KY Teacher Hall of Fame

VFTH

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The Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame has three new members after an induction ceremony this week in Frankfort.

Amy Bingham introduces us to them in this week’s View from the Hill.

As always, talking to these distinguished teachers is an honor. The passion they have for their chosen profession is easy to detect.

 “I liked all groups but I think I really appreciated high school.”

Angela Alexander Townsend’s 38- year teaching career ran the gamut from pre-school all the way to college.

She says teaching was her destiny from a young age.

 “In my neighborhood I lived down on Chestnut Street when I was younger and I would have a classroom on somebody’s front porch.”

Retiring in 2009, Townsend has received a lot of accolades along the way but downplays the role she played in her own success.

 “The students deserve most of the credit. The ones that listened to what I tried to teach them and the ones that did well with what I tried to them.”

Wendell Worley has been teaching at South Laurel High school for 32 years. He has no plans to retire anytime soon. He still loves taking students around the world in their minds.

 “Sharing the knowledge these kids do not have, seeing the lightbulbs go off everyday.

Worley began teaching the first AP US history class in Laurel County more than 25 years ago. Many of his former students were excited to see him receive his latest honor. .

 “I get to teach high school so I see them as a freshman and senior, see how they leave and become productive American citizens and Kentucky residents.”

Marie Jones of Georgetown retired just three years ago at the age of 84 after teaching for sixty years.

 “I loved getting up every morning and going to work. I never once thought gosh I wish I could stay home today.”

Starting out in a one room school house, Jones went on to teach business classes until 1990 when she went part time and continued overseeing graduation.

 “I planned everything from ordering caps and gowns and invitiations. Everything that had to do with seniors that’s what I took care of.”

The Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame was created in 2000 through a gift by late Governor Louie B. Nunn. It’s located at WKU because of the university’s 110 year history in teacher education.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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