

Gretchen Wyder-Zinic

Class of 1987

Distinguished Alumni Honoree



Gretchen Zinic has over 25 years of teaching experience and is currently a string specialist with the Upper Arlington City School District near Columbus, Ohio. The Orchestra Program in U.A. is nationally recognized having won or placed at multiple national competitions and performances in Chicago, Toronto, New York, Hawaii and China. At Jones Middle School she works with students in 5 different orchestras and at the high school she conducts two of the five orchestras, and assists with the other three. She holds a Bachelor's in Music from Bowling Green State University and a Master's in Music from The Ohio State University, where she was recognized with the Outstanding Graduate Achievement Award.

She is a twice recipient of the Golden Apple Award for outstanding excellence in education from the Upper Arlington Civic Association in 2002 and 2017. Bowling Green State University named her an Accomplished Graduate in 2008. She has performed with the Lima City Symphony and the Westerville Symphony Orchestras and is now a member of the Columbus String Quartet. Currently on the board of the Ohio String Teachers' Association, she previously held the positions of Newsletter Editor, Middle School Camp Conductor and President. Presently she is serving on the American String Teachers' Association K-12 Education Committee, and as Secretary of the Youth Philharmonic of Central Ohio.

She resides in Upper Arlington, Ohio with her husband Ed who is also a string teacher, her daughter Susan who is a junior in high school and Eliza the cat. In her spare time she enjoys traveling and running. She recently completed her tenth half marathon.