

The Staffer

A Newsletter for Shelby County Schools Personnel

Spring/Summer 2006



Michael Robinson

Memorial Award Winner for Excellence in Teaching

Table of Contents

Teacher of the Year Banquet	page 3
Teacher of the Year Honorees	page 4
State PTA Honors SCS Employees	page 5
Board of Distinction Award to SCS	page 6
Retirement Luncheon	page 7
SCS New Principals	page 8
New Principals contd.	page 9
The Mitchell Lecture Series	page 10
\$400,000 Grant for Transportation	page 11
Jaques Art Gallery Winners	page 12
Fourth Annual SCS Athletic Banquet	page 13
Record-breaking Year for Grants	page 14
PowerSchool	page 15
Employee Appreciation Day	page 16
Groundbreaking for Southwind High	page 17

Teacher of the Year Banquet



Pictured L to R: Dan Byrd, David Pickler, Michael Robinson, Dr. Bobby G. Webb

Shelby County Schools' reputation for academic excellence is due in large part to the over 3,000 outstanding teachers in our system. Their dedication and instructional ability are second to none. At the request of Dr. Webb, the Department of Curriculum and Accountability, under the direction of Dr. Judy Ostner, once again organized the *Teacher of the Year Banquet*. Due to the generosity of the banquet sponsor, the Bank of Bartlett, over 250 teachers, principals, Board members, central office staff, as well as family members, were able to gather at Woodland Hills to celebrate the accomplishments of some exceptional teachers.

Each of the 48 schools in the SCS system nominated teachers to represent their school. In gratitude for their service, each honoree received a certificate from Dr. Webb as well as an engraved apple from the Chief Operating Officer of the Bank of Bartlett, Mr. Dan Byrd. Jay Shappley, owner of Holland Studios, also provided a color photo of each individual receiving an award.



Cynthia Tesreau



Michael Morrison



Michael Robinson

Three teachers were honored as *Systemwide Teachers of the Year* in their respective category - elementary, middle and high school. Cynthia Tesreau of Bailey Station Elementary was recognized as the outstanding elementary teacher. Mt. Pisgah's Michael Morrison received the middle school award, and Michael Robinson, from Houston, won the high school award. The final award of the evening went to Michael Robinson, who received the Department of Curriculum and Accountability's 2006 Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching, signifying SCS' outstanding teacher.

**T
e
a
c
h
e
r

o
f

t
h
e

Y
e
a
r

H
o
n
o
r
e
e
s**

Acton, Stephanie
Asbell, Amanda
Bailey, Brenda
Barron, Pam
Bond, Joseph
Breedon, Susan



Colley, Cathey
Cook, Heather
Ellis, Calvin
Enoch, Mary
Gooch, Brett
Griffith, Lorraine



Johnson, Mary
Johnson, Emily
Keas, Tamara
Kline, Genie
Lancaster, Cynthia
Lando, Richard



LaPradd, Patricia
Marston, Judy
Mayall, Abby
McGhee, Dedric
Morrison, Michael
Moss, Melanie



Moy, Gail
Nelson, Debora
Parrish, Deborah
Price, John
Price, Kathy
Purdy, Eleanor



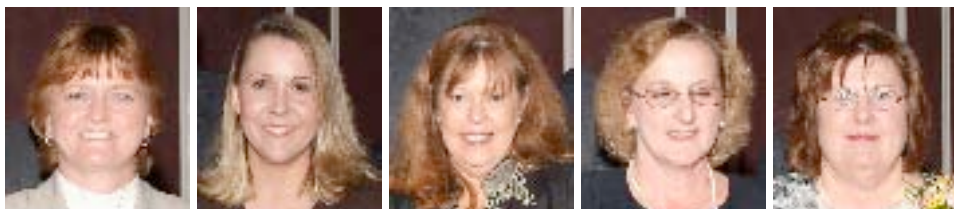
Raby, Elaine
Raines, Glenda
Reagan, Debra
Reed, Carla
Robinson, Mary
Robinson, Michael



Sanders, Malcom
Seek, Jason
Snow, Ashley
Snowden, Deborah
Swanton., Kathleen
Tesreau, Cynthia



Thomas, Melody
Trefz, Kim
Watson, Sherry
Whittington, Ginny
Williams, Madge



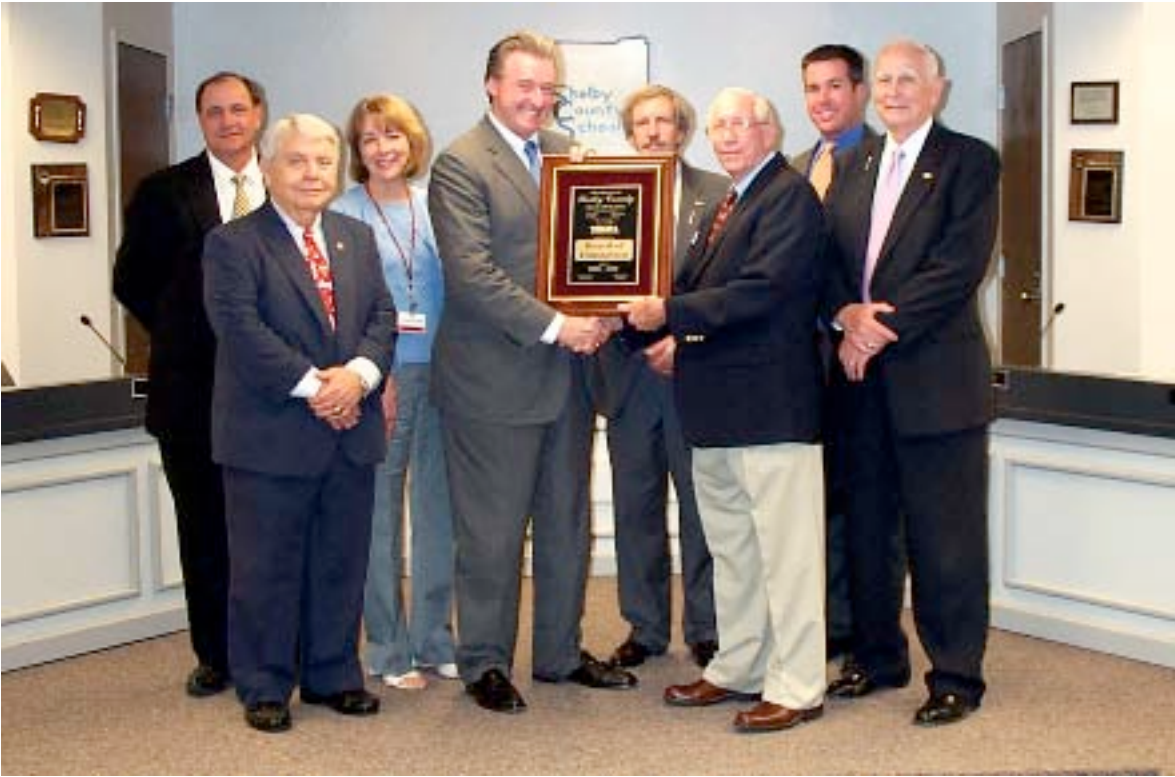
Tennessee PTA Honors SCS Employees



Pictured L to R: Laurie Moorhead, Dr. Bobby G. Webb, Sydney Mayo-Bender

Shelby County Schools tradition of excellence does not go unnoticed by the state PTA, as evidenced by the honorees at the PTA Convention. At the Tennessee PTA conference, Laurie Moorhead, from Tara Oaks Elementary, was selected as Tennessee's "Outstanding Teacher of the Year." Sydney Mayo-Bender was honored as the "Outstanding Principal of the Year." For the second time in three years, SCS Superintendent Dr. Bobby G. Webb was named the "Outstanding Superintendent of the Year."

SCS Board Receives Board of Distinction Award



Pictured L to R: Ron Lollar, Vice Chairman Ernest Chism, Anne Edmiston, Chairman David Pickler, Superintendent Dr. Bobby G. Webb, TSBA District Director Rodney Eubank, Wyatt Bunker, Joe Clayton

Shelby County Schools Board of Education has once again been recognized by the Tennessee School Boards Association with the *Board of Distinction Award*. Making the presentation at the May school board meeting was Rodney Eubank, the TSBA District Director.

This is the highest performance level that a school board can attain. The *Board of Distinction Award* is given on a two-year cycle, and the SCS Board has achieved this status five times. Only two other of Tennessee's 136 school boards have received this honor as many times.

Retirement Luncheon



On May 17th, the Superintendent and Board treated retiring Shelby County employees to a luncheon at Appling Manor. The event was organized by Lois Williams, the Coordinator of Human Resources, and the Human Resources staff. As the retirees' names were called, they came forward to receive an engraved silver tray. This recognition has become an annual event to celebrate the outstanding service of those retiring from the SCS system.

Shelby County Schools New Principals

Chimneyrock Elementary



Mrs. Patti Russell

Although a native of Michigan, Patti has lived and worked in Tennessee for over forty years. She graduated from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Patti obtained her M.Ed. in special education from the University of Memphis and 45 hours above the Master's level from The University of Memphis and Cumberland University. She recently completed her Educational Specialist degree in Administration and Supervision at Union University.

Patti began her teaching career at Holy Rosary in Memphis. After three years there, she began teaching Special Education for four years at The Auburndale School. This position was followed by a six-year stint teaching for Memphis City Schools at Grant Elementary.

Patti has been an employee of Shelby County Schools since 1986 and taught fourth grade and resource classes at Mt. Pisgah Elementary and Middle School for eight years. She came to Chimneyrock Elementary in 1994 and taught third and fourth grade resource students. Her last year in the classroom was spent teaching fourth grade. In 2001 she was appointed Curriculum Coordinator. She has served as Assistant Principal at Chimneyrock prior to being named principal.

Dogwood Elementary



Mrs. Andrea Simpson

Andrea grew up in Nashville, and moved to Shelby County to attend the University of Memphis where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She also earned her Masters in Education Administration and Supervision from the U of M. Andrea has just completed her 29th year of employment with Shelby County Schools.

In 1977 Andrea began her nine year tenure at Millington South as a 2nd grade teacher. Following her time at Millington South, she spent one year at Bartlett Elementary teaching math and science. She then became the Project Excellence Coordinator at Northaven.

In 1988 Andrea began her career in school administration. For the next seventeen and one half years she would serve as the Curriculum Coordinator / Assistant Principal at Oak Elementary. In January of 2006, Andrea was named the interim principal at Dogwood Elementary after Susan Pittman became the Director of Early Childhood & Elementary Education. In August of 2006, Andrea will begin her eighteenth year in school administration as Dogwood's new principal.

Highland Oaks Primary



Mrs. Jacqueline Webster

Jacqueline Webster is a native of West Point, Mississippi and graduated from West Point High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and her Master's degree in Educational Administration from Texas Southern University.

Jacqueline began her teaching career in Houston, Texas with the North Forest and Houston School Districts. She has also taught elementary and middle school in Dallas and later in Illinois.

Jackie's career with Shelby County Schools began at Ross Elementary, where she spent 5 years as a classroom teacher and curriculum coordinator. Prior to being named Principal at Highland Oaks Primary School, Jackie served seven years as Curriculum Coordinator / Assistant Principal at Dogwood Elementary School.

New Principals contd.

Lucy Elementary



Mrs. Regina Payne

Regina has lived in the Memphis area all of her life. She is a 1983 graduate of Ridgeway High School and attended the University of Memphis, where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education in 1990. In 1999 she received a Master of Science Degree, in Instructional and Curriculum Leadership, also from the University of Memphis. Regina earned her Education Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision from Union University.

Regina embarked on her teaching career in August of 1990 at Crump Elementary, which was then a part of the SCS system. She taught first, second, and third grades, respectively. In August of 1998, Regina was named a Curriculum Technology Specialist. Her career as a school administrator began in August of 2001, when she was assigned to Southwind Elementary as an assistant principal, a position she has held until being named Lucy's new principal.

FedEx CIO Shares with Students at Mitchell Lecture Series



Pictured L to R: SCS Superintendent Dr. Bobby G. Webb, FedEx CIO Robert Carter, retired SCS Supt. Dr. Jim Mitchell

The fourth annual *James B. Mitchell, Jr. Lecture Series* featured not only one of the most prominent business leaders in this community, but also the world. Robert B. Carter, Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer of FedEx Corporation, spoke to approximately 500 student leaders from the seven high schools in the Shelby County Schools district in late April.

Carter provided the students a look into the future - a world in which technology is evolving at a mind-boggling pace. Students were told that life in technologically advanced countries is changing at such a rapid pace that virtually everything about the way we live and work is being transformed. Even with the rapid technological advances that are taking place, Carter emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong sense of values. According to this FedEx leader, true success does not come to those who merely obtain and apply the most empirical knowledge in their jobs, but those who also place tremendous value on family, friends, and moral principles. Following the lecture, students spent over thirty minutes questioning Carter about his life and career, as well as any advice he could pass on to the soon-to-be graduating seniors.

The lecture series started when retiring superintendent Dr. James B. Mitchell, instead of accepting a retirement gift, asked that donations be made to a lecture series to enrich high school students' learning. The lecture series is sponsored by the Shelby County Schools Education Foundation to expose student leaders to significant speakers and topics with which they may not otherwise come in contact. In recent years, lecturers have discussed rebuilding nations following civil wars in Africa, promoting peace throughout the world, and working for community betterment within existing service channels.

SCS Transportation Dept. Receives \$400,000 Grant



Pictured: Ronne Adkins at podium, to his left SCS's Mike Simpson, Richard Holden, Debra Rike and Judy Faris

Memphis and Shelby County Department of Regional Services awarded the Shelby County Schools Transportation Department funding for Project RIDE (Reducing Imminent Dangerous Emissions). The award amount is \$400,000 and was presented by Ronne' Adkins, Air Quality Coordinator for the Shelby County Government Clean Air Coalition. The award will allow our district to retrofit all school buses with a Diesel Oxidation Catalyst (DOC). The DOCs will reduce particulate matter (PM) 20-30% and reduce carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons up to 50%.

According to SCS Transportation Director Mike Simpson, our goal is to improve air quality for the students we serve and thus have an impact on the overall air quality for our region.

Michelle Beasley is recognized as the leader for this project. She has worked tirelessly with Mr. Adkins developing our proposal. Special thanks and kudos to Ms. Beasley for her efforts on the part of our school district, community, and our students.

Jaques Art Gallery Winners



Pictured Front Row L to R: Amy Shamblin, teacher Schilling Farms; Connie & Rick Harlow, parents of Juliet Harlow; Juliet; Dan Berry; Judy Williamson, mother of Dan Berry; Jennifer Burford, teacher Collierville High School
Pictured Back Row L to R: David Pickler, Board Chairman; Superintendent Dr. Bobby G. Webb; Randy Baker, Director of SCS Education Foundation

Each year through a special endowment to the Shelby County Schools Education Foundation, two students and their art teachers are honored for outstanding artwork. The competition is open to all middle and high school art students. The winners of the 2006 James A. Jaques and Rosemary M. Jaques Student Art Gallery Competition are Juliet Harlow, a seventh-grade student at Schilling Farms Middle School, and Dan Berry, a senior at Collierville High School.

Each winning student received \$200 to help pursue his or her interest in art. An additional \$200 award to purchase materials for their art classes was presented to Juliet's art teacher (Amy Shamblin) and to Dan's art teacher (Jennifer Burford).

This was the third year in which Jaques winners have been selected and the first year in which awards were made at both the middle and high school levels. Students donate their winning entries to establish a student art gallery at the Central Administration Building located at 160 South Hollywood St. The gallery is growing with five pieces of student art now currently able to be displayed. Applications for next year's competition will be available in September with a deadline for submission in March.

Fourth Annual SCS Athletic Banquet



The fourth annual SCS Athletic Banquet was held at Woodland Hills on May 30th. This event is sponsored by Coca-Cola and the Shelby County Schools Athletic Committee for the purpose of celebrating the achievements of SCS' outstanding senior athletes, as well as coaches. Each high school was represented in six categories - Female Athlete of the Year, Male Athlete of the Year, Female Scholar Athlete of the Year, Male Scholar Athlete of the Year, and Female and Male Sport Coach of the Year. Each honoree received a certificate and medallion and vied for the overall countywide winner in each category.

The coaching nominees from each of the high schools were:

Female Sport Coach of the Year

Bartlett High - Lynn Whitfield
Bolton High - Pam Parker
Collierville High - Juliann Lacy
Germantown High - Barbara Whitaker
Houston High - Scott Hamlett
Millington High - Rick Hearn

Male Sport Coach of the Year

Phil Clark
Chris Duncan
Robbin Simmons
Joey Nesbit
Mike Irby
Clint Durley

The overall county winner in the Female Sport Coach of the Year category was Juliann Lacy, the coach of the state girl's soccer champions from Collierville. For the Male Sport Coach of the Year there were co-winners - Phil Clark, the coach of the state runner-up baseball team from Bartlett, and Mike Irby, the coach of the Houston Mustang soccer team. Paul Edwards and Michelle Nelson, from Southwind Middle School, were named the Middle School Coaches of the Year.

Lauren Thompson of Germantown, the state's MVP in volleyball, was named the *Female Athlete of the Year*. Rob Sorrell from Bolton, the state cross country champion, and the winner of the 1600 and 3200 at the state track meet, was the *Male Athlete of the Year*. The *Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year* was Bartlett's Salutatorian, Linda Beckwith. The co-winners of the *Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year* were Valedictorians Andrew Smith from Bolton and Brett Dagen from Millington.

RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR GRANTS AT SCS

Shelby County Schools generally receives about \$2 million in competitive grant funds per year, but this year the figure nearly tripled. The district received its highest single grant award of \$5.4 million to help students develop and maintain healthy behaviors. The Safe Schools, Healthy Students grant engages eight community partners to do everything from forming neighborhood watch groups to teaching parents of pre-schoolers how to help their children develop kindergarten-ready behavior.

Other grants received this year include wig-wag lights for school buses, an afterschool program at Northaven Elementary, and curriculum materials to help Hispanic parents learn the English language. Some schools were successful in writing grants for important projects. Riverdale received funds to support its one-to-one laptop program, and Germantown High received computer software to teach students how to create visual representations of high-level math concepts.

This year twenty more SCS staff learned grant writing skills through attending the annual GrantMasters' Institute. New grant writing efforts are underway to help support the district's plans to increase the quality and quantity of science and math instruction, as well as to increase students' interest in pursuing these areas as possible career goals. Through grants, SCS can acquire additional resources to help retain its instructional leadership in Tennessee.

PowerSchool

Over the past four years, Shelby County Schools has been researching, reviewing and piloting student management systems to select the optimal program for systemwide implementation. Millington Elementary, Houston Middle, and Collierville High piloted PowerSchool during 2002 – 2004. It was very well received and SCS was interested in using the program systemwide, until Apple dropped its plans to scale up to handle our 46,000 students. PowerSchool has recently been formatted to effectively serve large systems. Although SCS has painstakingly explored several programming options, including STAR, Chancery, Edline, and enhancing SASSC, none of these provided the overall capabilities of the new version of PowerSchool.

PowerSchool has matured and evolved into a program that can now efficiently serve SCS. Some of the advantages that PowerSchool can provide our system are as follows:

- Ease of use/time savings
- One program to manage all student data
- Integrate data to our library, school nutrition and transportation programs without duplicate entry of student data
- Compatibility with State Department of Education E.I.S. reporting
- Powerful and easy report generating functions
- Ability to define and print a variety of reports to a local printer
- Web-based, 24-hour administrator, teacher, parent, and student access to grade, attendance, test, and other student data

Although programs such as SASSC and Edline have served our needs well, they don't have the capability of interfacing to the degree that the new generation of PowerSchool provides, nor do they provide all the same capabilities. While this search has taken multiple years and much effort on the part of our staff, we are pleased to announce that Shelby County Schools has chosen the newly enhanced PowerSchool for a systemwide student management program. It should serve Shelby County Schools well for years to come.

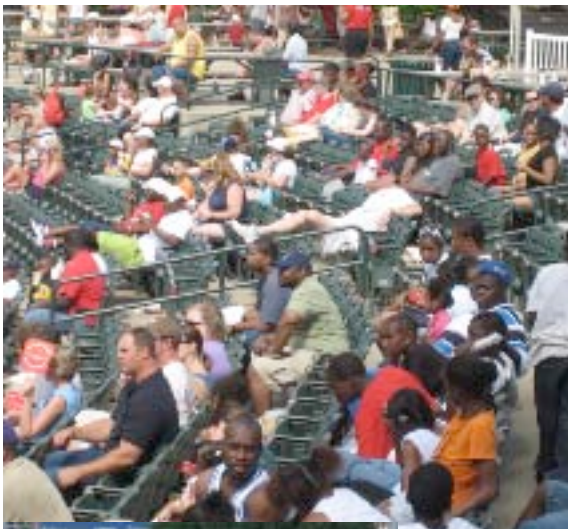
Employee Appreciation Day

On Sunday, May 21st, over 2,500 employees and their family members gathered for the third annual *Employee Appreciation Day* at AutoZone Park. Adrienne Robinson, a 2nd grade teacher at Jeter, and her son John, won the special drawing and received Redbird souvenirs along with the opportunity to throw out the first pitch. This event along with the "Teacher of the Year Banquet," and the "Retiree Luncheon" have all been initiated by Dr. Webb to honor SCS employees. The "Redbird's Day" was made possible through the following corporate donations:

COCA-COLA COMPANY

RENAISSANCE GROUP
ASKEW, HARGRAVES, HARCOURT & ASSOC., INC.
WEBB BUILDING CORPORATION
THE CRUMP FIRM, INC.
ROOF CONSULTANTS, INC.
HALL, BLAKE & ASSOCIATES
BLUFF CITY ELECTRONICS
JAMNU H. TAHILIANI & ASSOCIATES
BROWNING FERRIS, INC.
TRI-STATE PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS, INC.

HOLLAND STUDIO OF PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.
BOUNDS & GILLESPIE ARCHITECTS, INC.
FLEMING/ASSOCIATES/ARCHITECTS, P.C.
STEVE WARD AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
FOSSETT PAVING COMPANY
JOHN J. CAMPBELL COMPANY, INC.
INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS
ALLEN & HOSHALL



On May 25th ground was officially broken for the new Southwind High School. The site is on the northwest corner of Shelby Drive and Hacks Cross. The school is scheduled to open in August of 2007 to incoming 9th and 10th graders. Once completed it will be the second largest high school under one roof in Tennessee, and will ultimately house 2,000 students. This state of the art facility will have over 100 teaching stations which include: 72 classrooms, 3 computer labs, 7 science labs, a physical education gym, specialized career/technical spaces, and fine arts spaces including choral and instrumental music, drama and TV production.

Athletic facilities will include a lighted football stadium with 8-lane track, lighted baseball, softball and soccer fields, and a varsity gymnasium.

Groundbreaking for Southwind High

