



Sandra (Singer) Dobbelaere

Inducted May 22, 2022

Paulding High School		1977
Defiance College	BA	1994
Bowling Green State University	MA	1999



Sandra (Singer) Dobbelaere -- Paulding High School Class of 1977

After graduating in 1977, Sandy married Michael Dobbelaere and began raising their three children: Jesse, Shandi, and Kinsey. Sandy did freelance commissioned art pieces, painted portraits and landscapes or pets on various materials. She also took up wood carving and did many relief carvings for customers. She worked part-time at the Oakwood Chiropractic office, helping to manage the office, and illustrated the cover of the office's monthly newsletter. When her children were a little older, she took on a full-time job at R&B Fabrication as their silkscreen artist.

Sandy's older sister, Janet Saxton, who taught 6th grade science and math at Oakwood Elementary, had been battling cancer. Not only did she urge Sandy, but made her promise to go back to college and do something with her Art. Janet passed away in the spring of 1991 and that fall, Sandy kept her promise, enrolled at Defiance College and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education (Visual Arts). She was hired to teach at Paulding High School in the fall of 1994 and received her Master's in Education and Curriculum from BGSU in 1999.

The promise to her sister led Sandy on quite a journey. She and Mike have traveled to many distant places and have met many people. They took in exchange students and also other students that needed help

While teaching, Sandy was heavily involved with the Drama Department, was the Jr. Class advisor and led past cheerleaders to award winning competitions. Sandy has enjoyed all of her students whether it be watching their wheels turn as they figure something out, showing them how to fall down a flight of stairs in a play, helping them see their vision of Prom come to life making endless amounts of paper Mache rocks for a waterfall, or erecting a 30 foot Eiffel tower in the gymnasium with the help of some enthusiastic dads.

Sandy's life skills interwove with her teaching skills pretty seamlessly. She received many 1st place awards at Art Shows over the years, a 1st place National Art Education Award in 2004, and was the OAEA Outstanding Art Teacher of Ohio in 2005. While doing research for a sculpture class, she got herself into competing in the International snow carving event at Zehnders Snowfest in Frankenmuth Michigan Her sculptures placed in the top 3 six different years! She was fortunate to have family, friends and students join her with this experience.

After viewing murals in other countries and the city of Philadelphia, she wanted to try her art of painting -in a large format, so with the help of her daughter Kinsey, (who is also an Art Teacher), they have completed several murals together and some with the help of community members. Together, her and Kinsey have completed murals in the Villages of Oakwood, Scott and Paulding, and in many private homes. Many of the murals in the school have been completed by her with the help of some of her students.

After teaching for 27 years, Sandy retired in 2021 to create her own Art and enjoy her family which now includes seven grandchildren. She and Mike enjoy traveling and have visited all 50 states (34 on the backs of their motorcycles). They have climbed Manchu Picchu, saw the Nazca Lines, stood in the Sistine Chapel and the Roman Coliseum. Sandy hopes that all the lives that she has come in contact with have been encouraged and inspired. She is happy that they have fallen into and shared her space for a little while. She knows that she is very lucky to have been raised by her adventurous, loving, hardworking parents and is thankful to have been encouraged by her sister Janet, big bother Larry, and little sister Cindy. Last but not least, Sandy sends a big 'Thank You' to her husband Mike for his support and for all the life experiences they have accomplished together.