

THE LINK

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Jerry Campbell - Happy Trails to You.

It's often said that educators do not fully realize the fruits of their labor until much later in life.

Retiring Andrew Lewis principal, Jerry Campbell, is living proof of that axiom.

In just a few months, Campbell will walk away from a distinguished 39-year career in education that has seen him talk his way into a teaching position, coach his way into the hearts and souls of hundreds of players and also influence thousands of students with his unique brand of discipline-based leadership.

"I am ready for whatever happens next and I'm looking forward to retirement because I know I'm leaving the school in good hands," he says. "The thing I will miss is the constant contact with the young people who kept me young – honestly they are hilarious."

Campbell grew up in Augusta County and after graduating from Buffalo Gap High School he enrolled at Emory & Henry

College. While at Emory, he was resourceful enough to not only earn his social studies degree, but also find his future wife, Cheryl, who was a year ahead of him academically. By the time Campbell got his diploma she already was working in Roanoke, so needless to say, he knew exactly where to begin the search for his all important first teaching job.

"The men I talked to in Roanoke City and Roanoke County each told me they had 1,000 people who wanted a teaching job," he says. "I thought to myself there's no way both of them could have a thousand applicants so, I went to the man in Roanoke City and told him that he wasn't going to be able to find anyone better than me

to teach. Looking back, that was a pretty bold thing to do since I had never actually taught a class."

It was bold, but also very effective. His confidence not only put his application at the top of the heap, but it impressed the personnel director so much that before Campbell had made it back home he had a job offer. He began his life as an educator teaching 8th grade geography at Jackson Middle School and helping coach football in the final year Lucy Addison was a high school in 1972.

The following year he moved to William Fleming to begin what would be a 16-year career at the campus-style high school. He taught social studies for 10 years, served as an assistant principal for six and along the way coached baseball and

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**Jerry Campbell –
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football, as well as boys
and girls basketball.



“I am extremely proud of the fact that Alan, Margaret, and Forest were assistants here and have now moved on to bigger and better things,” he says.

“Coaching really prepares you to do a lot of things that most people don’t give it credit for doing,” he says.

In 1989, the Roanoke City school system gave Campbell a chance to apply those lessons learned in athletics to an entire school as he was named principal at Addison Middle School. He was just settling in after his first year at Addison when he received a career changing call from one of his former comrades at William Fleming.

“Mike Bryant and I coached together at William Fleming and lived in the same subdivision back in the 1970s,” he says. “In the spring of 1990, he gave me a call and told me there might be a job for me over here in Salem.”

That job was the principal’s position at Andrew Lewis Middle School.

“I’ve known Jerry for 37 years and I knew that he not only had experience,

but was very child oriented,” says Bryant. “He came over, interviewed and was the best candidate by far.”

“I have nothing but good memories of my time in Roanoke, but Roanoke City is different place to work when compared to Salem. Young people are the focus and the priority here and it’s always been that way,” he says. “Wayne Tripp asked me what I expected to do if I got this job, and I told him I planned to work until 2004 and retire because at that point my wife and I would be 55-years-old.”

But 2004 rolled around and it was time to renovate Andrew Lewis, so Campbell decided to stay on and be a part of the process that would transform the historic landmark on College Ave. into a state-of-the-art middle school.

“Then once the building was finished, I wasn’t about to hand it over to a new principal right away,” he says with a chuckle.

By sticking around a few extra years he got to watch three of his former assistant principals at Lewis climb the administration ladder

right here in Salem. Alan Seibert became Superintendent, Margaret Humphrey the principal at South Salem and Forest Jones will take over for Campbell at ALMS July 1.

“I am extremely proud of the fact that Alan, Margaret and Forest were assistants here and have now moved on to bigger and better things,” he says.

They aren’t the only folks in education that Campbell has influenced in his life. His wife of 39 years is a lifelong educator known for her outstanding work as a guidance counselor and coach in Botetourt County and all three of their children are also teachers. Dan teaches social studies at Bayside High in Virginia Beach, Kim is a Physical Education teacher at Salem High, and Rob is a social studies teacher at Glenvar.

“I never thought I would be a principal for 22 years, but I think any time you’ve been in a job for a long period of time it speaks to the consistency of what you’ve done,” he says.

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“My goal has always been to do a good job with the young people and my children now try to do same thing as teachers.”

When Campbell signed his first teaching contract in 1972 it was for all of \$6,200. The money and the kids have definitely changed over the years, but his style hasn't wavered.

“I believe young people want to be disciplined and I believe parents expect kids to be disciplined, and I don't think I've changed a whole lot over the years,” he says.

“The kids respect you for what you did even though they may not have agreed with it at the time,” says Bryant. “Jerry and I have kids who have gone on to become dentists, lawyers and doctors and you always hope that you've had a small part in helping them succeed.”

Campbell has been getting affirmation of just that more and more and the years go by. Two years ago one of his former players at William Fleming, who is now a successful photographer in Atlanta, dropped by the

office to says thanks to Campbell for not giving up on him.

“He told me that every time he got in trouble I should have suspended him, but instead I made him sit down at a desk and do the work that he wouldn't do for his teachers,” he says. “He gave me a hug and told me thanks for not giving up on him.”

If he has one regret it's that he was too much of a “yeller” when he coached girl's basketball, but even those young ladies still hold him in high regard. One of his former players, whom he once threatened to cut from the varsity team, recently called to tell him she was being inducted into her college's athletic hall of fame and that she wanted him to present her.

“Every time one of these kids calls me coach, it is a great sense of pride,” he says. “I've heard people say that all of us are in education because we weren't smart enough to be doctors, but I wanted to be a teacher ever since

I was in the 7th grade. I've loved every minute of it.”



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**Mike Stevens
Communications
Director**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIVISION

Dwayne Gauck (SHS), In September of this year, James Madison University chose Mr. Gauck as the high school chemistry teacher of the year. His nomination was cast by a former student, who wrote an essay indicating why he should receive this honor. The Salem School Board honored him at a school board meeting.

Edgar Moser (SHS) received his Master of Arts Degree from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and Graduate School, on January 6, 2011. The emphasis of the degree was Evangelism and Church Planting as Edgar has began Life Pointe Church in Roanoke. In an effort to reach the local community, Edgar realized the need to plant a church right in his own "backyard" as the church meets at Round Hill Elementary School weekly with special community events held frequently. Helping Edgar is his wife Ginny, son Andy, and daughter-in-law- Ashley.

Rhonda Pendleton's (SHS), daughter-in-law, Chris Pendleton, PT, DPT, GCS, received her Geriatric Certified Specialist Certification at the 2011 PT convention in Louisiana.

Rhonda Carr's (SHS), son Brandon Carr is getting

married on May 21 to Olivia Shingleton. Both are graduates of Salem High School.

Congratulations to **Brian Jenkins** (former SHS resource officer), on the birth of his grandson, Vincent Bryan Sturgill, born on February 23, 2011.

Congratulations to **Erin Stenger** (SHS), on the birth of her son, Patrick Ryan Stenger, born on February 20, 2011.

Congratulations to **Lennie Mosser** (SHS), on the birth of her grandson, Jackson David Folkerts, born on January 19, 2011.

Congratulations to **David Wallace** (SHS) and **Lori Wallace** (ALMS), on the birth of their son David Mark Wallace II, born on January 7, 2011.

Crystal Stratton (ALMS), received her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Scranton in December 2010.

Jenny Gilpin (ALMS), youngest son, Kirk Gilpin, a 2006 Salem High and 2010 Alabama graduate, is currently in management training for Norfolk Southern Railroad. Kirk will complete his training within the next year and then become a supervisor in the Transportation Division in St. Louis, MO. He and his fiancée, Kacy Davis, also plan to wed in 2012.

Jenny Gilpin (ALMS) had an article, "Wake Up! Math Matters," appear

in the August edition of Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School. She was recognized by the Salem School Board and has been nominated for The Virginia Tech Excellence in Education Award to be given out in the spring.

Kathy Edgell's (ALMS), daughter Whitney Doolittle (GWC), finished her Bachelor's Degree in History and Arts from Hollins University in December 2010. She is now working as a special education paraprofessional at G W Carver Elementary School. She plans to begin work towards a Master's Degree this fall.

Karen Travitz's (GWC), daughter, Rachel, will be traveling to the Galapagos Islands on a 10-day research trip sponsored by the Biology Department of Radford University. She will graduate from RU in May with a degree in Biology.

Lynn Shively's (GWC), daughter, Samantha Shively, was nominated and selected by Radford University as a Teacher of Promise. She was chosen to represent Virginia's most promising and gifted pre-service educators.

Peggy King's (ES), son, Kyle King, was named to the Dean's List for his first semester at UVA.



In Loving Memory

***Buddy Ward's** (SHS), father-in-law passed away on January 1, 2011.*

***John Oberlin**, who was a former SHS marketing teacher, passed away on January 15, 2011.*

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

February was Black History Month and we celebrated.



The month-long celebration included a unique interaction as Salem High School students visited G.W. Carver Elementary fourth graders and quizzed them on their knowledge of influential African-American leaders from all walks of life. The fourth graders passed with flying colors!



Salem City Schools co-hosted along with the Virginia Association for Curriculum and Development a one-day conference on Student Growth, Performance Evaluations, and Differentiated Compensation.



The event involved about 140 participants representing 22 Virginia school divisions and included presentations by national educational leaders from "Battelle for Kids," educational specialists from the Virginia Department

of Education, and staff from SAS EVAAS, K- 12, a leader in value-added assessment from North Carolina. The event took place at the Salem Civic Center.



