

Eileen Bacha Bio - Class of 1964

2022 Cardinal Mooney Distinguished Alumni

A 1964 graduate of Cardinal Mooney, Eileen Bacha earned her Bachelor of Science in Education, *magna cum laude*, from Youngstown State University in 1968. The following year, she finished her Master's in English, *cum laude*, from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where she was a teaching assistant. She holds permanent certification in English and Comprehensive Social Studies. After attending Slippery Rock University, she added Guidance and Counseling.

During her 44-year tenure at Cardinal Mooney, she served as the English Department chair for 37 years. In that role, she designed and taught courses in Film Study, The Bible as Literature, Search Strategies, Study Skills, and Verbal Test Prep. For many years, she taught Honors English 9 and 11 and AP Literature and Composition I. She served on curriculum, accreditation, and scheduling committees, published articles in the *ALAN Review* and the *English Journal*, and conducted workshops for teachers on writing labs and student publications. In 2007, the Diocese honored her with the Golden Apple award.

Outside of the classroom, Eileen coached speech with Denny Barrett and Paul Gregory, was the business manager for theatre productions, and coached the girls' tennis team. She was the advisor for the Future Teachers of America, the school literary magazine, and the newspaper, the *Beakon*. With Mr. Pete Smith and Mrs. Karen Wright, she coached the Academic Challenge team.

From 1979 to 2016, she served on the YSU English Festival Advisory Board, judging and leading sessions. In 1992, she won the English Festival's Barbara Brothers Writing Award for Teachers for her article on censorship. In the early days of the Diocesan Confederation of Teachers, she served as its vice president.

Outside of teaching, Eileen enjoys a variety of activities. With her horses, Irish Dancer, Clancy, and Tom Thumb, she competed in hunter shows. She completed wilderness and mountaineering courses through the National Outdoor Leadership School and Colorado Outward Bound. For six summers, she was a high-country ranger in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View, Wyoming. As a member of the Sierra Club, she backpacked in Colorado, Montana, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, California, Washington, and Alaska on ten-day service trips.

Starting in 1998, she has volunteered with retired U.S. Park service archaeologist Tom Windes to do dendrochronology fieldwork in Chaco Canyon, Natural Bridges, Mesa Verde, Aztec Ruins, the Pecos village of San Miguel, Beef Basin, and Cedar Mesa. She has coauthored a book chapter and several articles in archaeology. Since her retirement in 2013, she has traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Cuba, Europe, and the Baltic and Balkan countries.

After dedicating her life to teaching at Cardinal Mooney High School, Eileen continues to assist at Science Night, Open House, and Career Day and remains committed to Catholic education, Mooney traditions, and its motto of "Sanctity, Scholarship, and Discipline."