

Toni Harr, Class of 2009 September 2013 Alumni of the Month



What have you done since graduating from Conemaugh Township High School?

After graduating from CTHS, I pursued and obtained a bachelor's degree in social studies secondary education from Juniata College. I supported myself through this adventure and became the first person in my family to earn a college degree.

During my time at Juniata, I discovered my passion for culture, travel, learning and teaching. In just four years I have experienced life in Greece, France, Italy, Morocco, Germany, and The Gambia and had the privilege to teach in Gambia and Greece. Currently, I am serving as a Fulbright Fellow in Athens, Greece, where I teach English and serve as a United States cultural ambassador at the Hellenic American Education Foundation. Upon completion of my fellowship, I plan to return to the United States and hopefully find a social studies teaching position.

Who was your favorite teacher in high school and why?

I am pleased to say that I encountered many influential teachers at CTHS, but anyone who knows anything about me will definitively know that Mrs. Tara Kimmel was my favorite teacher. I first encountered Mrs. Kimmel when she was still an English teacher and I was in eighth grade. She was always so inviting and planned stimulating and engaging lessons. When she decided to become the librarian, I was excited because I got to see more of her throughout my high school career. Not only is she an excellent teacher, but also a great listener. Mrs. Kimmel helped me rationalize some difficult issues in my life, and even pointed me towards Juniata. Even today, I still go to Mrs. Kimmel with some of my more difficult conundrums, and she is always supportive and ready with advice. I feel I would not be who I am today without her influence.



What is your fondest memory from Conemaugh Township High School?

My fondest memories are a toss-up between the countless hours I pestered Mrs. Kimmel in the library, and the many, many marching band trips I attended with Mrs. Gardenhour during my five years in marching band.

Additional Comments

I would like to thank all the wonderful teachers I have encountered in my life for inspiring me to be a life-long learner, and for this honor of being part of CT's Alumni of the Month. I hope I am able to inspire my students in the same manner that you all have inspired me.