



Anita “Gayle” Laughlin

A native of Paoli whose early education was in a one-room schoolhouse, Gayle Laughlin began her musical career as a clarinetist in the Paoli Band under Harold Iverson. As a seventh grader Gayle became 1st chair clarinet in the high school band – a position she retained through graduation. She was a member of the second Indiana All-State Band in 1962 held at Goshen HS and directed by Fred Ebbs.

After attending Eastern Kentucky University for a year, Gayle transferred to Indiana University Bloomington. While at IU, she played in the Wind Ensemble for three years under the direction of Dr. Ronald Gregory. Gayle graduated from IU with a BME degree in 1966, along with the distinction of “Bands Woman of the Year.” In 1972, Gayle completed her graduate degree (MA) from IU.

Following a year teaching in Louisville, Gayle moved to the New Albany – Floyd County School system, where she taught for 7 years with her 1st husband Larry Kinzer. While at New Albany, Gayle and Larry established the “Highlander Band Tradition” of the new Floyd Central High School. After Floyd, Gayle spent 2 years assisting the band programs of South Spencer and Springs Valley before returning to Paoli, where she became the assistant band director for the next 22 years, working with her husband Bill Laughlin. Directors whom Gayle taught with include Larry Kinzer, Arthur Ayde, John Aylsworth, Mark Middleton and Bill Laughlin. Notable achievements of the Paoli Band Program during Gayle’s tenure include consistent “Superior” ratings for her Elementary bands at the ISSMA concert band festival, 14 State High School Marching Band Championships, and many of her private students earning positions in All-State Bands, University Bands and the Military Bands.

In retirement Gayle continues to teach private lessons and woodwind sectionals with the Paoli Band program. She has a son, Craig Kinzer, daughter in-law Angie, and two grandchildren: Madison and Zachary. One of Gayle’s most treasured accomplishments is having a 22 year teaching career in the same music program with her husband and partner – Bill Laughlin. Gayle and Bill still reside in Paoli, have 2 Old English Sheepdogs (Lily & Mollie) and are members of the music ministry at Paoli Christian Church.

