the movements of students to the next step on their educational path, there moves another important current – the upcoming, milestone "graduation," of sorts, of four valued, long-time Academy educators.

These esteemed members will begin to embark on the next step on their life's path – retirement – with the formal closing of this school year on May 22.

What makes this group of retiring educators unique is not just their collective years of service on campus – 168 when added together – but that it includes **Head of School Betty White**, **Director of Admissions Karen Muramoto** and teachers **Gaylen Isaacs** and **Lynn Fonseca**, mainstays of the **English** and **Theology Departments**, respectively.

To honor and thank these educators, a formal "**Celebration of Careers**" is slated for May 18 at the Ala Moana Hotel, with over 350 colleagues, parents and students, past and present, among the list of attendees.

White and Muramoto will continue their school tenures through July, and Fonseca will teach her final class during the school's six-week **Summer Programs** session.

Isaacs' final instructional day coincides with her students, May 22.

While the Academy campus will feel a bit different in the fall, the school 'ohana remains a far better place because these four have graced its hallways.

Some of their reflections and insights on their careers are featured on the following pages.

Retiring educators
Karen Muramoto,
Lynn Fonseca,
Betty White and
Gaylen Isaacs

the
Celebration
of careers



reflections

▶ **BETTY** *white*

From the Head of School

CELEBRATING SERVICE TO SCHOOL



At the Academy's final Mass this morning, three Jubilarians celebrating record numbers of years in religious life were celebrated – (above) Sr. Anne Clare DeCosta, principal of Saint Patrick's School, 50 years; Fr. Chris Keahi, one of the most respected and loved celebrants, 60 years; and Sr. Katherine Francis Miller, our Campus Minister, 60 years.

As another school year concludes, we joyously recognize the administrators, teachers and support staff that are committed to carrying out the mission of the Academy – developing, inspiring and guiding our students to become their best selves. This group is dedicated to girls' education, and their work has deep value and influence on current and future generations.

Teachers have one of the most challenging and fulfilling jobs - literally shaping and changing lives. If you are a teacher, or have one in your family, you know the long hours and hard work that go into designing lessons, guiding students, engaging with parents and families, reflecting on instruction and staying abreast of research and current trends. But, much of the work of a teacher is intangible – fostering that almost indescribable spark between themselves and their students.

As the year culminates, encourage your daughters to send thank you notes to their dedicated Academy educators.

Betty White

▶ TAKING PATH TO CAMPUS

Began first teaching stint at the Academy in August 1971, filling in for an educator on maternity leave – has been here ever since!

▶ CULTIVATING YOUNG – AND OLDER – MINDS

Over the course of her career in the classroom, has taught almost all areas of Social Studies, even Hawaiian History, but “professes” to have been the most adept at covering American Government and United States History. Later, moved into administrative roles as High School vice principal, principal and, lastly, Head of School where she has continued “cultivating” colleagues and students alike.

▶ FORGING SUCCESS STORIES

“REFLECTING ON MY CAREER, I AM MOST PROUD OF MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY FORMER STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE GRANDMOTHERS AND MANY WHO HAVE, THEMSELVES, RETIRED!”

▶ MOVING TO NEXT STEP

Plans to spend future free days catching up on sleep, exercising, traveling with her also-recently-retired husband, cooking and watching television and reading books just for enjoyment!

▶ CHANGING TIMES

“I WILL MISS EVERYTHING – GETTING PREPARED FOR WORK, DOING MY OWN HOMEWORK, THE PEOPLE, STUDENTS AND EVEN MY OFFICE!”



reflections

KAREN *muramoto*

▶ **TAKING PATH TO CAMPUS**

Was teaching at Saint Theresa School when “buddy,” **Lurline Choy**, informed her of Academy opening in July 1970, and she has – along with Choy – been here since!

▶ **CULTIVATING YOUNG MINDS**

Taught first and second graders when there were 30-plus students per class before moving to the Junior High and High School level.

In addition to teaching, has worn “many hats,” including as dean of Lower School, as a High School division advisor and, currently, director of Admissions.

▶ **FORGING SUCCESS STORIES**

“AS A TEACHER AND DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS, MY PROUDEST MOMENTS ARE WATCHING MY STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMAS AT GRADUATION AND THINKING ‘MAYBE I MADE A DIFFERENCE!’”

▶ **MOVING TO NEXT STEP**

Her biggest plans for the future entail traveling with her two grandsons and just being a more active part of their lives – including taking on drop-off and pickup duties!

▶ **CHANGING TIMES**

“I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED AS AN ACADEMY MEMBER WHO TRULY CARED ABOUT EACH FAMILY. I WILL MISS BEING AROUND PEOPLE AND BEING PART OF A COMMUNITY THAT CARES!”



reflections

GAYLEN *isaacs*

▶ **TAKING PATH TO CAMPUS**

Was looking to utilize degree in French after years of study, travel and living abroad. She applied at the Academy in August 1973.

▶ **CULTIVATING YOUNG MINDS**

Guided Junior High and High School students in all areas of Language study, including French, Spanish, Japanese and English. Also served as Language Department chair, senior class advisor and even taught computer classes to grades one to three!

▶ **FORGING SUCCESS STORIES**

“MY PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT HAS BEEN GUIDING STUDENTS WHO WANTED TO LEARN FRENCH AND HAVING A FEW WHO EMBRACED THE LANGUAGE AND PURSUED ITS STUDY IN COLLEGE. ONE OF MY STUDENTS EVEN EARNED A DOCTORATE IN THE LANGUAGE!”

▶ **INVOKING FOND MEMORIES**

Wants to be remembered by members of the school community as someone who is honest, intelligent and “knew my stuff!”

▶ **MOVING TO NEXT STEP**

Will travel frequently to visit two granddaughters in Arizona, work on cultivating her yard, take up craft-making again and audit classes at Leeward Community College.

▶ **LOOKING AHEAD**

“I AM EAGERLY ANTICIPATING NOT HAVING A SCHEDULE, DRIVING IN RUSH HOUR BOTH WAYS AND EATING MEALS ONLY BETWEEN CLASSES! I CAN NOW DO ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING ON A WHIM!”



reflections

LYNN *fonseca*

▶ **TAKING PATH TO CAMPUS**

Responded to an ad and started Academy tenure as the Lower School secretary in September 1994; served in this capacity for eight years

▶ **CULTIVATING YOUNG MINDS**

Transitioned to the High School Theology Department to teach eighth and tenth grade faith classes and World Religions for seniors.

▶ **FORGING SUCCESS STORIES**

"MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE APPLYING MY MASTER'S DEGREES AND PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FAITH AND CATHOLIC VALUES IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF MY STUDENTS WHO ARE THE FUTURE LEADERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD!"

▶ **MOVING TO NEXT STEP**

Will be moving with daughter and son-in-law to Houston, Texas. Here, has plans to "give back" through volunteer stints and, hopes if blessed with grandchildren, to be able to "dote" on them as a fulltime "grandma."

▶ **CHANGING TIMES**

"I WILL MISS MY DEPARTMENT AND CLOSE FRIENDS IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY THAT I SEE EACH DAY. I ALSO WILL GREATLY MISS THE ENERGETIC STUDENTS WHO KEEP ME YOUNG AND 'ON MY TOES' EACH AND EVERY DAY!"



Athletic accomplishments recognized at Convocation

Two-hundred-forty-six of the Academy's student-athletes in grades seven to 12 were honored for their competitive accomplishments at the **Athletic Convocation** on May 9 in the Gymnasium. These athletes participated in 13 different **Interscholastic League of Honolulu** sports.

Highlights of the event included a keynote address by soccer standout **Alexis Schmidt** (below left with **Robert Schmidt, Janel Schmidt and Cole Schmidt**), awarding of the **Outstanding Senior Athlete Award** to **Rebecca Meyer** (below right with **padding Coach Elizabeth Loo**) and

presentation of the **Young's Scholar-Athlete Award** to riflery athlete **Clarissa De Smet** (bottom with **Registrar Cyril Pires**).

