

As White reminisced about her ten year stint mentoring teens at SCPL, she reflected on her library career.

“When I first moved to Kentucky, my children were small and the local library we attended was cold and unfeeling. It’s radically different in Scott County. When we moved here, the librarians got to know me and my children. I learned so much watching Shirley Ison. I told myself when I started my career in the library, that was the kind of librarian I wanted to be,” said White. According to Brennen, White achieved her goal.

Brennen, an easy going, upbeat person, downplayed periods during childhood when his family experienced a fragmented, stressful time. They moved to Georgetown, and lived within walking distance of the library, then moved again to the other side of town. The summer he was 13, he walked a distance of three and half miles, nearly every day to get to the library.

White laughed as she recalled her reaction the day he asked about astrophysics. “It’s the middle of summer, the kid is in here every single day, and I thought to myself, this isn’t typical of kids during the summer, hanging around the library and reading science books.” She invited him to join the Teen Advisory Board (TAB). The Board is self-led and self-governing, and plans library activities just for teens.

Brennen recalled his first meeting. He saw one tall, intense teenager off in a corner by himself, another singing at the top of her lungs while her friend danced around the room. “I’ve found my people,” he said, smiling at the memory.

As he and Mary Lou recalled past teen events, their favorites included the intrigue and fun of the Murder Mystery Theatre program, and a formal debate themed around the non fiction book *Area 51* which resulted in an actual alien attack (teens gone wild) after their presentations.

Brennen scored a perfect 36 ACT score in reading and applied to seven colleges, including Johns Hopkins University. He chose Duke, and as Mary Lou wishes him luck with a twinkle in her eye and a little pang in her heart – it’s a small price to pay for a special friendship with a 13 year old kid who just couldn’t put down those science books.