

Q= Katie Hortenstine
A= Lynn Shrauger

Hello, this is Katie Hortenstine, it is February 17, 2006 and I am here for an interview

My name is Lynn Shrauger and I am a teacher here at HilHi. I have been teaching here since 1975.

Q: What brought you here to HilHi?

A: It was one of several job offers I got when I graduated from college in 1975 and I decided to come here because I thought the rest of them were in small farming communities in Washington where I am from and I thought that this offered more for me. I was young, single so I thought a bigger city would be a better job choice. I moved down here with 23 plants, some Goodwill furniture and a yellow truck.

Q: What did you start teaching?

A: Wow, I think when I started, when you are the new kid on the block you get what nobody else wants to teach, so I was given I think I had three or four preps, writing classes for which there were no books and I think I had a mini-ethnic literature class that had been a primary area of study for me in college was black and Jewish literature so that I felt comfortable with. We had little mini classes then, sort of they didn't last a long time. If I remember correctly they were little mini classes. So, it was overwhelming.

Q: What do you see has been the biggest difference, like over the years you have been teaching the biggest difference between the types of classes that have been taught here?

A: What do you mean by type?

Q: Caliber, the type of, like for instance we have IB, have there been different types of classes like literature versus writing ?

A: You could divide that into first there are fewer opportunities now for kids. Back then the elective program here was really really rich. For instance now in lets go to Home Economics and I am sure it's called Food, Nutrition something else now, but in those days it was called Home Economics. Not only did they have the preschool which they have now, the Child's World and Child's Services, they had beginning cooking classes, they had a gourmet class, they had a catering class, they actually catered events. They had a kind of a bachelor class that boys primarily took. Then if you flipped over to the sewing area they had a design class where you designed your own clothing and sewed it and it was really a big program in both the designing and fabric end and in child development and in foods. Now, you don't have anything. In English you used to be able to take a Shakespeare class, a creative writing class. You could have taken a Black Lit class, your regular classes. You could have taken yearbook or newspaper which we

no longer have. So even in the language arts class, oh, there was an entire class just related to the research paper, it was called a research class, which you spent writing at college level research paper. You could take those electives on top of your regular English class. Those are gone. And I am not sure of the other programs, but those I especially remember. I think the Art Department has stayed intact. I think the Social Studies has lost a few and the math and science I am not really sure. So we don't have the number of classes we used to. We used to have AP, which I prefer over IB because it allows kids to explore area. That is what high school is for. It is to explore and to me IB doesn't allow you to do that. Plus AP, all colleges take then and you got credit for it and they were very rigorous. They were as rigorous as the IB program. So that's the difference. We don't have as many classes and your advance program has changed. I think IB is rigorous as well. The other thing for kids who were just had really difficult trouble especially in English; we had a remedial class for them. It was called Basic Skills and those kids were funneled in there and I think that the class was capped at 15 and they had an aid. I taught one once. You could actually take a kid a long way in that class because they had some one-on-one help and it was a really small class. Every kid got really individualized attention and even an individualized program and also you know we capped the advance classes at 21 and regular at 25. Those days are gone.

Q: Have you noticed a big difference in sort of the demographics of the school, like the student population changes and that?

A: That has been only positive. When I first came there 30 years ago you saw real division between the Hispanic kids and the White kids and you didn't see the Hispanic kids involved in school activities, sports, clubs, anything of that sort. I would hear racial slurs in my classroom you know. I would hear Hispanic kids referred to as 'spicks' and 'beaners' by other kids. Of course you know you dealt with it, but they probably thought it was okay to say that. Um, you never saw them on courts or things of that sort. Now, over the years I am not sure if we have more Hispanic kids or not. It seems to me the Hispanic population has grown, but what to me is cool, it is integrated. You still have the separation just because they know each other from grade school, etc. and just like you have your Butternut kids might hand out and your whatever from Farmington View or whatever kids, you can get those divisions. But it is more integrated. You have Hispanic kids on soccer teams, on basketball teams, you know a Homecoming king and queen. When that happened I remember turning to someone here as long as me and I thought in 30 years and that has finally happened. With the demographics we have you should see that happen and I thought that has been a positive. That merging of the student population and the involvement of the whole student population in all aspects which has been world growth I think.

Q: Tell me about the changes you have seen in Hillsboro, the city itself over the past 30 years.

A: Well, it was, we used to play other teams and they used to chant at us "pig farmers, pig farmers". We would go to Jesuit or Beaverton and they would chant that at us, we were known as the farming school and you would leave Aloha and there would be

a bit of basically now houses it would be like trees and there be maybe small farms whatever and they would hit Hillsboro, when I first came here. Now it is just like urban sprawl. It was a farming town. FFA was huge and kids take a little bit of pride in the fact that we were the farming school. I got an e-mail from a student that read an article in the paper that had been here the longest. He was on the first basketball team in 1970 something and he remembered going into the city and we played Benson and they were terrified there were all these little farm kids going up against the city kids. It was such a difference. I don't think you would see that now. I think kids out here are much more cosmopolitan, much more aware of the city. They go into the city more. You've got all this high tech. It has come from a small farming community to a big suburban town you know town. You can see that in every aspect, from the kids to everything.

Q: What is your favorite Hilhi tradition that has been carried on for the past 30 or so years?

A: I've got two. One is obviously May Fete. I think that May Fete is really good. I am sorry to see that is gone into you have to have your athletics on your application and initially it was designed, from what I heard when I came here it already was going, but I started with some other teachers the Spart Quake. We sold macramé and plants in the pit. It has evolved quite a bit over the years as you can see. It is a lot more fun now, but the whole point was to get academic kids, put the spotlight on academic kids, kids who were very, very bright. Your athletes are in the newspaper, your artist already had shows with Judy Goldwin, she was like stupendous and so the art department has always been huge here. But you know what about that kid who just works his tail off and is really a good citizen, does a lot of work and really works hard at school. I always had the impression that was May Fete was for. Now I noticed last year, and there was a bit of a rift in the faculty that athletics should not be part of the point system to evaluate who gets on May Fete court or not because it was supposed to be an academic driven program. So it has changed a bit and I guess I don't agree with it. I don't think athletes should count, but that has always been cool and I don't see that in any other schools and the other thing is the Homecoming tradition here. I think it is just wonderful. My daughter goes to a city school and they don't do anything. They get some trucks and drive around the track during the game it is like you who! Where as here it is such a big deal, the floats and everything. It has taken a traditional piece of Americana and they have held on to it and that comes from their farm roots and the small town that this was and I think it is nice that they have not let that go. That really is a small town thing. You don't see that in the city where they make that big a deal out of Homecoming. Hillsboro has really grown and developed pretty much as a community. There is still that small town part of it that has lingered I think.

Q: What do you think of the different rivalries between the different schools? What is your favorite one?

A: Jesuit. Everyone wants Jesuit to loose. That is the one that is been there forever, I think is Jesuit and I think the entire Metro league wants Jesuit to loose because they are

perceived as the privileged school and all that. That one is always the most fun. Especially recently when we have beaten them. I have enjoyed it more.

Q: What about Hilhi and Glencoe when they were the only two schools?

A: Oh, there was a big rivalry there. Of course Glencoe always had a very very strong football program. We held our own in basketball always, and it has been a tradition. That football game between Glencoe was always anticipated. You know, I don't go to games like I used to so I don't know how Liberty and Century feed into that now, all four of them. That has changed the whole feel of the town, you've got four different schools.

Q: What are some more old traditions here at Hilhi?

A: Well they used to have it was a fundraiser, I can't remember who it was for, but they used to have the faculty, I think the faculty, I can't remember who they played against. It wasn't kids, I think it was a radio station. I can't remember. A small, but tasteful group women, Mrs. Saks, Mrs. Mortland, myself, Ms. Day and Ms. Coxen and we were cheerleaders and we came up with lovely outfits. One year we wore overalls and one year we wore these obscene dresses with big bows on them and we would lead the cheers and the students would show up for that one, simply for the amusement of it. Not long ago they used to have a faculty court. Students would vote on best sense of humor, best looking, never got that one. Won that humor one a few times, best personality and then at some assembly I think during teacher appreciation week they would know they would go up there and crown them and all that. Then they used to have it, what was it, it was a male court.

Q: The King Arthur?

A: Yes, the King Arthur yeah. They used to have that. Sexist though it was.

Q: Then they used to have Ms. Merry Christmas too?

A: Yes, they used to have a Christmas court and a Christmas formal. That is not here any more. The King Arthur and the Christmas court king and queen. They used to have one for each class, a Christmas court for each class. That is gone. I think that is about it. Everything else they have held on to.

Q: Anything more?

A: This is not a good thing, but we used to have Saturday school. If you skipped class and you skipped and it was your third one, you were sent to Saturday school. You arrived here at 8:00 in the morning in the library and you sat here like a school day and a teacher monitored it and then if you didn't show up you got suspended for Monday. That was an old tradition, oh I've got to go to Saturday school.

Q: What about scheduling and sort of the lunch type thing, the differences in that?

A: I've seen a lot of different things. First of all scheduling was always done at one point in your English class because we were on semesters, which I personally find are a much more logical way to run a school, but so all the counselors did it, now teachers do it. Counselors would come to English classes, they spoke to everyone during the entire period. They could answer all your questions. Instead of lining up in the counseling center to find out what was what because you had basically there were 25 in your classroom, you had a counselor to help you get through everything with your teacher. I think that went much more smoothly with fewer transfers. Then we did arena scheduling. All the teachers were circled all around the gym and you had certain requirements you had to have and you went and signed up for the teacher you wanted. So I might be sitting there and I might have first, second, five and seven sophomores, advanced sophomore English. You would come and you would sign up. Once it hit 25 it was capped and no more people could sign up for that class. If you didn't get there early or whatever you might go to a teacher and not get the teacher you wanted because her class would be class. That went on for several years. It was called arena scheduling. The kids picked the teacher. You had your schedule and you had your eight periods, you filled it how you wanted it, if you could get the right teacher.

Q: Wow, did some teachers feel kind of left out of it?

A: There was a little bit of that. You knew who wasn't liked or perhaps wasn't doing a good enough job. There had to be some shifting some times.

Q: So obviously class sizes have changed?

A: We've had trimesters before and we switched out of it because no body liked it and here we are back again. We didn't use to have this early release and late arrival. The kids stayed all day and went to school all day. Just social issues have changed that, both parents working, colleges more expensive, kids drive cars more now, a lot of things have contributed to that particular change, but you had kids on campus for longer periods of time.

Q: So during the time the you have been teaching have students been socially aware, have there been any assemblies about certain issues, they fears about Communists or anything along those lines.

A: No, that would be before my time. But I did hear before my time though that during the Vietnam War stuff went on on campus here. Teachers who were here before me when I came talked about kids wearing armbands, protesting against the war. There were certain activities that went on. Since I've been here we used to make a much bigger deal of. They had a diversity league, like a celebration of Martin Luther King and that was a big assembly with a speaker and a lot more happened around that particular event. We pretty much don't do anything now, but in those days they had assembly speakers, activities and I remember Ms. Erwin was involved in some of that and Rick was involved

in some of that. I remember an assembly they did where Rick played Thomas Jefferson. I mean they actually dressed them up and they assumed the roles and they did something with them. That was quite a while ago. You don't see any of that happening. Other than that I don't see much of that. When we have a Presidential election you see something happen, but no. That is another difference at my daughter's high school they have a social awareness club. I don't see that out here.

Q: Besides Vietnam, what about September 11. Was that kind of big here?

A: Yeah, I think people were just stunned. I remember driving to school and I was just by Lamb's Thiftway and I heard it and I said ok my gosh and rushed in and all the faculty said oh my gosh. I pulled a radio, I had a boom box here I used for creative writing and I left it on all day. I know in other classrooms teachers had TVs or radios going all day long to keep up on what was happening and I can't remember anything like that happening since Kennedy was assassinated. I remember my teachers pulling TVs into our classrooms and turning it on and watching was down. Finally school was called off and we all went home. I think people were glued to the radio all day. I think it became a topic of conversation in everybody's classroom about what had happened, why it had happened and you know was it over. We were very rattled.

Q: Do you know how some teachers dealt with it? Did they make the students write things or talk about?

A: I don't know. We didn't in this class, but I remember in several of my classes teachers wouldn't talk about it. Those things you just had to kind of stop what you were doing and discuss it.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

A: No. I could add that I have enjoyed working in Hillsboro. I have never asked to transfer to another school. I have always just really like this school and the kids at this school and as I am looking at my retirement it has been a good ride.

Q: That's good. Thank you very much for letting me interview you Ms. Schrauger.

A: Your welcome.