



April 21, 2010

Dear Heathwood Hall Episcopal School Parents:

Excellence in teaching is not only alive and well but abundant at Heathwood Hall! Please congratulate our own **Dr. George Scouten on his having earned the honor of S.C. Independent School Association Upper School Teacher of the Year for 2010.** The award was presented last night at the organization's annual banquet. Dr. Scouten serves as our director of international studies and student life. This is the 8th time in the past 10 years that a Heathwood Hall teacher has received this honor.

This past Saturday evening we gathered to celebrate a past recipient of this same award, Jimmy Gasque. The soiree to commemorate his 50 years of teaching was a festive gathering with seersucker as far as the eye could see that appropriately paid tribute to not only an impressive educator but a fine Southern gentleman. Approximately 225 members of our community – alumni, faculty, staff and parents – gathered at the home of Manning and Katherine Frankstone for a lovely garden party. Among other honors, **Mr. Gasque was presented the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Sanford** for his contributions to education and to the lives of his many students. The alumni present traveled from as far away as New York and San Francisco to honor "Q." **This morning in Chapel, a font stand, commissioned by the school and created by parent David Moore, was given by Mr. Moore, his wife Valerie and their family.** It was given to the Glory of God and in honor of Mr. Gasque. Mr. Moore also designed and built the altar in our Chapel of the Epiphany as well as the cross above the front door. As it is National Volunteer Week, it is appropriate to recognize and thank all those who so generously give their time and other resources – far too many to be named here -- for making Heathwood Hall a remarkable place and for making occasions such as this one possible.

As you know, generous donors have stepped forward to honor Mr. Gasque and our unparalleled faculty and an endowment to honor teaching excellence was established. I am thrilled that it is time to nominate current faculty and staff who meet the criteria as it reads in the citation:

The James H. Gasque Award for Teaching Excellence is presented annually to current members of the Heathwood Hall Episcopal School family who have exhibited – through passion, devotion, inspiration, and expectation – the

highest ideals of the teaching profession. This award is given in honor of James H. Gasque, whose unending love of the English language and passion for Heathwood Hall Episcopal School and its students have been unparalleled in their intensity and longevity.

Details about the nomination and awards process will come your way from Elizabeth Clark in the next few days, so please begin considering who has made The Difference in your family.

We have other initiatives and events in the coming weeks well worth mentioning:

“Guys and Dolls,” presented by the Upper School Heathwood Players, runs tomorrow (7 p.m.), Thursday (3:30 p.m.) and Friday (7 p.m.). Contact Joy Bruner (231-7787 or brunerj@heathwood.org) for tickets, which must be paid for in advance.

The **6th Grade Roots Exhibition**, which allows students to showcase their year-long project of writing and present their pictures and family artifacts, takes place this Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the I/MS Commons Area.

Our **ECLC Habitat Celebration** will be held Tuesday, April 27, at 10:30 a.m. in the Smith-Shirley Campus Center Amphitheater.

Evening of the Arts, featuring our concert band, choral and visual arts students, will take place May 13 in and around the Smith-Shirley Campus Center beginning at 5:15 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner to enjoy.

Senior Exhibitions, which involve all members of our Class of 2010 presenting their thesis-style research, will take place May 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Of course, our year will conclude with our various **Baccalaureate services and, finally, Commencement** on the morning of May 28.

Please join us to see the culmination of our students’ and teachers’ hard work and achievements this past year!

Finally, if you haven’t taken a few minutes to do so already, please take **part in our Communication Audit survey before Monday**. Our goal is to better understand your preferences concerning communication from our school, and to serve you better. To take part, visit this address:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V9HYRQG>

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Respectfully,

Chuck