

Florence Unetich

Arts & Music



Florence Unetich graduated from Collinwood in January 1940. After she graduated she found her way in the business world.

However, at the age of 40 she enrolled at Ohio State University where she was awarded her BA cum laude and her BS in Education summa cum laude. She later earned her Master's Degree after she started teaching.

Florence joined the faculty at Collinwood High School and taught Advanced Placement, Honors, and College English. In 1977 she was appointed English department chairperson at James Ford Rhodes High School where she remained until her retirement in 1987.

She was selected a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar for the 1978-79 school year. She served on numerous textbook selection committees and writing committees, which prepared teaching manuals and auxiliary materials and conducted summer workshops for teachers.

Florence studied voice for many years and sang professionally as a church soloist in area churches, was the lead soloist with the Jadran Chorus and directed the Slovenian Junior chorus. She has been extremely active in the Slovenian community and has broadened understanding of the culture in the United States. The Slovene Emigrant Society of Slovenia presented her with their Silver Award in 1984, and their Gold Award and honorary membership in 1990. Florence was selected as Slovenian Workmen's Home Woman of the Year in 1992. In 1994 she was awarded the Cultural Heritage Award by member of Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame and has named to the Trustees' Honor by the Board of the American Slovenian Polka Foundation.

"Perhaps the most significant reason I rank Miss Unetich's influence so highly is that she truly believed I have the ability to compete academically at my college of choice, she was enthusiastic in her encouragement and recommendation that I follow this Princeton dream. Her nurturing spirit was a tribute to her humanity. I cherish the opportunity to credit this public school teacher for the everlasting impression she had on my life."

This quote was made by a recent inductee to our Hall of Fame and Vice President of the American Cancer Society, Danny Williams.

Her nomination to the Collinwood High Hall of Fame was made with great pride.