

Lisa Silliman-French

Class of 1981

Columbia High School

Dr. Lisa Silliman-French currently employs her talents with the Denton Independent School District in Denton, Texas, where she is the Coordinator for Adapted Physical Education in the Special Education Department.

Dr. Silliman-French graduated from Columbia High School in 1981 and proceeded to obtain her Associate Degree at Hudson Valley Community College in 1983. She enrolled in the State University of New York at Cortland and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in 1985. She concluded her formal education by obtaining her MA and Ph.D. at Texas Woman's University in 1987 and 1993 respectively.

Dr. Silliman-French has been involved in the field of Adapted Physical Education since 1986, serving as Special Olympics Coordinator in Fort Worth, Texas from 1990-1995. Her performance as an instructor/coordinator in Special Education has earned her an outstanding reputation in a difficult field of endeavor.

Among her other accomplishments and honors she is credited with are her designation as:

- Outstanding Young Woman of America Award (1988).
- Outstanding Graduate Student Awarded (1991).
- Nominee for Teacher of the Year Award at SUNY Cortland (1985).

She has also served on a variety of committees and offices in her area of specialization and holds membership in a number of professional organizations. She has served as an instructor and presenter at various conferences/workshops both here and abroad (Canada and Taiwan).

Dr. Silliamn-French also is a prolific author. A number of professional journals, too numerous to mention, have consistently published her articles which have exerted a strong influence on her colleagues efforts in the field of Special Education. Among the publications she has participated in authoring are those topics dealing with the use of audio-visual aids to teach fitness activities; improving physical performance for students with profound mental retardations; self-actualization of elite wheelchair athletes; and the integration of profoundly mentally retarded children into the community through physical activity.