

FIVE MINUTES WITH German teacher grows a family tradition

By Montana Paton
INTERN

A tradition of passing the family house down to the oldest son resulted in German teacher Susan Sipos' family owning a house from the 1400s. It's one of the only remaining historical houses to survive the war in Germany.

"It's a big farm house and there's a giant amount of land around it that is covered with apple trees," Sipos said via email. "It has a historical monument sign in front of it."

Not only does the oldest son get the house, but also that company comes with it. There are 55,000 apple trees that cover the land around the farm house and these apples are supplied to major supermarkets in Europe.

Sipos stopped by the farm house many times when she ran a student exchange program in the area. Before that, she and her family used to visit every two years.

"I ran the program since 2007," Sipos said. "I was excited that the partner school happened to be 30 minutes away from my family's house."

Sipos' family history connected to the farm is one of legend in her household. Since only the oldest son has claim to inherited property, Sipos' great-grandfather was forced to move to North Dakota with her great-grandmother.

"That was at the time when there was not a lot of work in Germany and he had no other choice, he had to leave," Sipos said. "So the people that are in the house are really like my cousins. We call them cousins, I'm not sure how exactly closely related we are."

Generations of German-speaking family members have impacted Sipos.

"When I was little my German grandpa sometimes tried to teach me German, but I didn't know him that well so it didn't really have that much of a meaning to me," Sipos said.

Years later, a friend from South and his father strengthened her decision to continue a career in German by sharing the same interest in the language.

"The most important thing about the house is not the structure. It's just a house, after all," Sipos said. "The most important thing is that the people who live there keep the stories of our family alive."



COURTESY OF SUSAN SIPOS

Q & A with Susan Sipos

NP: If you could have any pet what would it be?

Sipos: A bird because I'm allergic to animals, but I used to have a Quaker Parrot that was totally crazy and could talk, but he escaped.

NP: What's your favorite thing about North so far?

Sipos: The students, I think the students are awesome. I think there's a lot of talent and also they're nice. So that's the most important thing.



FACES IN THE CROWD

By Gowri Yerrammalli & Michal Ruprecht
BUSINESS MANAGER & INTERN



SYDNEY BENSON

Elizabeth Lemanske

The new Apple Watch is the "apple" of junior Elizabeth Lemanske's eye. After wearing a Fitbit, a pedometer tracker, she fell in love with the new innovation and decided to buy one for herself on Sept. 14.

"I fell in love with having some sort of technology on my arm," Lemanske said.

Despite its low battery life, Lemanske likes how convenient the Apple Watch is to use, as it syncs information from her phone to her watch.

"The Apple Watch is useful in my daily life because if I get a text I can read it on my watch and decide if it's important or not to reply," Lemanske said.

Advocating for the advantages of the watch, Lemanske praises the benefits of the popular device.

"I would recommend the watch to people familiar with Apple products looking for something convenient," Lemanske said.



SYDNEY BENSON

Jeffrey Redd

As the only boy on the step team, senior Jeffrey Redd steps to his own rhythm. Redd doesn't believe this affects the way his teammates perceive him.

"They (my teammates) actually were surprised and excited seeing me stepping on the team last year," Redd said.

Redd began stepping with his sister, senior Ja'Myre Redd, when they were kids, but had to quit stepping due to conflicts with football. However at the beginning of Redd's junior year, he rejoined the activity.

"One day my sister was talking to Mrs. Gast about step, and Ja'Myre told me I couldn't step," Redd said. "I said, 'What? You're so wrong. I will show you,' totally not seeing that my sister tricked me. I stepped and Mrs. Gast loved it."

Redd admires how the team's synchronization unites them.

"My favorite part of being on the step team is when everyone learned the step and we perform as one," Redd said. "It's like you only hear one person stepping."



SYDNEY BENSON

Michaela Cosgrove

"Cuts," "lifts," and "overs," are typical moves freshman Michaela Cosgrove performs in her local and international Irish step-dancing competitions. This year, Cosgrove participated in the North American Irish Dance Championship and qualified for the 2016 world competition in Scotland.

"It was very exciting, I've never qualified before," Cosgrove said. "Leading up to it, I was really, really practicing hard. I had a lot of lessons, (I spent) a lot of my own time practicing, and I was also in the top ten on the continent in my age group."

Cosgrove started Irish step-dancing at the age of four, when her mom took her to a Riverdance show. Since then, she has enjoyed her time costumed in dresses, wigs and makeup, dancing at festivals and competitions.

"It takes a lot of work, but once you make a goal for yourself and reach it, it feels really good," Cosgrove said. "Once you reach it you never stop. You just keep setting goals for yourself and want to achieve them."



SYDNEY BENSON

Hunter Williams

Moving isn't easy, but for freshman Hunter Williams, tennis served as a way to cope. Williams moved from Topeka, Kansas at the end of last school year and played tennis throughout the summer.

"It helped me get to know people, and it was really a fun way to spend my summer. It made everything seem fun," Williams said. "The stress of moving would all go away when I played tennis."

Having spent the last weeks of the summer practicing with the varsity team, Williams was able to start the year with a few familiar faces.

In addition to meeting new friends, Williams is also adjusting to a larger school environment. For the last four years, he attended a private school in Topeka that was much smaller, so this year brings many new opportunities.

"I do like the public schools," Williams said. "It's a lot more fun 'cause there's more people so you get to know more people."



SYDNEY BENSON

Olivia Peruzzi

Through her father's job, freshman Olivia Peruzzi spent a year introducing a Saudi Arabian family to America. The family traveled from Dammam and spent a year living in Michigan.

While introducing the family to American life, Peruzzi simultaneously learned about Saudi Arabian culture.

"We got to learn more about their culture, and we learned more about the different things they celebrate and how they live back at home," Peruzzi said.

The Peruzzi family took the visiting family to a Red Wings Game, the Henry Ford House and even Florida. They are still in contact and FaceTime each other.

"I feel like it's just changed me because, I mean, I have never experienced it before, and it feels kind of cool teaching someone you know that's foreign essentially English and show them around America," Peruzzi said. "We just introduced a whole new world to them."



SYDNEY BENSON

Kitty Clark

Nursing homes are typically associated with the elderly and not melodies. However, sophomore Kitty Clark has been able to combine the unlikely pair through volunteering.

Clark started singing at senior centers and Meals on Wheels events when she was 12. She was first introduced to the idea by her dance team and has continued to volunteer since then.

"I just really liked how it felt and just knowing that I'm making people's year, it's just really nice to just do it," Clark said.

She hopes to further pursue her passion of helping others by continuing to volunteer.

"My grandma was just always someone who just said, 'give back and just do as much as you can,'" Clark said. "I try my hardest every day to just help others in need because I know I would want someone to help me if I were in their place, so it just feels good to do it."