

Alumni Stories - Community Life

Happy Birthday Sister Brendan!

Posted on January 9, 2014 by [Elena Santarella](#)

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Monday, January 6th, the Mullen community came together to celebrate the birthday of Sister Brendan Jordan. She officially turned 90 on January 3, 2014. Many former students as well as current and past faculty were in attendance. Mullen President, Carl Unrein and Principal Janell Kloosterman spoke towards Sister's many accomplishments. Mr. Unrein remarked "first I want to live to be 90, then after that I want to be her." While Mrs. Kloosterman spoke of Sister as being a trailblazer; she carved the way as the first woman leader here at Mullen 37 years ago.

Sister Brendan Jordan is a member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. She always had a desire to further her own education and received her Bachelor's in English and History, a Master's in administration, as well as a Master's in Media and Librarianship. She spent three years in training before the Sisters placed her teaching fourth grade. She taught many different subjects and grades traveling wherever the sisters assigned her. After several years she was assigned to high school, though her first thoughts were, "oh my gosh, I am not smart enough to teach high school." She quickly formed relationships with her students no matter where she taught. In 1976, Sisters of the Precious Blood were allowed to choose their school assignments and, after one year at a Christian brother high school in Cincinnati, she accepted the assistant principle job at Mullen. She chose to remain at Mullen for the next 37 years where her responsibilities varied from Assistant Principle to teacher.

Present on Monday was a former student of sister's, Tommy Watson. Watson was one of her students in the De La Salle program, coming from a broken, drug-ridden home. After attending and graduating Mullen, he went on to receive his bachelor's degree, two

master's, his doctorate and wrote a book. Watson remarked, "receiving my PhD would have never happened had it not been for Sister Brendan." She was the founder of Mullen's De La Salle program, which is meant to bring students who are academically behind up to expectations. She felt it was dishonest of Mullen to admit these students and then drop them in classes they could not handle, prompting her to create and head this program. Her purpose was not only to teach the material, but to give her students the inspiration to excel and take responsibility for their own lives. Sister said her main goal was, "getting these kids to realize they had the talent to accomplish their goals, no matter how tough it was." If one were to walk into her office this week they would see the numerous birthday cards Sister received from past students remarking the huge impact she had on each and everyone of their lives. Sister Brendan remains incredibly humble about her accomplishments, when asked about the impact she has made on so many she remarked, "I don't know why everyone is making a big deal about this, I am just doing my job... teaching, my passion is education."

Sister Brendan Jordan is iconic of Mullen's values, and she gives inspiration to each and every student at Mullen to reach our utmost potential.

