



Lucille Dean, SP

PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL

Principal retires; successor named

After 19 years presiding over graduations at Providence High School in Burbank, Sister Lucille Dean has hung up her cap and gown. She is retiring from her role as principal at the end of the 2004-05 school year. She will, however, stay on as chair of a new Mission and Governance Committee at the request of the regents. Her tenure at the helm of the Catholic, accredited college-preparatory school for young women and men in southern California has put it on the map. Providence High School, founded in 1955, has been nationally recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Its growth, in number of students (549 in 2004), physical plant, curriculum and stature, has been significant. Enrollment in the innovative Health Careers and Media Communications focus programs developed under Sister Lucille's leadership is sought after by students interested in media and health careers.



*Lucille Dean
1992-93*

A key measure of the school's success is its impact on the futures of its students. "Today, 98 percent of all Providence students continue on to higher education, both locally and in colleges and universities throughout the nation," according to former Provincial/Team Leader Barbara Schamber, SP, and Bobken Amirian, former chair of the Board of Regents in their announcement of the search for her replacement in May 2004. "In every way, the school has flourished under Sister Lucille's leadership."



Students gather around Sister Lucille



Sister dons a hard hat, (third from left) for groundbreaking of the student activity center.



Sister Lucille introduces the new principal, Michele Schulte

At the school's fourth annual Promise for the Future gala in March, Sister Lucille was presented a special award for her dedication to the education of young people and her service to the community, which has included a total of 25 years at the high school.

The new principal, chosen by the Board of Regents and approved by the Leadership Team, is Michele Schulte, formerly director of guidance and counseling from 1992 until June 2003. She will begin her new role in July. "We are pleased to have Michele Schulte further the Providence tradition of excellence in education and preparation of students whom we know will make a difference in the world," Provincial Superior/Leadership Team Coordinator Margaret Botch, SP, and Ken Coopman, chair of the Board of Regents, said in naming their choice in March.

Michele left the high school at the end of the 2002-03 school year to complete a certificate program in Catholic school administration at Loyola Marymount University. She has a Master of Arts in school psychology, a Pupil Personnel Services Credential, and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, all from California State University-Northridge. Her love for the high school and commitment to its future has been evident in her extensive experience there. She has facilitated faculty/staff retreats, provided crisis counseling to students and families, chaired the counseling department, served on the curriculum committee, planned the annual Career Day, developed schoolwide crisis intervention programs, processed group testing programs, and participated as committee chair for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) process. ●

Is there anything that Sister Felma Cerezo can't do? This diminutive ball of energy is everywhere – taking photographs and shooting video, doing graphic design, creating astounding transformations of images on her computers, (yes, that's plural), painting and drawing, sewing habits for another religious community, tending a glorious flower and vegetable garden, creating stunning floral arrangements and cooking up a delectable storm in her kitchen.

A night owl, Sister Felma is hard at work when the rest of us are sleeping. If you've admired the beauty of the Jubilee decorations, from invitations and booklet cover to the decorated candles and floral arrangements, you know that is Sister Felma's handiwork. The sisters know that when they receive a special birthday card from the Leadership Team each year, it was created with love by Sister Felma. And she's the go-to person when you need a moment captured in still photographs or video.

A riddle about an amazingly talented sister



Felma Cerezo, SP

Born in Binmaley, Pangasinan, Philippines, the second of six children, Sister Felma was an art teacher and later art department chair at Providence High School in Burbank for more than 25 years. She also was school photographer, administrative purchasing agent, vocation contact person for southern California, art teacher, homeroom teacher and whatever else came her way. Today, she is a freelancer living in Seattle and working with the Provincial Administration

The only way to get a picture of the amazingly talented Sister Felma Cerezo is when she isn't looking. Here, she takes pictures at the Northwest Garden Show in Seattle while a Caritas photographer sneaks a shot.

and the Communications Office, but she is never still. She constantly strives to bring a bit of beauty to everything she touches to bring joy to her fellow sisters.

So, is there anything that Sister Felma cannot do? This comes from the horse's mouth: "I cannot ride a bike, skate or swim."

Whew! That sure makes us feel better! ●

Sister Jane Dufault celebrates

100th birthday



Jane Dufault, SP

Sister Jane Dufault, a native of Gaspé, Quebec, and a Sister of Providence for 82 years, celebrated her 100th birthday in Spokane on March 16, surrounded by well-wishers. Asked how she has managed to live so long, she responds with a twinkling smile and a finger pointed skyward. "He's the boss," she says emphatically.

Sister Jane was born Aurora Dufault in 1905 and lost her mother at the age of 2. She and her older sister, Marie Amadee, were raised by their grandmother and both entered the Sisters of Providence in their late teens. Sister Marie Amadee died in 1991 at the age of 91.

Sister Jane entered the novitiate at the Providence Motherhouse in Montreal in 1923 and made first profession in 1924. She was assigned to the former St. Ignatius Province in the West the following year and served in ministry in Missoula, Great Falls and St. Ignatius, Mont. Her duties were varied, including nursing and kitchen work, and Sister Jane considered herself "a jack of all trades." She retired to Mount St. Joseph in Spokane in 1976.

One of the memories guests at her birthday party shared was seeing her raise and lower the flag daily for years, first leaning out a window on an upper floor, and in later years from a flagpole installed outside. That flag never saw the rain or the dark because of Sister Jane's diligence. ●

Briefs

Archives volunteer wins award

Heather Trescases, a Providence Archives volunteer who translates documents related to the sisters' history from their original French, is the recipient of the Willard Jue Memorial Volunteer Award. The award was presented by the Association of King County Historical Organizations in April for her work with many organizations since she arrived in the United States from Toronto three years ago. Recipients are "individuals who have made outstanding contributions, provided exceptional leadership, and demonstrated excellence in duration, quality or spirit of service." ●



Heather Trescases



Pam White, SP

Preserving the legacy

Last summer, Sister Pam White retired from her role as province director for Providence Associates, bringing many years of dedicated service to a close. Thanks to her support and involvement, the associates of the former St. Ignatius and Sacred Heart provinces were successfully integrated, and advances were made in orientation materials, Spanish translation of brochures, and production of a video.

Sister Pam had intended a bit of rest and relaxation, but she has hardly been idle. A longtime volunteer in the Public Relations Office at Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane, she has received a grant from the Service League to continue development of the center's archive collection of media footage and videotaped interviews. Her efforts will help to preserve the history and legacy of Sacred Heart for future generations. ●

Spirit-filled gathering

Nearly 40 Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates from Mother Joseph Province attended Northwest Catholic Women's Convocation III in Seattle in April. The gathering, an "Uprising of Hope," was a joyful two-day fest of vibrant colors, enthusiastic dance and song, renowned women speakers and networking. It was sponsored by the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Region 15. Legacy gifts were made to honor "women who have inspired, nurtured and embodied hope for us in our spiritual and life journeys," including one to Jeanette Benson, SP, of Seattle. ●



Jeannette Benson, SP



Vibrant dance was a highlight of the women's convocation.



Enjoying the gathering are (from left), Sister Karin Dufault, Sister Mary Grondin, Marta Vega, assistant director of Providence Peter Claver House who attended on a Peace Community scholarship, and Sister Katherine Smith.



New PAs in Seattle

Three new Providence Associates were welcomed in a commitment ceremony in Seattle in April. They are Shirley L. McKay, (center) of Kirkland; Craig A. Cozza, of Federal Way; and Theresa J. Van De Ven, of Seattle. ●



Seattle PAs