

Teacher to attend Shakespearean seminar

Harrison High School English/humanities teacher Laura Sparrow is spending July at Stratford, Ontario, as part of a summer seminar sponsored by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Sparrow was one of 15 applicants selected for the NEH program from a field of 181 applicants. Participants receive stipends of between \$2,400 and \$3,200 for their studies. The seminar which Sparrow is attending is entitled "Shakespeare: Text and Theatre" which runs through Aug. 7. Seminars on other topics are being held around the country.

Miriam Gilbert, director of undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa who selected Sparrow and the 14 others, told Sparrow she "feels very encouraged not just by your work, but by the obviously fine work that is taking place all over the country."

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Sparrow's goal in attending the Shakespeare workshop is to do an intensive study of two of the writer's plays, learning clues which she can share with her Harrison students, "enabling them to understand Shakespeare more easily for themselves and to enrich their understanding of both the world he portrays and the one in which they live. I hope ultimately to increase their knowledge and also their self-

confidence," she said in her application.

Sparrow is an Ann Arbor resident who holds a personalized undergraduate degree from U-M honor's college in Medieval and Renaissance Studies and a graduate degree in Teaching the Social Studies from Johns Hopkins. She came to the Farmington district in 1970, teaching for one year at North Farmington High School, then mov-

ing to Harrison where she has been on staff since 1971.

Fellow teacher Kathy Nyberg said Sparrow infuses her love of things medieval by strumming minstrel songs for her classes and invites Shakespearean actors from Oakland University's Meadowbrook Theatre to dress students in period costume and bring literature to life. "Shakespearean feasts... crown their study of the time period," Nyberg added.

Sparrow has published six novels and was a Teacher in Space semifinalist in the mid-1980s. She has been involved in Harrison's planning for interdisciplinary teaching, and also on the school's North Central Accreditation steering committee.

Also, she is her school's forensics coach.

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