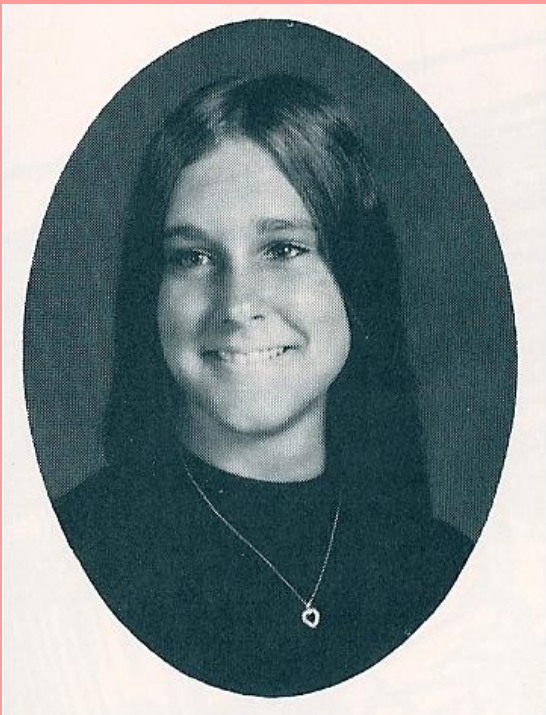


Debbie C. Long Buenger – Class of 1974
Phys Ed Teacher, Carroll County Schools

After receiving her BS degree in Physical Education from Towson University, her career began after a long-term substitute job at Pikesville High School. She then accepted a fulltime position in Harford County as a swimming instructor, volleyball and swimming and diving coach, before getting married to John Buenger and moving to Carroll County in 1980. She began teaching Physical Education at Sykesville Middle School and coached volleyball at Liberty High School. After seven years Debbie transferred to East Middle School and remained there for another seven years. During this time, John and Debbie had two sons, Patrick and Sean and completed her Master's of Liberal Arts degree. She then had an opportunity to teach on the college level so she left the public school system and became a student teacher supervisor and taught a graduate course at McDaniel College and served on several college committees for the next ten years. Debbie eventually returned to Carroll County Public Schools to Northwest Middle School and then recently transferred to Eldersburg Elementary School where she is currently teaching Physical Education and Health. In 2008, she was nominated for the National Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year. It was her goal as a teacher to teach every level, college to elementary school before retirement. Her career has been very rewarding, challenging and a lot of fun getting to know all of her students!



In her own words:

What does being a Physical Education Teacher of the Year mean to you?

Being named the 2008 National Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year is a prestigious honor. This award is the highlight of my career. To be a part of the National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) family is truly a unique experience as they are supportive in their professional roles and advocate for high quality Physical Education programs across the country. I enjoy presenting and sharing ideas with other teachers. As a Teacher of the Year I also hope to learn new and innovative ways to continue to inspire my students and to give back to the profession through advocacy for quality Physical Education.



NASPE Hall of Fame Banquet

What do you do to help other Physical Education teachers plan and implement exemplary programs?

My career has been a very unique one over the past thirty years. I have enjoyed mentoring first year teachers, student teachers, and practicum interns in my classroom for many years. In my teaching career I have mentored over one hundred student teachers, written curriculum for the local college's Physical Education Department, in-serviced current Physical Education teachers with presentations on various topics at the State, District and National levels, and held committee positions in our professional State and District organizations (MAHPERD). I held a position as a student teacher supervisor for undergraduate seniors where I helped them implement units of study and made myself available to all teachers in my profession for questions or teaching suggestions. Being an advocate for Physical Education on a National level through the NASPE Teacher of the Year Program I have enjoyed conversing with the "best of the best" teachers from all over the country, and gotten to meet Olympic Gold Medalists Carl Lewis, Dot Richardson, Apolo Ono, and other professional athletes such as Hershel Walker, Drew Brees and Annika Sorenstam.