



Family teachers win awards and promotions for teaching excellence

Bud Mehan wins promotion at UCSD Debbie Nix wins Teacher of the Year Award Birdy Hartman wins outstanding teacher award

On May 7, 1999 the following announcement was released from the UCSD OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Appointment of CREATE Director

After a nationwide search, I am pleased to report that Hugh "Bud" Mehan has been appointed as Director of CREATE (Center for Research in Educational Equity, Assessment, and Teaching Excellence).

A distinguished sociologist, Professor Mehan has produced outstanding scholarship on educational issues, especially the achievement gap suffered by low-income and minority students. He has authored or edited seven books and scores of articles and is a member of the National Academy of Education. In addition to excellent research, Professor Mehan is known for his exceptional teaching and administration. In 1997, he received UCSD's Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award. He has served as Director of the Teacher Education Program, member of the K-12 Task Force and its Planning Action Team, Interim Associate Director of CREATE, and is one of the chief architects of the Preuss School at UCSD.

In all his activities, Professor Mehan has demonstrated time and again his dedication to the education needs of underrepresented students, the primary mission of CREATE. As an expert and activist on educational matters, he is highly respected nationally and locally, both in academia and in the K-12 community. I appreciate his willingness to take on this leadership role on an issue of great importance to our campus.

Marsha A. Chandler, Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

A few days ago we received from Aunt Eloise a letter and a copy of the May 17, 1999 issue of the The Sumter Daily Item, which carried a front page story of Debbie Nix as winner of the South Caroline Independent School Association Middle School Teacher of the Year Award. The award was presented at the Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet on Tuesday, April 27, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina.

The following quotations are taken from the lengthy article in the local paper. "Debbie is just a real treasure", said Phillip Jackson, Jr. Thomas Sumter Academy's headmaster.

"She has a passion and enthusiasm for learning that is unmatched among teachers; it affects everyone she comes in contact with." Nix is gifted when it comes to dealing with young people, Jackson said.

Nix has taught at Thomas Sumter since 1979. In addition to teaching English, she serves as the student council adviser, the cheerleader sponsor and director of development. She also heads the school's Leukemia Campaign and has organized Shenanigans, Thomas Sumter's fund-raising auction.

Nix also is involved in several community projects, including serving as a Sunday School teacher at Dalzell Methodist Church and on the board of the S.C. Chapter of the Leukemia Society. Nix also serves as a board member and volunteer for Camp Kemo. "It is our duty and our responsibility to be a volunteer," she said. "If we are healthy and have all the blessings we all have, we should realize that there are people who need help"

TEACHER OF THE YEAR Local woman named best among private schools



A few days ago we were informed of a third family award. Birdy Hartman received a letter from W. Lee Pierson, Headmaster, Francis Parker School. We quote from that letter, as follows.

Dear Birdy: Congratulations on being named as a recipient of the Dethloff Family Award for Excellence in Teaching. You have been selected because of your commitment to excellence for yourself, and for your ability to engage the minds of your students and to inspire their imaginations with excitement for

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PROFESSOR HUGH "BUD" MEHAN New Director of UCSD CREATE program



BIRDY HARTMAN Dethloff Family Award winner for Excellence in Teaching



learning .

Established in 1993 by Glenn, Joanne, Tyson, and Trent Dethloff, the Dethloff Family Endowment will provide annual awards recognizing outstanding Parker teachers, and is accompanied by a \$600 grant made possible by the Dethloff family's generosity.

The formal announcement of the awards will be made at the annual meeting on June 7th. I hope that you will be present to receive this award and allow me and the board members to congratulate you. An important measure of a school's success is the excellence of its teachers and their ability to inspire students I hope that the honor of receiving

one of the Dethloss Awards will provide you the well deserved recognition and inspiration that will help you continue your fine work with the students of Francis Parker School.

Sincerely W. Lee Pierson, Headmaster

We extend our congratulations to Bud, Debbie, and Birdy for these fine accomplishments. We are indeed fortunate to have in our family three teachers whose accomplishments are so appreciated and recognized by their administrators.

More news from South Carolina

We received the following letter from Aunt Eloise.

Marie Fowles called to say that she was a great grandmother! Ted Fowles and his wife have twins. Marie was so excited. She sounded so much better than she had the last time I talked to her. She was really despondent after Rob died, and I think the twins will help so much. Marie truly appreciates the Newsletter. She asked me to send her a list of your family, which I did. She wants to be able to identify all of the children and grandchildren.

Scott graduated from Francis Marion on the 8th of May. We are quite proud of him. Pat Conroy gave a speech and he was good and very humorous. Jimmie didn't care a great deal for Conroy, because of "The Lords of Discipline", but I think even he would have liked the speech. (Editors note – For those of you not familiar with Pat Conroy, he is a very successful author. His first book, "The Lords of Discipline" is based on his experiences as a cadet at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina. He was one year ahead of Richard. Richard knew him casually, and reports that he was involved in many of the incidents which Conroy described in his book. I do not know if Uncle Jimmie was aware of this association or not.) We had a big cheering section for Scott. Andy came, but Stacy had an engagement she had to attend so could not come. Two of Scott's Nix uncles and their families also came for the celebration. We all had dinner together afterwards. Scott plans to go to graduate school in the fall.

Debbie was chosen as the S.C. Independent School's Middle School 1999 Teacher of the Year. She works hard and thoroughly enjoys her work. We are proud of her and her accomplishment. She received a plaque and a cash award! Debbie is still at Thomas Sumter Academy – she'll never leave there, I'm sure. I'm enclosing the article from The Item.

We had a fun night recently at the Sumter Leukemia annual dinner. Everyone at our table wore funny hats. We had to buy our water. (Did I say it was a fund raising event?) Someone at our table bought all the forks, so that everyone else had to eat with spoons! There was also a silent and a live auction, which added to the merriment.

In June, Pat, my youngest sister, and I are flying out to Seattle to help celebrate Kay and Yon's daughter's

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graduation from High School. Yon is one of the Suber twins. The other twin, Von, lives here in Sumter, with the family. It will be my first visit to the State of Washington. When we were in California, we always talked of visiting Oregon and Washington, but never did get there. There was too much else to be done. And to be seen. We are looking forward to the trip and to being with Kay, Yon, and Caroline and Clinton, (who last year changed his name to Quentin – I don't blame him one bit).

I want to say 'thank you' for the newsletter. It is a wonderful way to keep up with you and your family.

Love, Eloise

Birthday celebrations

There were no celebrations in May, and the schedule is falling further and further behind. We need to set up dates for Michael, Megan, Brett, Kevin, Curtis and Michelle. Let us hear from you soon, or it will be next year already!

Birthday calendar for June

Listy Gillingham	June 3	31
Birdy Hartman	June 3	31
Bruce Hartman	June 5	40

Grandparent's Day at FP Middle School and Saint Columba

On April 29th Francis Parker Middle School held their annual Grandparent's Day. Unfortunately, grandma was feeling poorly, and could not make it to the celebration. However, Grandpa was there bright and early, and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to visit science classes for David and Scott, and a history class for Annie. We were very impressed by the quality of the presentations, and the interest shown by the classes. After the classroom visits we were treated to refreshments, followed by a program put on by the students. After a musical selection a series of orations were presented by selected students. It was a very entertaining program, enjoyed by all.

The St Columba celebration took place on May 20th, and started off with a very impressive mass service, with much participation by the students. After the service we had a chance to visit the classrooms of Bryce and JJ, and see samples of their work. Every student had prepared a picture or drawing, and the display was very impressive. We also visited the computer room, and enjoyed demonstrations of

computer programs designed to stimulate the education process. It is apparent that school is a lot more fun now than it was back when Grandpa and Grandma were learning. We have some pictures of both celebrations, as follows.



Travel news

Francie and Lyle took off recently for Lake Tahoe. For Francie it was a working vacation, a big trade show. We understand all went well, as usual, and Lyle had plenty of time for golf.

We understand Margaret is in Chicago, where she is delivering the keynote address at a big NECC conference. We will have a detailed report for the next issue.

Margaret also is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at a conference in Finland. However, she will do this one the easy way. Her voice and image will travel by wire all the way from California. That sure beats a long plane ride!

Some science stuff

Scott Hartman won a third place award for 7th graders at a recent Inventors showcase. His invention addressed the "smoke gets in your eyes" problem experienced by campers around an open fire. His approach was to rig a battery powered blower placed so as to blow the smoke

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straight up and away from the campers. We understand it worked very well.



Jason also was at work on a school project, a device to propel a practice golf ball. The goal is

to maximize both distance and accuracy.

Because of limited time we were not able to try out all of the possible settings on the catapult



device we built. However, Jason got a B+ grade, and won 6th place in the distance competition. We think he will place higher in accuracy, which will be the last part of the competition.

Classic truck progress report

Good news on the Chevy truck front! The engine is fixed, mounted in the truck, and test ran. All signs are AOK, and the final work (electrical, instruments, and interior) is going ahead full speed. That first drive is



getting closer and closer!

Mother's Day celebrated at Benesch home

Mother's Day was the occasion for another family get-together, and Carol and Jeff kindly volunteered to host a party. We all enjoyed refreshments followed by lots of ice cream, with lots of nuts, syrups, and other trimmings. The kids enjoyed some back yard games, ping-pong and the trampoline. After everyone was stuffed full we set out for a walk to the nearby Mission Trails Park. The facility includes a nice exhibit hall and a small outdoor arena, where we gathered for some picture taking. The Benesch pet, Brutus, had to be restrained from attacking a statue of a coyote. It was an easy and pleasant hike, and everyone enjoyed to exercise. We all thank Carol, Jeff, and family for the hospitality. We have some pictures, as follows.



Listy, Robert, Carol and Bob



Grandma enjoys some coffee



Grandma and daughters



Grandma and granddaughters



The whole gang at the Park



Laughing at Brutus

We received by e-mail a nice note from Bruce's mother, Nat Hartman, as follows. *Hi Frank....I'm writing to congratulate you on the new and wonderful RFNL. The color is terrific and the whole layout is so professional. Best of all is the news which I enjoy reading every month. I sent the last two copies to my friends, Mac and LeRoy, the ones who join us at Christmas. Your Easter article about donating to more needy folks was beautiful. I have a new Grandson, Luke Hartman, born May 4th to my son Mike and his wife Keri. Have a restful and happy summer. Keep the NL's coming. Nat*

SPECIAL NOTICE – Check your e-mail for details on the Fathers Day PGA (Parental Golf Association) tournament.