



Susanne Fusso – Class of 1972

“There was a lot of racial tension during my time at Southeast, which basically eased as the school became predominantly African-American. Being one of the few white students by graduation was a very interesting experience that has stayed with me.”

High School Memories

I lived at 6138 Harrison when I attended Southeast. My brother James Fusso graduated in 1968.

Looking back, I think the school did an excellent job considering the financial constraints. English literature and math were taught very well. I also learned how to type, which has been a great skill all my life (can't remember the name of the typing teacher, but he was also the basketball coach, a really nice guy).

My most memorable classes and teachers were: World History with Harvey Oxman; English courses with Anita Berkowitz, Joy [can't remember last name], Joe Hawblitzel, and [I think] Ms. Taylor. Probably my best course was Humanities, but unfortunately I cannot remember the name of the (young woman) teacher and yearbook with Mrs. Runnels.

My most vivid Southeast memory is (1) Mr. Oxman making African food, including peanut soup. (2) Mr. Hawblitzel showed slides from his service in Vietnam. (3) The principal Mr. Herron and Vice Principal Mr. Rowan waiting for me in the Rotunda to congratulate me on my score on the National Merit Exam.

I worked on the school newspaper and the yearbook. Outside of school, I basically read all the time. In the summers I worked at the Department of Agriculture and the Small Business Administration downtown.

I vividly remember the day Robert F. Kennedy died. In gym class we were supposed to run all the way to the zoo. Another girl and I (her first name was Patsy) were so sad and depressed that we just walked the whole way, talking about how sad we were.”

After High School

I went to college at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin; graduate school. I received my Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. I'm a professor of Russian Language and Literature at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.

I hope everyone is well. I remember lots of laughter and how much I learned from my classmates.