

Local Educators to Retire

With over a century of teaching experience to their credit, four Rockcastle County educators are closing out the 2000-01 school year with retirement plans. Lawrence Bullock, Martha Eversole, Loretta Powell, and Ruth Allen-Hamilton have been instrumental in educating youth for nearly half of their own lives.

Over the years, these four native Rockcastle Countians have seen many changes come to the Rockcastle County School system such as consolidation, building expansion, increased enrollment, accountability/assessment, and technological advances. With all of these many changes, they leave Rockcastle County Schools as they arrived, focused on the child.

Lawrence Bullock, Rockcastle County High School Art instructor, received his degree from Eastern Kentucky University in 1967 with a Master of Arts in 1975. Bullock began his career as a secondary Art teacher in Brandenburg, Meade County, Kentucky. He is the father of two children, Nathaniel and Miranda. Nathaniel is a participant in the Honors Program at ECU as an Art major pursuing Architectural Design. Daughter, Miranda, is a senior at RCHS and is also enrolled in the Honors Program for this fall at ECU.

Bullock, who plans to continue working after retirement in some capacity dealing with people, says, "Influencing and contributing to the lives and development of artistic ability in expression and appreciation of the arts" is the most memorable experience of his teaching career.

Martha Eversole, Mt. Vernon Elementary School fourth grade teacher, received her Bachelor of Science in 1983, Masters in 1984, and her Rank I in 1986, all from Eastern Kentucky University. In addition to MVES, Eversole taught Kindergarten and fourth grade at Livingston and began teaching Special Education at Brodhead Elementary.

When asked to relate a memorable teaching experience, Eversole shared the following story—"In my early teaching years, I was asked by a peer to conduct a survey in my classroom. The point of the survey was to find out how much TV children watch in their homes. One of the questions asked if the students had a TV in their home. I orally asked the question, and all my students raised their hands. However, one of my students began to argue with another student, insisting that the child didn't have a TV. Finally, after several minutes of drill by the student, it was decided that the child did in fact have a TV. But, not to be outdone, came the words, 'Well, you don't have any electricity!' (Besides being embarrassing for my student, it was a real eye-opener for me, I never dreamed I had students without electricity.)"

Loretta Powell, Director of Student Services, received her undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree at Berea College in 1974 and her Master of Arts and Rank One Certification from Eastern Kentucky University from 1975 to 1995. She began teaching sixth graders at Mt. Vernon Elementary School in 1974-75, soon becoming Guidance Counselor at MVES and Roundstone Elementary in 1984-85 and Principal in 1994-95. The following year, Powell moved to her current position at the Central Office. She is the mother of two children, Adam and Katy. Adam will be graduating from the University of Kentucky on May 6th with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Katy, a senior at RCHS, plans to attend ECU in the fall.

"The best thing about teaching is watching the excitement of learning," states Powell. For those planning a career in education, Powell advises, "Continue your education beyond the required Master's Degree, travel and bring your experiences back to the classroom, visit your students in their homes and get to know them beyond the classroom." Powell's retirement plans include spending time with her family and taking off a few months to decide her next career move.

Ruth Allen-Hamilton, Rockcastle County High Principal, attended Eastern Kentucky University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in German and English, her Master and Rank I in English, and Education with Principal Certification. She came to Rockcastle County High School in 1972 during the first year of consolidation as a sophomore/junior English teacher. After 25 years, Allen-Hamilton became Principal. Allen-Hamilton is the mother of four children: Julie, a registered nurse at Sowder Nursing Home; Jason, a welder for NACCO in Berea; Trina, who lives in Lexington, and Carrie, who lives in Kannapolis, North Carolina. Allen-Hamilton is the grandmother of three grandchildren.

"The best thing about teaching is helping young people to begin a successful life and being able to share their hopes, dreams and successes. Many students become like your own children - and who is more wonderful and precious than our children? states Allen-Hamilton. Upon retirement, she plans to spend time with her family and eventually relocate to Florida "where there is always a possibility of a second career."

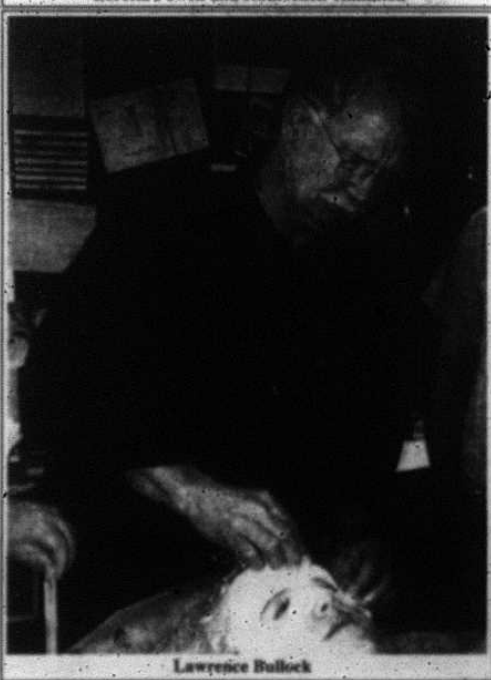
Rockcastle County Schools has benefitted from the experience, knowledge, and dedication of these four individuals. We join with our students and community in wishing them the best in their future endeavors.



Martha Eversole



Loretta Powell and Ruth Allen-Hamilton



Lawrence Bullock