## LHS RETIREE NEWSLETTER

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#### TIDBITS:

Welcome to 2019. Wishing you a Healthy and Happy year ahead.

I'm looking at the Irish Adventure on page 3. If you are interested in going, let's talk :)

I had an interesting email earlier this fall. It was from NIU letting me know that they are going retro to honor the past women athletes who first competed at NIU but weren't recognized. Funny, but we were just happy to compete. In February I will be among several who will be recognized at NIU. Pretty nice surprise. Pam



#### A SHOUT-OUT: CONGRATULATIONS TO TIM PLOTKE

Lemont High School science teacher **Tim Plotke** was one of nine "Best of Lemont" honorees at the Lemont Community Awards Luncheon, which was hosted by the Lemont Chamber of Commerce and held at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club on November 15. The event served as an opportunity for the community to say "thank you" to hard-working individuals and businesses who go the extra mile. Plotke was honored as the Lemont High School Educator of the Year.

For more than 25 years, Plotke has been a staple of the Science Department at Lemont High School, and he has impacted thousands of students as a teacher and coach. He has shown supreme dedication to ensuring his students have an innovative experience in his classroom. Not one to rest on his laurels, he seeks opportunities to make his classroom more conducive to learning.

Plotke has helped design several courses at Lemont High School that generate a great deal of student interest, including Biotechnology, Anatomy & Physiology Honors, and Zoology.

A well respected leader within his department, he has maximized the use of technology for 20 years. He helped pilot a "Live from the Heart" open heart surgery collaboration with Christ Hospital and the Museum of Science and Industry, and has received three grants from the Lemont High School Educational Foundation, including one to pilot a 1-to-1 learning environment in his classes that helped pave the way for the 1-to-1 environment the school employs across the board today.

Plotke consistently receives feedback from his students who have moved on to study science in college, and the message is consistent: his classes laid a sound educational base for them in their studies at the college level.

In addition to his work in the classroom, Plotke has built one of the area's best cross country and track and field programs. His girls' cross country teams have won 18 conference championships, including 12 South Suburban Conference-Blue Division titles in the last 13 years. His girls' teams have made 10 IHSA State Finals appearances, finishing as high as fourth in the state. He also has guided the girls' track and field team to multiple conference titles, and been the recipient of several SSC Coach of the Year honors.



Cindy and Bruce loving the time they have with their new grandson



Joe and Kathy Nollinger exploring Alaska in September. Looks like an opportune time.

# ON THE MOVE !



September in Denali, what a view!



The Northern Lights Dancing in the Sky Is that a cruise ship on the Horizon?

As of December 31, 2018, Kelli Ercoli's husband Jim has joined her into retirement after 36+ years as a forensic scientist for the Illinois State Police Crime Lab. They are free to travel and are beginning to plan future trips. Congratulations Jim !

## **TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES**

### Is Europe on your bucket list?

#### Kelly Ercoli is going to lead a tour in the Summer of 2019



Interested? Contact Kelly at paris1983@sbcglobal.net



#### How about an Irish Adventure?

IRTA (Illinois Retired Teacher Association) is offering an Irish Adventure for anyone looking to travel next fall!

October 21-28, 2019 8 days/7 nights/

#### Depart U.S. for Dublin overnight October 20th – tour begins October 21st

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Waterford Crystal Factory Tour
- Cliffs of Moher
- Cobh Cruise and Spike Island Tour
- Blarney Castle
- Giant's Causeway
- Knock Shrine
- Skellig Experience
- Titanic Belfast





If interested go to IRTA.com and check out the travel section

#### Lemont High School Entertainment Happenings

- The LHS Winter play "Letters to Sala" will run nightly at 7 p.m. from January 31 thru February 2, 2019
- Jazz Band Dinner Dance March 2, 2019, 7 p.m. at DiNolfo's Banquets at 14447 W. 159th St., Homer Glen.
- The LHS Spring Musical "Cinderella" will run May 9-11 nightly at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. We'll look at getting a group together for this—more information coming in the next newsletter.

For additional information check the LHS website <u>www.lhs210.net</u> or call the High School at 630-243-3222



Thank You to those who provided pictures to share. Haven't shared yet or have more? Please send them as life happens — it's a great way to stay connected and provide smiles. If you have news on someone please contact us so we can share with all of you. (mert242@comcast.net)

#### Have a Great 2019!

April is on its way, see you then!