



## 2008 DPA Communicator of Achievement

### Barbara C. Roewe

Teacher, mentor, facilitator and musician, Barbara Clancy Roewe was named the 2008 Delaware Press Association Communicator of Achievement at DPA's Holiday Luncheon at the Delaware National Country Club in December.

Barbara, an English teacher for 27 years, was the award-winning journalism adviser at Alexis I. du Pont High School for 11 of those years. Barbara says, "Teaching journalism classes is where I realized my life's professional mission, which is summed up in the words of Kahlil Gibran: 'The teacher, if indeed wise . . . leads the students to the thresholds of their own minds.'"

### ***Leading Students to the Thresholds of Their Own Minds***

Barbara and DPA member Carol Kipp were the dynamic team that taught A.I.'s J1 and J2 courses. While Carol worked with the students on the finer points of layout and graphic design, Barbara helped them learn to analyze what made a news article good, to understand bias and how to run their newspaper as a successful business. She inspired her eager and capable students to use their computer skills and budding journalistic abilities to put out a well-written, great looking, thought-provoking newspaper.

"Those classes were a teacher's dream," Barbara says. "I planted the seeds of critical thinking. The students fertilized those seeds and produced our school newspaper, *Tiger Pause*, which received top awards from Quill & Scroll, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Delaware Press Association." In 1993, she entered the DPA Communications Contest in the category of Faculty Adviser of a Student Publication, took first-place honors and went on to win a national first-place award in the National Federation of Press Women's Communications Contest.

Barbara received the Distinguished Service Award from the A.I. du Pont Parent Teacher Association, was twice nominated for Teacher of the Year in the Red Clay School District and was selected Teacher of the Year by the Wilmington Lions Club in 1990.

### ***Volunteer Work as a Mission***

Although retired from the classroom, Barbara continues, as a volunteer, to work with young people and adults in many settings. She's a facilitator for YWCA-sponsored High School Study Circles at A. I. du Pont and Brandywine high schools to help youngsters explore race relations and how to achieve understanding and respect for one another. For that effort, she was named a YWCA Community Winner for the 2003 Jefferson Awards.

Barbara has been a Sunday School teacher at First Unitarian Church, has served on their Board of Trustees and was chair of the Social Justice Working Group. She has served as the music committee chair at First Unitarian, and she's also been on the board of directors of the Mid-Atlantic Chamber Music Society.

### ***A Talented Musician***

A talented musician herself, Barbara says, "When I was growing up, we had a piano that was the focal point of our small living room. My teenage brother played the saxophone and had a jazz band that rehearsed there. The piano player would hold me in his lap and let me, at age 4, touch the piano keys as he played. I studied classical music until I was 16. Many times my piano playing was my best means of communication. It opened doors for me. I played for family gatherings, for school programs, at USO shows for servicemen during World War II and for residents in nursing homes. It always has seemed to make people happy."

Barbara took up a new instrument in her mid-60s, and she is now the trombone player for the New Castle County Community Band, for the Happy Rhinelanders German Band and for the University of Delaware's Academy of Lifelong Learning Concert Band. She is also the piano player for a number of musical groups, including the Upbeats Dixieland Band.

### ***DPA's Dynamic High School Communications Contest Director***

Barbara served as president of Delaware Press Association for 2 two-year terms — from 2000 to 2004 — and ably guided the organization through the years when the members worked to put together the “Brave New Media World” national communications conference, held in Wilmington in the fall of 2003.

For six years Barbara has been DPA's Vice President of Student Activities. She and Gloria Galloway, DPA's 1996 COA, annually run the First State High School Communications Contest, co-sponsored by DPA and The News Journal. Barbara says, “Through the contest, open to all Delaware public and private schools, I continue to enjoy working with high school journalism students as well as with the journalism advisers. In one way or another, I always will be a teacher, a mentor and a facilitator.”