

**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT  
Retiree Class of 2007**

**Roger Behrens – 27.6 Years**



After twenty-seven years of teaching students in need of special education, Roger Behrens has decided it is time to retire. He does so, however, after having provided hundreds of Torrington students with years of support, guidance and quality instruction. Roger first joined Torrington Public Schools in 1980, when he accepted a teaching position at the Southeast Alternative School. He remained at Southeast School until 2001, when the alternative program was relocated to Torrington High School. Since that time, Roger has continued his work of addressing the educational and social and emotional needs of his students with disabilities.

Roger Behrens has focused his teaching career on those students for whom the traditional education program has not worked. His devotion to his students and his passion to provide them the types of instruction they require have served as a standard for all of us.

**Sheila Conlin – 31.5 Years**

Sheila Conlin began her journey in education when she attended Central Connecticut State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. Sheila continued her studies after a few years by returning to Central Connecticut State University to pursue a Master of Science degree in the field of mathematics. Sheila also received her sixth year degree in Administration and Supervision from Central University.

Sheila's first teaching position in Torrington Public Schools began in 1975 at the Riverside School. In 1979 Sheila moved into the role of Math Consultant at the North School. Since that time, she has continued to provide advice and support to teachers in the area of mathematics throughout the elementary programs. During her years of service in Torrington Public Schools, Sheila Conlin has received multiple honors and recognitions. Included among such honors are the following:

- State of CT Presidential Elementary Mathematics Award for Excellence
- Special Invitee to Washington D.C. National Academy of Math and Science as member of the Mathematics Assessment Sub Committee for the National Research Council, National Science Foundation, and Exxon Mobil Foundation Symposium
- Three (3) State of CT Celebration of Excellence Mathematics Awards
- Who's Who in American Education
- Who's Who in Cambridge Executive and Professional Registry

Picture Not Available

**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT**  
**Retiree Class of 2007**

As Sheila prepares to leave Torrington Schools, she leaves us with the following words:

*So many memories come to mind including: teaching at 5 schools every day the second year I was in Torrington; the district-wide Grade K-5 Math Fairs; Math Curriculum Writing; 100<sup>th</sup> day celebrations; individual student math diagnostic assessments; district parent math workshops; children's literature and math concept lessons; Grade 5 business and math partnerships; the high school/elementary student math tutor program, and let's not forget all that went with the CMT's! Over the 32 years, I was able to work with wonderful students, teachers, parents and administrators to build mathematics learning and excellence in Torrington.*

*Speaking mathematically, life unfolds in many shapes and forms. People and situations come at us from many different angles. I believe you can maintain your balance by focusing on the multitude of caring and intelligent friends, family, colleagues, and acquaintances, surrounding us daily. My hope is that over the years I have shared and helped build mathematics knowledge and strategies to enable everyone in some small measure to bring their own problems down to size.*

And finally, to every mathematician out there – I wish you only the best. Remember to keep your spirit strong and in the end kindness does matter. To infinity and beyond...

### **Hartley “Bud” Connell – 33 years**



Bud Connell began his professional training at Aurora College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree. Bud served in the U.S. Army for two years from 1970 to 1972. Following his tour of military duty, Bud completed his student teaching at the J.B. Nelson School in Illinois. In 1974, Bud accepted a sixth grade teacher position in Torrington at the Southeast School. Between 1978 and 1987, Bud taught grades five and six at East School. Bud's next move was to Vogel-Wetmore School in 1987 and then onto Torrington Middle School in 1994, where he has continued his teaching career up to the present time.

During his years in education, Bud has enjoyed coaching basketball and softball as well as running various student clubs in chess and rocketry.

In recognition for his quality instruction, Bud received the Teacher of English Excellence Award.

As Bud prepares to end his years of teaching in Torrington Public Schools, we wish him the very best and thank him for all that he has done for our students.

**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT  
Retiree Class of 2007**

**Theresa Doyle – 39 Years**



Theresa Doyle, or Terry to those who know her, has devoted thirty-seven years of her life to providing a quality education to our students at Torrington High School. Terry began her preparation for a career in education by attending the University of Connecticut, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education. Wishing to continue her studies at the graduate level, Terry next enrolled in the Master's program at the University of Connecticut. A year later in 1968, Terry received her Master of Education degree in English Education from the University of Connecticut.

With her degrees in hand, Terry set out to secure her first teaching position. Torrington Public Schools was wise enough to hire this young lady in the fall of 1968 and place her at Torrington High School. Terry surely must have found a home at Torrington High School because she has remained there as an English teacher ever since.

Terry Doyle has demonstrated herself to be a truly devoted teacher and a quality professional in many ways. I am sure many of her students have Terry to thank for their own success in school.

As she prepares to leave Torrington High School, Terry leaves us with these words:

*My memories are my students' scholarships and affection. I have been blessed to pursue an Avocation as a career. The moments of intellectual epiphany are my favorite times.*

*Torrington has served me well. Thank you.*

**Susanne Funchion – 14.6 Years**

Susanne Funchion joined Torrington Public Schools in January 1993 as a Social Worker at Torrington High School. Prior to her move to Torrington, Susanne worked as a Social Worker with the public schools in Wethersfield, Connecticut, from 1983 to 1993. In addition to her experience in public schools, Susanne also served as a Medical Social Worker with the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association, as a Social Worker for Catholic Social Services in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and as a Psychiatric Social Worker for the Southern Home for Children, also in Philadelphia.

Susanne's career preparation began at Smith College, where she completed her undergraduate studies. She continued her



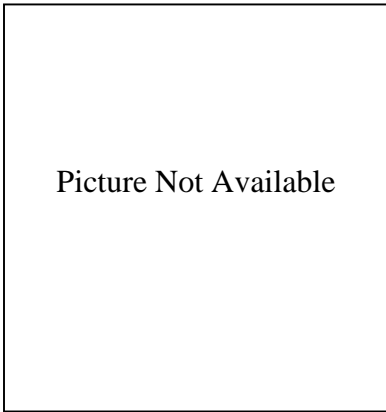
**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT**  
**Retiree Class of 2007**

education to become a Social Worker at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, where she earned her Master of Arts degree.

As one can see from Susanne's work experience, Torrington hired a very skilled and experienced individual when we offered her a position. Susanne has provided Torrington students fourteen years of devoted care and support. Her work with many of our most needy students is measured by the hundreds of problems she has been able to resolve with many happy endings for them.

Susanne, you will be missed.

**Ann Gensch – 33 Years**



Ann Gensch, a graduate of Torrington High School, class of 1969 attended the Torrington Branch of the University of Connecticut between 1969 and 1972. Ann then moved on to Central Connecticut State University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education in 1974. Over the years, Ann has continued her formal education through graduate level studies at Central Connecticut State University.

When Ann first began her life as a teacher, it was in her hometown of Torrington. In 1974, Ann joined the Forbes School faculty as a first grade teacher. She remained at Forbes until 1984 when she transferred to Vogel School to teach Language Arts. When the Vogel School program became Torrington Middle School in 1995, Ann moved into her new home at Torrington Middle School. She has continued for the past 12 years to educate students in Language Arts.

We thank you Ann for all of your years of devoted service to Torrington Public Schools.

**Beth Gozdeck – 31 years**

After thirty years of service to the students of Torrington Public Schools, Beth has decided it is time to retire and spend more time at the beach. She leaves us, however, after having provided hundreds of students with years of devoted guidance and assistance.

Beth began her career in Torrington as a school psychologist in 1976 at the elementary level. The following year she moved up to Torrington High School, where she continued in her role as school psychologist until 1985. At that time, Beth took on a new role as she moved into the position of guidance counselor at Torrington High School, where she has continued her work ever since.



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT  
Retiree Class of 2007**

Beth received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Connecticut in 1973 and then went on to earn a Master's degree, also from UCONN, in 1976.

As Beth prepares to bring her years in education to a close, she shares the following words with us:

*I have too many warm and wonderful memories to list. Torrington was my first job in education and it became my home and community in which to raise my own child. The faculty of Torrington High School has been my family and I am honored to have worked in such a vibrant, dynamic environment.*

**Gary Lambour – 17 Years**

Seventeen years ago, in 1990, Gary Lambour joined the Torrington Public Schools as a Special Education Supervisor in charge of the Southeast Alternative School. In 1993, Gary's role changed when he moved to Torrington High School to take on the role of Assistant Principal. After six years, Gary asked Dr. Shine if he might have an opportunity to work at Torrington Middle School and was granted his transfer request. Gary's stay at Torrington Middle School was cut short after one year, when he was selected for the position he currently holds, Director of Human Resources. Prior to his work in Torrington, Gary held a number of positions, including the following:



Special Education Teacher Pittsburgh Public Schools	1968-1971
Principal Lafayette School Philadelphia, PA	1971-1973
Assistant Professor University of Maryland	1975-1976
Assistant Professor John Hopkins University	1977-1980
U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC	1977-1986
Connecticut State Department of Education	1986-1987
Assistant Professor The University of Connecticut	1987-1990

Gary's formal education at the undergraduate level was at St. Francis University in Pennsylvania. He earned his Master of Education degree from the University of Pittsburgh and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

Gary shares his thoughts with us as he prepares to move on to his next adventure in life:

**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT**  
**Retiree Class of 2007**

Seventeen years ago I took a job in Torrington not knowing exactly what to expect. Seventeen years later I found out more than one could ask for. More specifically, I found a community of caring people who hold education in high regard. I found educators who take pride in their work and offer their all to the children they serve. I found children who were looking for answers with a real desire to learn.

*Mostly, I found a home away from home, a town and a school system where I was made welcome, and where I have gained friendships that I will value the rest of my life.*

**Irene Landry – 11 Years**



With the start of school in the fall of 1997, Irene Landry joined the Torrington High School faculty as a school guidance counselor. Irene brought with her a rich background of teaching and counseling experiences. She originally began her career in education as an elementary school teacher in Thomaston, where she taught kindergarten and first grade (1970 – 1977). In 1977, Irene made a major change in her teaching career and taught in the Netherlands for four years and in Malaysia for two more years. Having seen some far parts of the world, Irene returned to Connecticut to accept an elementary teaching position in Woodbury (1985 – 1987). Irene gained experience in school counseling when she worked at Brookfield High School as a school guidance counselor (1988 – 1997).

Irene's formal training in education began at Central Connecticut University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1969. Irene continued at Central for an additional year, during which time she acquired her teaching certification. In 1981, Irene was awarded a Master of Science degree in counseling from Southern Connecticut State University.

We wish Irene the best in her retirement and thank her for her years of faithful service to the students of Torrington High School.

**Hector Migliacci – 4 Years with Torrington  
Public Schools  
42 Years in Education**

Born in Naples, Italy, one of ten children, Hector graduated from Naples High School in 1957. The following year he attended the University of Naples while at the same time playing semi-professional soccer. In



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT**  
**Retiree Class of 2007**

1959, he entered the United States under a student visa and commenced work on a B.A. Degree in Special Studies-Modern Languages and Theology at Barrington College in Rhode Island. He received his degree in 1964.

After teaching in a Christian school in Fall River, MA for one year, Hector joined the Connecticut Council of Churches as their chaplain, remaining there for one year.

From 1966 to 1987 he was a teacher/counselor at Connecticut Junior Republic, a residential facility for adjudicated youth. Hector became the administrator of the day school program and was also the coach of the soccer program. During this time he taught Italian and French at Northwestern Community College (1982-1985) as well. Of special note, Hector is fluent in English, Italian, Spanish and French, with six years of Latin training in his background.

Hector joined Torrington Public Schools in 2003 as a teacher at Southeast School. In 2004, Hector joined the Torrington High School Special Education faculty when the Southeast program was relocated.

**Patricia Nimchek – 15 years**



Patricia Nimchek, a graduate of Terryville High School, enrolled at Central Connecticut State University in 1965 where she majored in Elementary Education. Having then received her Bachelor of Science degree and teaching certificate in 1969, Patricia began her first teacher position at the Branchville School in Ridgefield, Connecticut where she taught second grade. Patricia moved on to Ann Antolini School in New Hartford in 1989 where she became a teacher of the gifted and talented for the next three years. Then in 1992, Patricia arrived at Forbes School in Torrington where she has made her home ever since. Since joining the Forbes faculty, Patricia taught second grade for thirteen years. During this current year she has served in the role of Literacy Coach at Forbes School.

When asked to comment on her career, Patricia leaves us with these words:

*As teacher at Forbes School, I spent thirteen of my years on the third floor in second grade. There was no ladies' room in that wing, and no copier. In the warm weather, there was intense heat and no screens. Bees and wasps would fly in many times a day disrupting lessons and causing genera chaos. I kept flyswatters in two locations to handle the situation and brought in fans. If you're a teacher, you manage.*

**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT**  
**Retiree Class of 2007**

*But, it isn't the facilities or amenities that I will carry in my heart from Forbes. It is the people I have been blessed to know. In fifteen years I have come to know and love so many wonderful souls that I would not have otherwise known. There were hundreds of children and parents, and wonderful colleagues and friends. I often meet folks I've known around town and we are happy to see each other again. I am proud when I see one of my students on a team, or in a play or concert. I look for names on the graduation page and know that I was a small part of their lives.*

*Teaching is a hard job. There are problems that can be fixed easily and problems that no band-aid or wet paper towel can fix. I can't even begin to recount the stories except to say there were stories of people's lives that warmed my heart and stories that broke my heart. Those stories brought our Forbes family closer than ever.*

*I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been a teacher at Forbes School. I am sad at the thought of leaving but have to admit, that for our family at this time, it is the right thing to do.*

**Terri Reichen – 35 Years**

Terri Reichen graduated from Torrington High in 1968. She took her first step towards becoming a teacher when she entered Central Connecticut State University. Four short years later, in 1972, Terri was awarded her Bachelor Degree from Central in Elementary Education. With her degree and teaching certificate in hand, Terri returned home to Torrington where she accepted a third grade teaching position at Southeast School. In 1978, after six years, Terri moved up the hill in Torrington to East School. Terri continued to teach third grade up through the present time.



When Terri was asked for her thoughts regarding her years in Torrington, she offered the following comments:

I have known since I was in Marie Gervasini's second grade class that I wanted to be a teacher. My dream came true when Mr. Hogan called me at Central Connecticut State College and told me there was an opening at Southeast School – no nerve-racking interview. I stayed at Southeast School until there was an opening for me at the new East School. I loved the community on Oak Avenue, but East was closer to home – about three minutes. I was blessed with wonderful principals who always treated me as a professional and supported my ideas.

In 35 years I have been on all kinds of committees – Language Arts Curriculum, Math Curriculum, Science, Social Studies, creating units on Torrington and Connecticut, Health, Metrics, Report Cards, TEA, East Leadership and more. I loved to organize anything that brought our school together – having fun and learning without even realizing it. Although I find it harder to remember all of my students as they get older, I can picture their 8 year old, innocent,

**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT**  
**Retiree Class of 2007**

excited faces. I have been blessed to work with some wonderful people and will truly miss all of my grade partners.

**Suzanne Tocci 28.5 Years**

Suzanne Tocci was born and raised in New York City. When she moved to Connecticut in 1972, she entered Northwestern Community College, where she majored in Liberal Arts and Science. Following her studies at Northwestern, Suzanne enrolled at Central Connecticut State University to pursue a career in Special Education. Four years later Suzanne received her Bachelor of Science degree from Central. In the graduate program at Central Connecticut State University, she continued her work in Elementary and Special Education and received her Master of Science degree in 1977.



Now highly educated and certified to teach Special Education, Suzanne accepted her first position in Torrington Public Schools in 1979. For the first twelve years of her career, she taught Special Education classes at Southwest School, Wetmore, and Forest Court Schools. In 1991, Suzanne became an elementary Assistant Principal at Forbes and Tarringford Schools. In 1995, she accepted a Central Office position as a Special Education Supervisor and continued in this role up to the present.

Suzanne, who is known by all for her kind heart and warm smile, has made a lasting and extensive contribution to the development and delivery of educational services to hundreds of our students with special learning needs. Thank you, Suzanne.

**Victor Voss – 38 Years**

Vic Voss entered Torrington High School in the Fall of 1968 as an English teacher. He truly must have enjoyed his work at the high school since he remained there for thirty-eight years. We are recognizing Mr. Voss tonight for all his years of service to the students at THS and for all the years of friendship and professionalism that he shared with his fellow teachers and administrators.



While Vic actually retired from Torrington Public Schools late last Spring, he missed being recognized by us at that time. We want Vic to know tonight just how much we appreciate all he has done for Torrington Public Schools.