

Roma Sanders
Alumni President

I graduated from Platte Valley Academy with the class of 1965. From there I continued my education at Union college, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. After two years of teaching, I took a year off to attend graduate school at Andrews University, where I received a Master of Arts in Music with an emphasis in composition and music history. I am also certified to teach English and language arts on the junior high and senior high levels.

It has been my privilege to teach throughout the United States – Tennessee, New Jersey, Nebraska, Kansas and California – in both day schools and boarding academies. I have taught all grades, K – 12, in various combinations of classroom music, bands and ensembles, choirs, bell choirs, instrument/keyboards lessons, English and language arts. Teaching is a terrific profession. I'm always delighted when I learn that one of my students has chosen education as a career.

The last school at which I taught was Great Plains Academy in Enterprise, Kansas. Since its closure in May, 2010, I have been employed by the Kansas-Nebraska Conference to develop and work with the scholarship program. This has been both a privilege and an honor: A privilege to continue in education in the capacity of the scholarship position; an honor to meet and serve the people of this Conference.

A native of western Nebraska, I was raised on a wheat farm located about 50 miles east of the Wyoming border. This is land my family homesteaded and has farmed for well over a century. I am blessed with a very precious family (two brothers and two sisters – one living and one deceased.) My friends are pure gold. So you see – in spite of life's hits, my blessings are truly abundant. When I start counting, I lose track of the number!

I love the mid-west, with its open prairies and hard-working, honest-hearted way of life. After 21 years in California, the summer I left there to teach in Kansas I felt like I was headed straight for home. Part of "home" is Platte Valley Academy, which holds a special place in my heart. I believe PVA has a noble legacy – and an *enduring* one. Today we have the distinct privilege of advancing that legacy under the loving guidance of our Heavenly Father. I'll say "Good-bye" with two verses from one of my favorite hymns.

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in Thy name,
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now Thy garment's hem.*

*As the brethren used to gather, in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit Thou our friendship up.*

From the SDA Hymnal -- # 259
By P. Dearmer and H. Friedell,
Adapted by J. Turner