

Second class of hall-of-fame educators made UA first class

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The Upper Arlington Educators Hall of Fame's second class was honored during the Monday, Oct. 8, school board meeting.

Upper Arlington High School Principal Kip Greenhill started the program, with help from high school employees, in 2005.

"It's something the high school faculty does to recognize those who helped make the high school the special place it is," Greenhill said.

The class of 2007 is made up of James Allen, Shirley Behnke, Walter Heischman, Ellis Lutz, David Shelby and Pat Stewart.

A reception for the inductees was held before the Oct. 8 meeting. Each inductee or respective family member was given a plaque and recognized at the beginning of the board meeting.

Allen was a UAHS teacher who was key to developing writing programs at the school, Greenhill said.

"He is a true education visionary," Greenhill said.

After receiving his plaque, Allen said, "My passion has always been to upgrade and make sure the Upper Arlington community is as good as it could be."

Greenhill introduced Shelby as "a longtime mentor to me for more than 20 years. He is a true people person."

Shelby served in a variety of capacities in the school district, from physical education teacher to UAHS principal.

"This is truly a privilege, very seriously so," Shelby said.

"All I can say is it is a great privilege to have worked in Upper Arlington."

Stewart was a social studies teacher and assistant principal at the high school.

"I am thrilled and so very, very honored," she said.

"I think I'm mostly humbled to have worked with such wonderful, wonderful people."

Greenhill said Stewart was the first female administrator in Central Ohio.

"The thing I'll always remember is her true love and passion for students," he said.

Awards for Behnke, Heischman and Lutz were given posthumously, with family members accepting on their behalf.

Behnke was named state Journalism Teacher of the Year during her tenure in the district.

Greenhill said the journalism teacher laid the foundation for the high school's award-winning newspaper.

"She would have been proud of this accomplishment," said her son, Doug Behnke.

"I believe the world is just a little bit better for her having been here."

Heischman spent 40 years serving UA schools, first as a science teacher, then as superintendent.

Maggie Spero, who accepted the award on Heischman's behalf, said "he did this because he wanted to. You don't do something for 40 years if you don't love it."

Greenhill said Lutz was an innovative English teacher who was seen as a bridge builder.

"I feel honored to represent Ellis' family," said his brother, Benis Lutz.

"He was 16 years older and was a model for me. He inspired me to go into education."