

DAUGHERTY

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chairwoman of the Perquimans Board of Education.

Crowd gathered laughed when White said, "I told her that I wanted to cash that in."

Using that anecdote as a segway, White received loud applause after she presented a check and announced plans to continue to contribute annually to the Kim Hunter Daugherty Scholarship fund "because she is someone who is worthy."

The scholarship and mini grant Fund endowment stands at \$13,555.38. Perquimans County School's Foundation Executive Director Brenda Lassiter said the foundation's commitment is to offer a mini-grant and scholarship annually in memory of Kim, using only the earnings from the account. She said the principal amount will not be used so as to ensure this mini grant and scholarship program is perpetual in nature. Scholarship winner will be announced in the spring.

Hertford Grammar third grade teacher Naomi Mallory was awarded a \$500 mini-grant from the fund to purchase computer science technology – Dash Robots – that teach students to solve mathematical and science problems. Dash is a robot that responds to voice commands or downloadable apps to sing, draw, and move around – wish this writer had one of those when attending elementary school; days when a multi-colored abacus was considered cutting edge technology.

Mallory said the robots

encourage students to explore a newfound passion towards robotics and increases mastery of math skills. Robots should arrive in January.

"These robots offer a hands-on opportunity, especially for math," she said. "I can't wait to use them in the classroom. They move around based on how the students code them. Kids will enjoy using them."

Turner said when she thinks about Daugherty, she recalls a person "whose smile and personality filled the room, whose laughter filled the room, but most importantly – Kim had a heart that was bigger than any room. It filled the whole county, the whole state. She just loved life. When I reflect on her and how she lived her life – we all need a little piece of Kim."

A dedicated educator and administrator, Turner admitted that she lives a "very regimented" life. She is awake near the crack of dawn sending and answering emails, spends her day compiling and writing lengthy data driven reports, attends meetings and later finds time to go jogging, perhaps teach Sunday school – all on top of being a mother.

Turner said the way Daugherty lived her life provides a lesson for us all.

"I know that sometimes I can be very regimented in the way that I live my life and the way that I do things," she said. "Sometimes I wish I had a little bit of that 'let go' like Kim had. She always took time to enjoy the moment. In a world like we live in today, how often do we take time to just enjoy the moment. We're al-

ways busy going from point A to point B to point C. Kim didn't do that, but yet she got everything done – on Kim's time (crowd laughs in agreement). And it all worked out great."

A Pirates' alumnus, Turner grew up in Perquimans County, worked in the school system, so she knew Daugherty on a first name basis.

"I'm thankful that I had a chance to grow up with Kim, to play ball with Kim, to work with Kim. My only regret is that she's not here to work with me now," she said.

Turner said based on Daugherty's life as remembered by friends, family and colleagues, "It's going to be easy to keep her memory alive. We meet a lot of people day to day, but not everybody will make an impression on you that will last a lifetime. Kim made an impression on people that will last a lifetime."

Daughter of baseball legend Jim "Catfish" Hunter, Daugherty's family sat on the front row during the school's tribute to her memory.

After the ceremony, Daugherty's older brother Todd Hunter said, "This is awesome. It's been amazing to see all the support in people that my sister had touched over the years. I run into students around town as well that remember her. It's nice that the school is honoring her and keeping her memory alive."

When Hunter was asked about his sister's legacy, he spoke of a close-knit and caring community that treasures people.

"I think her legacy will live on in Perquimans



PHOTO BY JOHN LASSITER

As part of a tribute to beloved educator Kim Hunter Daugherty, who died a year ago last Friday, a park bench was dedicated to her honor at Hertford Grammar.



FILE PHOTO/PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

In this file photo from August 2018, teacher Kim Hunter Daugherty talks to her students on the first day of class at Hertford Grammar School. A scholarship and mini-grant fund has been named in her honor.

County because everyone is so tight-knit. Everybody has been so really close over the years like Tanya Turner – who grew up as a family friend; all these people that we've known who are here today at the

service. Yes, I think she'll live on."

Daugherty's mom Helen Hunter said, "I wish she was here. She loved this school and loved teaching these students. I think they loved her. She loved teaching the

kids, happy doing that, and working with the other teachers. She had lots of good friends."

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FAMILY

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from each other in Hertford, have a warmth to them about each other and about their home.

"Perquimans County is a home, it's a family," Susan Jordan said.

Jordan explained how different generations of teachers past and present work together. As to Superintendent Turner, Jordan remembers when Tanya was coaching girls' basketball for the Pirates when her brother Brad was playing boys basketball – connections like this abound within the school system and community.

Susan and Samantha Jordan along with Owens and other members of the family are all products of the Perquimans school system.

"Some of the people that I'm teaching with now at Central were there when I was in pre-K, kindergarten, first grade and second," Samantha Jordan said. "The principal at Central now –

Tracy Gregory – she taught second grade the same year I was there. I went to her for reading. The teachers – they've not only watched me grow up, but they've helped me to become a teacher."

Samantha Jordan did her internship at Central and started teaching second grade nearly two weeks ago.

"Last Monday (Dec. 9) was my first day in class all by myself," said Jordan, PCHS Class of 2016. "Everything has been going good so far."

Jordan's mother Susan teaches across the hall from her classroom.

"I know that if I need anything, she's there for me," Samantha Jordan said. "The rest of the staff has been really nice and really helpful the whole time that I've been there."

How about this for familiar – Samantha's first grade class when she was a little kid is beside her mother's classroom today. Second grade glass was the room across the hall from her mother's current classroom.

"Perquimans – it's always been home and where I've felt comfortable," she said.

Susan Jordan has been teaching first or second grade for 24 years at Central. A veteran educator, Jordan explained why she loves teaching.

"The students love you and watching them learn how to read – when the words finally realize that the words on the page have meaning – that's special," she said.

Susan Jordan told a warm story about a moment she shared with a child at Boogie on Broad in Edenton.

"I had her for first and second grade. Her parents and I were with a group of us talking when I sat down. She was tired, leaning on the table. I said to her, 'Do you want to sit with me?' She crawled up in my lap and ended up going to sleep."

Because many many letters to Santa from Central students were processed this past weekend (See the B section), the inevitable question arose as to how these kids were able to pen such creative, persuasive letters to the big man from the North Pole.

Susan answered, "Model, model, model – it's part of our writing curriculum. They write and then we conference with them to read it back to us, then we help transcribe these letters."

Owens was 10 years old when her father, Ike Perry, died in 1964 – he was 42

years old.

"It is so neat to have people tell you stories about him; things that I would not remember," she said. "People who are six or seven years older than me were in high school and actually had him as a teacher. They'd tell me stories about how when he was teaching driver's education, if the students would bring brownies, they'd all stop and get a drink and eat the brownies with him under a tree instead of driving. And he liked to hunt, so if you could get him to talk about hunting while he was teaching biology, maybe you wouldn't have a biology lecture that day."

Owens said she remembers sock hops chaperoned by her father who was also the football coach back when football was a king, a true community event.

"I can remember being little and going to football games – everybody was there," she said. "And I remember going to sock hops because my dad was there too in the gym."

Owens said for her, the best part of teaching is "watching the students come alive when they learn to read."

Susan Jordan added, "For our family – teaching reading has been our strong point. That's where we are most comfortable is when teaching reading."

Not everything about teaching is daisies, chocolates and roses, but overall – teaching is a rewarding

profession.

"There are bad days when you are teaching, but if you love what you're doing, the good far outweighs the bad," Owens said. "I can't imagine doing any job without loving what you are doing."

Susan Jordan added, "For me when I think about the bad days – think about what else could you do – there's nothing else, no other job that I can imagine doing and going to Central school every day."

Samantha Jordan said when exploring career choices early in college, her advisers suggested that she have a back-up plan in case teaching didn't work out.

"When I went home, looked at all the majors – there is no back-up for me. Except for teaching, I don't know what else I would do, could do or want to do," she said.

Susan Jordan recalled that day after her daughter attended new student orientation at ECU.

"When we left ECU, she said this is where I'm sup-

posed to be to learn to do what I'm supposed to do for the rest of my life – be a teacher," she said.

Samantha Jordan added, "I think God had a hand in this. Absolutely. I do think that he gives people gifts and I think teaching is our family's gift that He's blessed with all of us."

After the interview, I came away knowing that these teachers, who share a positive attitude about making things better, is why Perquimans County is a good place to live, to raise a family.

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