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Tonthat, Tom

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey California

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U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tom Tonthat

GSBPP Bids Farewell to Beloved Assistant Mary Lou Vossen

By MC2 Tom Tonthat

Dozens of faculty and staff from NPS' Graduate School of Business and Public Policy (GSBPP) and across campus gathered around a makeshift stage outside Ingersoll Hall for Administrative Assistant Mary Lou Vossen's retirement celebration, Aug. 30.

"Your calm demeanor and welcoming smile sets a tone for the office that will be hard to replace," said GSBPP Dean Dr. Bill Gates, presenting Vossen with a framed painting of Herrmann Hall signed by countless colleagues and friends. "I think you've done a fabulous job and we'll miss you terribly."

Vossen spent the last 13 years as the assistant to Gates and his predecessors in the university's business school, serving as a liaison between the dean and the greater NPS community. During the celebration, colleagues across campus took time to reminisce on their memories of her.

"Over the four deans that Mary Lou had been the assistant for, I never had a challenge being informed about what's going on in the business school," said DKL Librarian Ann Jacobson. "From making sure I get the calendar to making sure I know what's going on. I'm really going to miss you not only for your wonderful personality, but also for the help that you've given me."

"It's amazing and I really feel honored that you're all here," said an emotional and appreciative Vossen. "We've become friends, that's for sure."

As a final gift to her NPS friends and coworkers, Vossen made arrangements for a local Beatles cover duo that she discovered to play a handful of songs during the celebration, kicking off their set with a very appropriate rendition of, “With a Little Help from My Friends.”

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1 University Circle, Monterey, CA 93943

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