

Teacher helps make science fun

Jackie Aho is a North Farmington High School senior.

By Jackie Aho
special writer

If you do not know what a good teacher is, ask a high school student. Chances are the student will tell you he likes a teacher who excites you about his subject, knows the subject well and teaches difficult concepts as if they were child's play. These qualities describe Beverly Schmitt, a chemistry and physics teacher at North Farmington High School. Schmitt, originally from New York, has taught chemistry for 21 years.

SHE EARNED a bachelor's degree in chemistry at the State University of New York and a master's degree in analytical chemistry at Wayne State University.

A good all-around student, she decided to enter the world of chemistry as an undergraduate student after her father suggested she acquire a marketable major.

Because she would owe no tuition if she declared she would teach, Schmitt stumbled into teaching. She continued teaching solely to earn money for graduate school. But to her surprise, she found she missed teaching while back in school.

After meeting her radio-chemistry lab instructor, Thomas Schmitt, now her husband, she decided to make teaching her profession.

WHEN ASKED what she likes best about her job, Schmitt said: "Smart, funny, young people, all day long."

"I see a real progression of learning, knowledge and kids getting turned on to science. Many times, we've killed natural curiosity when science should be fun and interesting."

"Science is the way the world works."

Her ability as a teacher shines through in the record of her advanced-placement chemistry students. North's students have taken Advanced Placement tests for college credit for the past 10 years.

OF ABOUT 25 students each

year, just four have failed in the entire 10 years.

The real magic of a good teacher, however, is how she is seen by her students.

"She understands how kids think," said senior Ken Stein. Senior Steve Kainy added, "She cares about kids and puts 110 percent into teaching."

Schmitt admitted, "I like teaching. I like kids, and I know my subject."

Her strong points include an excellent sense of humor and the ability to make everyday analogies in chemical explanations.

When asked her goals as a teacher, Schmitt laughed and said, "Survive 'till June."

After she taught a moment, she added, "I want my students who are talented to leave well-trained and liking science, and the ones who aren't to leave still feeling good about themselves and not hating science."

"Although science is not for them, there are a lot of things they can do out there."

NORTH IS a good school to teach at because of its highly motivated students, Schmitt said. "Also, the district is supportive of good teaching. There is a lot of academic freedom if you're doing a good job."

Although she does not see any serious problems at North, Schmitt suggests, "Teachers should have better means of communicating with parents... better offices and telephones."

She and her husband have two children, Susan, 11 and Peter, 7. Schmitt enjoys gardening and sports. Individual sports such as tennis, however, have been replaced by family activities.

Like most teachers, Schmitt occasionally gets discouraged, but, by understanding students, she remains unjaded.

"I REMEMBER back when I was 16. I was a good student, but I — like these kids — was also interested in other things such as jobs, sports and dates."

"These are kids, and it wouldn't be much fun if they weren't."

Schmitt is an excellent role model for aspiring teachers. It is very important that more teachers follow in her footsteps because the impact a teacher has on a student can be monumental.

Schmitt, among other fine teachers at North, has achieved a positive effect on many students. It should not go unrecognized.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer
Beverly Schmitt teaches chemistry and physics at North Farmington High School.

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 1226 Bowers, Birmingham, MI 48012. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48012. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, form 3589) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 691-0500.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(in Oakland County)

One year (Beverly Hills, Michigan) \$24.20
Newsstand per copy, 25¢
One year (Beverly Hills, U.S.A.) \$40.00

One year \$60.00
All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, Farmington 33203 Grand River, Farmington, MI (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric does not have the authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Farmington's newest eating experience THE CROISSANT CAFE AND DELI

Specializing in handmade butter layered croissants, filled with meats, vegetables or cheeses. Huge deli sandwiches, piping hot soups, homemade ice cream and delicious desserts. All top quality ingredients served in a spacious sunny dining room, or on our outdoor patio.

BUY ONE MEAT OR VEGETABLE FILLED CROISSANT, RECEIVE \$1.00 OFF THE SECOND MEAT OR VEGETABLE CROISSANT WITH THIS AD THRU 6/1/88

Open Daily—1/2 Mile and Farmington Road - Crossroads Shopping Center 471-6775

● Twice a week is better!

Bloodmobile is slated

American Red Cross Blood Services will host a bloodmobile from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at Harrison High School, 29995 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Blood generally can be donated by anyone between 17 and 70, in good health and who weighs at least 110 pounds. A new, sterile needle is used for each donor. Donating blood takes less than an hour. For an appointment, call James Gelger, 477-3311.

WANT THIS COUPON

THE HAIR COMPANY

Mother's Day Specials
ALL SERVICES 1/2 PRICE THRU 5-30-86

OPERATORS:	PERMS	\$40	\$20	538-1044
RENEE	AND SANDY	HAIRCUTS	\$10	\$5
	TINTS	\$20	\$10	277167 MILE
	SETS	\$8	\$4	East of Macomb
				LIVONIA
				Mon.-Sat. 9-5

(P.S. Specials aren't limited to Mom's only)

600 A. 410
Specially Priced for Mom...
B. 418 4518
C. 4890 4975
D. 880 4595
929-40 MIDDLEBELT at 1/4 Mile in the Broadway Plaza
E. 690 4420
CREIS JEWELERS

AEROBICS OR NAUTILUS

All you can handle for...
\$33*
per month

*Min. 3 Months Program Expires May 16, 1988

SUMMER MEMBERSHIPS

Also Available: saunas, whirlpools, facials, manicure, steam, suntanning, Riks Gourmet Restaurant & fitness evaluation.

ONE ON ONE

ATHLETIC CLUB

visit or call **626-9880**

6343 Farmington Rd. Just North of Maple in West Bloomfield

TENNIS Summer Camps & leagues

PICTURE PERFECT

CAPTURE MEMORIES YOU TREASURE IN OUR PAISLEY PHOTO ALBUMS

Hold onto your fondest memories in our striking black/royal/copper printed paisley design 3-ring photo albums of bonded leather. Choose the 10 1/2 x 8 1/2" size to preserve 220 4x6" super 35mm prints. Includes space for photo descriptions. Or the 11 3/4 x 7 3/4" size for 300 3x5" pictures. Each album, \$20.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express® Card.

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday

ANN ARBOR BIRMINGHAM DEARBORN EAST GRAND RAPIDS EAST LANSING GROSSE POINTE JACOBSON KALAMAZOO ROCHESTER SAGINAW TOLEDO