Several area teachers spent time this summer in the role of the student, learning about historical events, artistic movements and information technology. Other teachers explored volunteerism by helping people in need.

**Paul Beckwith**
Angola Middle School science teacher
could share “Once Upon a Nation” stories.

While there, the Hagues also visited the Liberty Bell, which was named by an abolitionist, Independence Hall, where the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, and a Quaker church. She also learned that Henry

Tobin and Raymond G. Dobard, PhD;
- “The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom” by Bettye Stroud; and
- “Underground Railroad Sampler,” by Eleanor Burns and Sue Bouchard.

SUSAN ZUBER
DeKalb High School biology teacher

Surprising Possibilities Imagined and Realized
Through Information Technology (SPIRIT)

WATERLOO — Susan Zuber can’t imagine not doing anything educationally stimulating during her summer vacation. Last year, she went to Princeton University, and this summer, she spent two weeks at Purdue University learning how she could incorporate new technology in her biology classroom at DeKalb High School.

Zuber, along with fellow teachers Barb and Tony O’Neal, applied to Surprising Possibilities Imagined and Realized Through Information Technology (SPIRIT) and earned a stipend to attend the event.

“Our technology is advancing so quickly. We’re lucky to have a supportive administration to embrace these programs for new technologies,” Zuber said.

She admittedly felt a little out of her league when learning about a software program, Alice, during the conference at Purdue.

“I like being in the student role and feeling out of place,” Zuber said. “I try to envision what they’re feeling.

“Alice is a program that allows you to understand problem-solving as you develop an animation program,” Zuber explained.

She said the software makes computer programming accessible in the classroom. She envisions her students using the program to animate the activities that take place within the human cell, rather than watching a PowerPoint presentation or giving an oral report on the cell’s functions.

“Students love working with technology and computers, and they’re very comfortable with it,” Zuber said. She added that her students will probably have a better grasp of the program than she does, as they’re very adept with their computer skills.

The conference also introduced teachers to information technology careers of the future.

“They’ve noticed there is a huge downward swing in women entering the information technology field,” Zuber said. “They’re hoping to get more women involved by showing them the branches of information technology.”