

Strap up your boots, seniors: Senior citizens offer advice to students

By Lexie Julbert and Adrian Daeger

In her baby pink sweater layered over a flowered, collared blouse set off by a beaded necklace, Elizabeth Stewart attempts to remember the year she was born. Nearly 10 minutes go by before she answers.

"Was it 1998?" she asks, giggling when she realizes that this would make her 18 or 19 years old, about the same age as Perry's Class of 2017 upcoming graduates.

Then, she fesses up, eyes twinkling: "Someone did tell me yesterday I was 94, and I didn't believe them."

Maybe that's because Stewart follows her own advice: "People should wait to grow up."

Stewart and two other residents at Forest Creek Commons Assisted Living Facility located at 6510 N U.S. 31, recently agreed to share their own senior advice, contrasting 275 combined years of life experience with the mere 18 years of experience of 2017 seniors.

Stewart, unsure of her ability to give advice, fiddles with her fingers, drawing attention to her wedding ring that she still wears. She ponders what advice she could possibly offer young adults.

"Poor kids," is what she says regarding everything the Class of 2017 must figure out in the days ahead.

Then, she leans in close, cackling as she says, "Pay attention!"

To the kids who are scared for the future, Stewart says, "You're doing alright so far. You never know what's ahead."

After graduating, Stewart worked for her dad's hardware store because he didn't have anyone else to help him. Although what she wanted to do was work with her sisters in their business office, she enjoyed working with her dad.

"That's what is important," she said.

Also eager to share advice, Bob Lance, 89, arrives shortly after Stewart, calling, "Hey, you beautiful ladies." Lance eagerly sits down and pulls up a chair.

In high school, Lance enjoyed musicals and the arts. He was quite a singer, he said. Now, his voice "is all wore out."

Though Lance did not graduate high school initially, claiming, "Aw, heck I knew enough," he went back later and earned his high school diploma. Because Lance left high school before his senior year, he advised to "Keep trying. Don't back off. I backed off."

Lance was full of high school memories, recalling vivid stories of "those old nuns" at Sacred Heart High School, still standing today, and the way in which students used to be paddled with a wooden board at school.

Lance wishes to instill this one simple, lasting piece of advice for students of any age.

"Enjoy your years and do what you love."

Lance couldn't resist adding one last flirt, his cheeks dimpling, "You won't soon forget me."

Georgeanna Ford, 92, describes her life as either "Tutti-Frutti" or "Rocky Ripple" ice cream, meaning life was "up and down and up and down."

Ford grew up as a "farmer girl" and has been hard of hearing her entire life, supporting her "rocky ripple" claim. But she did not let that stop her from excelling in school, then as a teacher for nearly 40 years at Covington Community High School.

At one point, Ford zipped toward her visitors, leaning in close: "Now I want you to hear this."

She explains how she was inducted into the Franklin College Athletic Hall of Fame after coaching girls volleyball there for 14 years.

"I really accomplished a lot. It takes a lot of work, dedication, and strength to succeed," she says. "If you want to do something, do it. Don't be afraid to ask for help and don't get side tracked."

Ford advises young people to enjoy life before getting too serious about love.

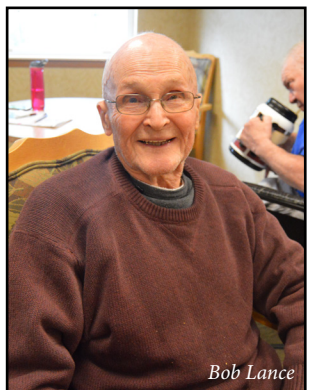
"Because what is love? We don't even know at this age," she says, elbowing Lance sitting beside her.

They chuckle.



Georgeanna Ford

"Are you sure my hair looks alright?"



Bob Lance

"You know I'm ready for my headshot."



Elizabeth Stewart

"Are you sure this shirt is okay for the picture?"

Gabriella,

You are our pride and joy! We cannot wait to see where your effervescent personality leads you!
We love you so much!

Dad, Mom and Nate



Gabriella Guenther



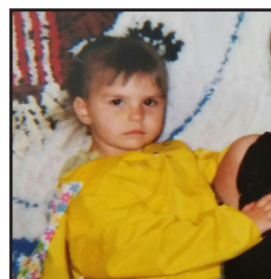
Lauren McCartt

Congrats
Lauren McCartt

Our Kreative Kid
Our Diva Star
Our GEM

#cuterthanababychameleon

Love, Mom, Dad & Kelsey



Selena J Snapp

Selena,

You had been a very quiet, shy kid that turned into a very lovely, caring, not so shy young lady. So glad you have been part of our lives. Best wishes in the path you take. Continue to be positive. We are proud of you.

Love, Uncle Tony & Aunt Tina

Things to do for summer '17

By Emma Davidson

1. Stay out all night with your favorite people from your time at PMHS. Make memories before embarking on separate paths.
2. Apply for at least one scholarship. (It's not too late to get those textbook fees covered).
3. Take a long drive going nowhere, for the sake of having no place to go, because your schedule is clear.
4. Go to the zoo and visit their

- newest edition, twin ring-tailed lemur babies and their mom Bree.
5. Attend one live concert, such as OneRepublic, who will be playing at Klipsch Music Center on July 13.
6. Commit a random, anonymous act of kindness (like leaving a busy waitress a sweet note and a hefty tip or paying for the person behind you in the line at Starbucks).
7. Skinny dip in a natural body of

- water (clothed, if you prefer...).
8. Take a weekend trip to Kings Island. (Tickets are only \$34.95, if you buy them at Kroger or Meijer).
9. Ding-Dong-Ditch one door in a nearby neighborhood. (There's no rule that says you can't still act like a goofy middle schooler every now and then).
10. Check out the Indianapolis Museum of Art and have a picnic on the 100 Acres.



Samantha Loyd

Samantha,

You have brought so much joy into our lives. We can't wait to see you grow into the woman God wants you to be.

Love and God Bless,
Memere & Pepere