

DEF Student EdVentures Program Sends Decatur Kids Packing

In the fall of 2003, the Decatur Education Foundation (DEF) launched a new program called Student EdVentures. Targeted toward middle and high school students, the program is designed to give support to Decatur teenagers who hope to take advantage of an educational enrichment opportunity that takes place outside the regular school day or school year and requires some form of travel.

For anyone who has been fortunate enough to travel, it is clear that some of life's best learning experiences happen outside the

classroom. Though books have great value, there is a dimension to learning that cannot be captured in a book. Some things simply must be experienced to be understood.

During the 2003-2004 school year, DEF granted nine Student EdVenture Scholarships to Decatur High School students. Their EdVentures took them to Italy to study mask-making, to South Africa to celebrate the 10th anniversary of freedom from apartheid, and to Virginia's Washington and Lee University for a Summer Scholars program. These are their stories.

Studying with the Masters in Florence

by Lizzy Smith,
DHS Class of 2005

TO ME, ITALY WAS EVERYTHING I expected and more. The historic buildings, famous artwork and beautiful landscape took my breath away. Though we visited Milan, Padua and Venice, the most interesting part of the whole two week trip was our stay in Florence (Firenze).

While in Florence, we stayed in a little apartment located on the other side of the Arno river from the main part of the city. The view was amazing. Every day, we would wake up and go roam the streets of Florence. We would go to museums, eat at delicious restaurants or just find new shops to explore. Then around 15:30 (3:30 pm), we would head over to the workshop where we learned how to make authentic paper maché masks from Professor Augustino Dessi. We spent about 20 hours in five days learning how to make masks using traditional methods. The workshop was packed with old masks that had been made by other students through the years.

Our class consisted of me, my friend Corrye Mobley, our teacher Ms. Keith-Ott, two American teachers who were teaching at an Army school in Germany, a guy from California who owned his own theater, and a Japanese lady who knew very little English and some Italian. This group of such a random handful of people came to share the same very special experience. At the end of our class, our teacher, Professor Dessi had us all over to his apartment for a home cooked Italian dinner. This was such a wonderful experience for me — an experience I'll carry with me for the rest of my life thanks to the generosity of the Decatur Education Foundation. *Grazie!* 🍀



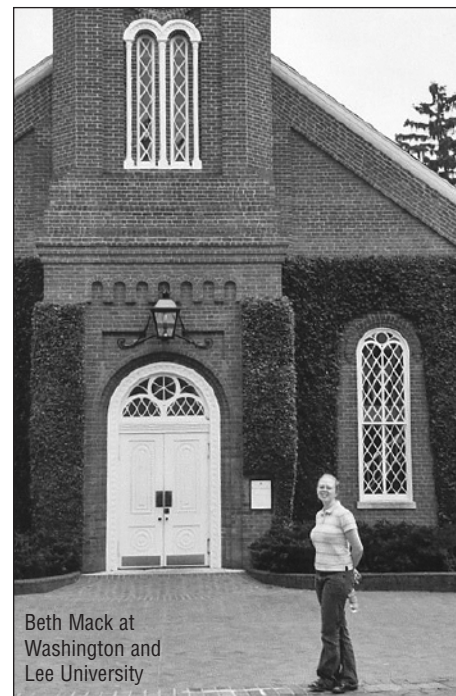
Lizzy Smith (right) works on her mask in Professor Dessi's studio.

Summer Scholars at Washington and Lee

by Beth Mack, DHS Class of 2005

THIS SUMMER I PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM called Summer Scholars at Washington and Lee in Lexington, Virginia. I attended three classes each day, American

continued on page 2



Beth Mack at Washington and Lee University

Adventures

continued from page 1

Political System, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, and Political Rhetoric. Although the classes only lasted until noon, I was working on homework until late in the night, but I really enjoyed it.

On the weekends we participated in many side trips that included hiking, volunteering, Wal-Mart runs. Every weekend

we had a dance and some kind of social activity. The first week was casino night, the second was Lip-sync, which is where a group of people come up with a routine and pretend to sing a song, and the third weekend was the talent show. While I was there, I joined the knitting club which met everyday; I am now an accomplished knitter who can knit, purl, increase, and decrease.

I met many people from across the

country and around the world, I also met two other people from the City of Decatur whom I did not know before but am good friends with now. I learned a lot more than the things taught in the classes. I learned responsibility with my time and what to expect from college. Many thanks to the foundation for the scholarship. This was an experience that I will never forget and an experience that will help me in choosing a college that is right for me. 🍏

Celebrating the End of Apartheid in South Africa

by Derrion Myrick, DHS Class of 2007

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2004, I departed Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport for the adventure of a lifetime. I couldn't believe the day was finally here, and I was on my way to Johannesburg, South Africa. As South African Airways began to call seat numbers for boarding the plane, my emotions were running high. I felt like I had run a marathon and crossed the finish line first.

After 18 very long hours, our flight landed in South Africa. A lot of questions began going through my mind: What would the people be like? How would the food be? How would the people treat me? Once we passed through customs, I exchanged my American dollars for South African Rand and for the first time in my life I felt like a very rich man.

Our group was greeted at the airport by Reverent Joseph N. Tshawant, the South African Founder and President of the King-Luthuli Transformation Center, who would serve as our host and tour guide. After checking in to our hotel, we went to have dinner at Mandela Square. It reminded me of the Omni. It had a mall and a hotel and several fine restaurants — it all felt very familiar — at least for a short time.

The next day we went to Soweto



Front row: Phyllis Primus, Tireje Dickson, Jayne Walton, Shannon Zackery, Derrion Myrick; second row: Chris Carter, Aretha Foster, Ericka Reese, Chastity Simon; back row: Derrion Myrick, Lapurchea Hill, Andrea Middlebrooks

“It's hard for me to capture what this trip meant to me in just a few words ... it was the trip of a lifetime.”

Township to participate in an African worship service. Then, we toured the historic city of Soweto including the Hector Peterson Memorial and President Nelson Mandela's home where he lived with his wife Winnie when he was first arrested. After the tour, we ate at a restaurant that was the equivalent of Paschals Restaurant in Atlanta. Many South Africans met there to organize rallies against apartheid. That evening, the DHS JROTC Chorus per-

formed at an event called “Ten Years of Our Democracy,” hosted by the King-Luthuli Transformation Center. Later that evening, we saw a documentary on 20th Century Nonviolence Struggles that was very interesting for all of us.

During the next several days we took scenic tours through the mountains and townships of South Africa, got to see gold mines and diamond cutting, and viewed big game on an African Safari. On our journey to Cape Town, I saw the Indian Ocean and the place where Bartholomew Dias landed after rounding the Cape of South Africa and a lot of very beautiful scenery.

While in Cape Town, we visited Robben Island where President Nelson Mandela was held 19 of the 27 years he spent in prison. It was a very moving experience to hear about the way the prisoners were treated there. We also visited Nelson Mandela High School. It is about three times as big as Decatur High and sits in the middle of a very poor part of town. We got to meet some of the students and teachers and talked about the differences and similarities in our cultures. That was fascinating for me.

It's hard to capture what this trip meant to me in just a few words. As I said before, it was the trip of a lifetime, and I am appreciative of Sgt. Primus for arranging it and to the Decatur Education Foundation for giving me the scholarship to go. 🍏

Mini-Grant and Construction for Instruction Grant Recipients

In 2003, the foundation board expanded the mini-grants program to include a fall giving cycle in addition to the spring cycle. This, combined with the Construction for Instruction grants program, resulted in an increase in total giving for grants to approximately \$29,000.

Mini-Grant Recipients Fall 2003 (for 2003-2004 school year)

Project: Sound Learning
Amount awarded: \$1,000

Teachers: Anne Putnam, Mandy Peters, and Rachel Duchs
A collaboration with Atlanta Symphony Orchestra to infuse music instruction into the curriculum at Glennwood Elementary.

Project: California Here We Come

Amount awarded: \$1,800
Teachers: Hamilton Edwards, Tom Seetoo, Melanie Wilder

To assist students with travel expenses associated with attending the International Media Festival in Anaheim, California.

Project: Living History Museum Featuring Famous Women Throughout U.S. History

Amount awarded: \$450
Teachers: Theresa Schilling and Barbara Sherman

To purchase books about women in history that will be used for student research at Winnona Park Elementary.

Project: Africa: Art, Music, and Dance

Amount awarded: \$1,400

Teacher: Virginia Maxfield

For two performances of African Uhuru Dancers and Drummers at Oakhurst Elementary and Winnona Park Elementary.

Project: SAT Prep Course

Amount awarded: \$7,000

Administrator: Karen Davenport

To offer a Princeton Review SAT prep course for a targeted group of 25 students at Decatur High School.

Mini-Grant Recipients Spring 2004 (for 2004-2005 school year)

Project: The Game of Life – Using Recreational Mathematics

Amount awarded: \$265

Teachers: Marcia Pauly and Barbara Sherman

To purchase classical books on recreational mathematics for the Glennwood library to enhance student use of the Game of Life software program.

Project: The Boys' Book Club

Amount awarded: \$512

Teachers: Barbara Sherman and Harold Rall

To purchase books for use with an after-school book club for boys at Glennwood Academy.

Project: Culture Club

Amount awarded: \$500

Teacher: Amy Lighthill

To provide funds for disadvantaged students from Renfroe Middle School to participate in student outings to cultural events in Atlanta.

Project: Advanced Placement Biology

Amount awarded: \$1,025

Teacher: Amanda Lockhart

To purchase biology labs on CD ROM for use with the Advanced Placement Biology program at Decatur High School.

Project: Election 2004

Amount awarded: \$450

Teachers: Theresa Schilling and Barbara Sherman

To purchase software, books and simulation games to teach children at Glennwood Academy about the presidential election process.

Project: Garage Band

Amount awarded: \$800

Teacher: Rob Hodges

To purchase software that assists students with original musical compositions.

Project: Junior Master Gardeners

Amount awarded: \$1,500

Teachers: Mary Farmer (CSD) and Mary Miller (Decatur Recreation Center)

To purchase materials associated with the experiential curriculum for Junior Master Gardeners at the After School Program for 3rd-5th grades.

continued on page 4



Hamilton Edwards teaches Barbara Sherman and Willie Washington how to operate equipment for their new TV production project at Glennwood Academy.



Glennwood music teacher Rob Hodges shows children how to create rhythms.

Grants

continued from page 3

Project: I Read It, But I Don't Get It

Amount awarded: \$1,200

Teacher: Carole Jenkins

To buy supplies to implement ideas from Cris Tovani's work titled "I Read It, But I Don't Get It" in high school remedial reading classes.

Project: T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R.

Amount awarded: \$500

Teachers: Charlette DeLoach and Patricia Douglas

To provide funds for enrichment activities associated with the high school student mentoring program known as T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R.

Project: ActivBoard

Amount awarded: \$1,795

Teacher: Joe Winterscheidt

To purchase an ActivBoard for use with high school chemistry and physics classes.

Project: Production of a School TV News Show

Amount awarded: \$3,000

Teachers: Hamilton Edwards, Barbara

Sherman and Willie Washington
For the creation of a TV news show at Glennwood Academy.

Project: TV Studio Improvements

Amount awarded: \$1,100

Teacher: Hamilton Edwards

To purchase a character generator and lighting for the Oakhurst TV News Show.

Project: Summer Reading Program

Amount awarded: \$1,500

Teacher: Cara Cassell

To purchase books for the 11th grade summer reading program at Decatur High School.

Construction for Instruction Grants 2004

Project: Advanced Body Building

Amount awarded: \$100

Teacher: Amanda Lockhart

To build a frame for physiology models.

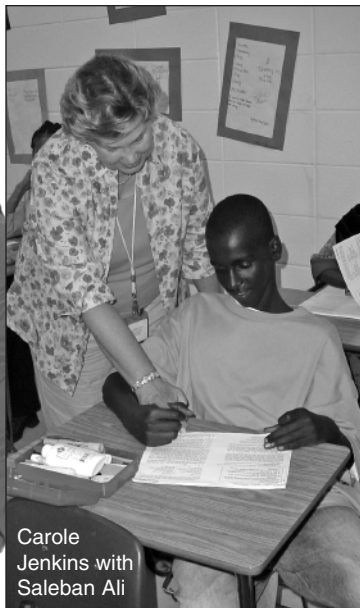
Project: Broadcasting News Desk

Amount awarded: \$1,500

Teacher: Jon Reese

To build a news desk for the Decatur High School Broadcast Journalism class. 🍏

Angelina Cavalli studies video production under the direction of teacher Jon Reese at DHS.



Carole Jenkins with Saleban Ali

FOUNDATION FRIEND: Daniel Phelps

Daniel is the manager of the Decatur Starbucks. He helped the foundation secure a grant from the Starbucks Foundation to support our literacy initiatives. The grant will be used to conduct Family Reading Nights at each of Decatur's K-3 primary schools and the Early Childhood Learning Center. Decatur High School creative writing students will also be involved with the project. Family Reading Nights are scheduled on the following dates:

Oct. 21 Winnona Park
Nov. 11 Clairemont
Dec. 1 Pre-K at Westchester
Jan. 27 Oakhurst



Teacher Ann Moore assists students in the Sound Learning Program at Glennwood.

Join the Race!

3rd Annual 5K Road Race and Fun Run Set for March 19, 2005

We have a new tradition at City Schools of Decatur. For the past two years a 5K Road Race and Fun Run has been held in the spring to benefit the Decatur Education Foundation.

More than 200 people from all age groups have participated each year, and the winners have posted competitive times. Overall winners receive \$100 gift certificates, and prizes are raffled off for all runners at the end of the race.

The race route starts at Decatur High School and winds through Decatur's neighborhood streets, passing Renfroe Middle School, Oakhurst Elementary and Winnona Park Elementary. Since 2002, the race has helped to raise approximately \$6,000 for foundation programs.

Mark your calendars now for the third annual 5K Road Race and Fun Run on March 19, 2005 – and join us! Information and applications will be available soon from www.decatureducationfoundation.org or www.active.com or www.rungeorgia.com.

We would like to thank the following sponsors of our second annual 5K Road Race:

ReMax Executive Emilie Markert
One Step at a Time
Fitness Together
Twinsparc
Dorough and Dorough, LLC
Twain's Billiards and Tap
New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church
Phidippides
Agnes Scott College
Edward Jones Investments
SunTrust Bank



**Third Annual
CSD 5K Road Race and
One-Mile Fun Run**

to benefit the Decatur Education Foundation

Mark Your Calendar! March 19, 2005

Registration fee (before March 13, 2005):
\$17 adults, \$10 children under 12

Online registration will be available at www.active.com and www.rungeorgia.com. For information contact Ed Williams at 404-327-7738 or roadraceservices@mindspring.com.

Changing of the Guard

It is not an overstatement to say that this organization would not be where it is today without the leadership of Bob Wilson.

At the foundation's annual meeting in late April, Bob turned the chairman's gavel over to Gayle Gellerstedt after having served as founding chair of the Decatur Education Foundation Board of Directors for more than two years.

Bob brought experience, wisdom and energy to his position that were invaluable in the founding of the organization.

It is impossible to adequately express our appreciation to both Bob and Lynda Wilson for their contribution to the establishment of the Decatur Education Foundation. As a small token of our thanks, we presented Bob with a framed photograph of Decatur High School created by local artist (and foundation supporter) Bill Bibb.

Gayle Gellerstedt, who will serve as the chair of the foundation board for 2004-2005, comes to us with an extensive leadership resume. She has served as president of the Atlanta Junior League and on the board of directors of both Agnes Scott College and Rabun Gap School. She, too, is a founding board member whose experience and wisdom have been very valuable to us, and we are lucky to have her.

Rotating off the board in the spring were Dr. Mary Brown Bullock, Dennis Byerly and Jerry Eickhoff. We appreciate their involvement and support in the establishment of the foundation and look forward to their continued support in the future.

The newest members of the board of directors were installed at the annual meeting. They are Emilie Markert of Remax Executives, Gué Hudson of Agnes Scott College, and Jean Eickhoff, daughter of former school superintendent Dr. Carl Renfroe. Valarie Wilson, who was elected as chair of the school board in January 2004, also joined the foundation board of directors as an ex-officio member.



Incoming DEF Board Chair Gayle Gellerstedt presents a framed photograph of Decatur High School to Bob Wilson.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

In May, the Decatur Education Foundation (DEF) celebrated its third birthday! Much has happened since our creation. Our early successes and steady growth have been due to the outstanding leadership of our first board chairman, Bob Wilson; the organizational skills of our executive director, Sherri Brown Breunig; the financial and time commitments of our entire board; and the ideas and dollars that so many of you have shared with us.

In the following pages, I invite you to read about what DEF has accomplished this past year. We have been able to provide more than \$25,000 in mini-grants to Decatur teachers for classroom innovation, \$6,000 to students for study trips and leadership development, and have given more than 30 teachers funds to help with professional development opportunities.

We are also blessed to be able to work with the Woolf, Hauk, Renfroe and Meador families in establishing scholarships in memory of beloved family members, scholarships that will reward outstanding Decatur students for their service and academic achievement.

We're proud of these achievements, but we know that there is much more to do so we are in the process of planning for our future. Members of the various board committees have begun work on investment and scholarship policies, a development plan, a communications plan and an overall five-year strategic plan. We hope to release details of our strategic vision within the next six months.

Our goals are lofty and can only be reached by working together in partnership with the community – sharing our time, our talents, and our dollars. To those of you who are already supporters of the Decatur Education Foundation, please accept our sincere thanks. We hope that you will continue to support us. To those who have not yet joined us, please consider doing so. We are honored to work together with all of our friends and neighbors in support of Decatur's children and youth. Here's to a great fourth year!

Gratefully,

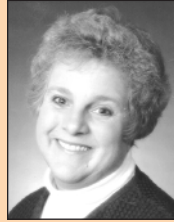
D. Gayle Gellerstedt
Chair, Decatur Education Foundation Board



Decatur Education Foundation

Board of Directors

OFFICERS



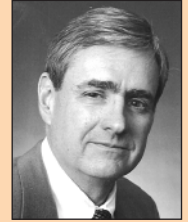
Gayle Gellerstedt
Chair



Tony Powers
Vice-Chair



David Ewing
Secretary



Charles Orth
Treasurer



Candler Broom



Susan Cobleigh



Haywood Curry



Walt Drake



Phyllis Edwards



James Eley



Bill Floyd



Bill Funk



Edith Hambie



Rich Mahaffey



Susan McCullar



Laura Mendenhall



Lyn Menne



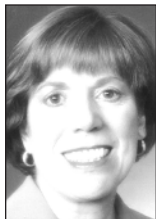
Mary Miller



Andre Pattillo



Jimmy Smith



Judy Turner



Sara Turnipseed



Ken Willis



Bob Wilson



Elizabeth Wilson



Sherri Breunig
Executive Director

DEF Welcomes Four New Board Members



Emilie Markert has been a resident of the City of Decatur for more than 20 years. She is in sales with Re-Max Executives and is currently involved with the DeKalb Board of Realtors. She is a past president of the Decatur Business Association (DBA) and serves on the board of directors for both the DBA and Leadership DeKalb. She is married to Bill Markert.



Jean Eickhoff, a long-time resident of Decatur, is the daughter of former school superintendent Dr. Carl Renfro. She is an active member of Decatur First United Methodist Church where she teaches various Bible study classes. She attended Oxford College and Emory University and later served on the Oxford Advisory Board. She is married to Jerry Eickhoff, and they have three children and two grandchildren.



Gué Hudson has lived in Decatur for more than 22 years and has worked at Agnes Scott College for 29 years, where she currently serves as Vice President for Student Life and Community Relations and Dean of Students. In addition to the Decatur Education Foundation, Gué serves on the board of directors for the DeKalb Rape Crisis Center and Aldersgate. She is married to Bill Hudson and they have three sons.



Valerie Wilson, a resident of Decatur for 12 years, was elected to serve as chair of the Decatur School Board in January 2004. She is employed as the Director of the Human Services Department for the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and serves as an elder at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church. She is married to Carter Wilson and they have one son who attends Renfro Middle School.

Fall and Spring Fundraisers Support the Book Club

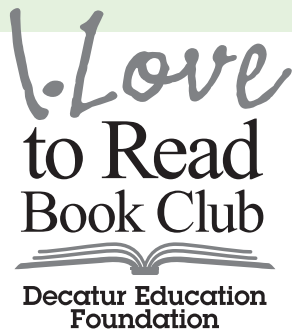
The I Love to Read Book Club is a literacy initiative of the Decatur Education Foundation. Each year, funds from the Book Club are used to purchase books for the personal libraries of Decatur students in grades K-5. We believe that giving children access to good literature in their homes will help to increase academic achievement and will foster a life-long love of reading.

Two events were held during the 2003-2004 school year to raise funds in support of the Book Club program, which requires approximately \$8,000-\$10,000 annually to sustain. In the fall, Great Lakes resident Paula Collins teamed up with Emilie Markert to host a Low Country Boil at Paula's home. Jon Abercrombie and Fred Boykin served

as executive chefs for the evening. More than 100 guests were in attendance and we raised \$5,000.

In the spring, The Horizon Theater in Little Five Points gave a benefit performance of the award-winning play "The Drawer Boy" to benefit the foundation. The Brick Store Pub donated refreshments for the event, which raised \$2,500 for the Book Club.

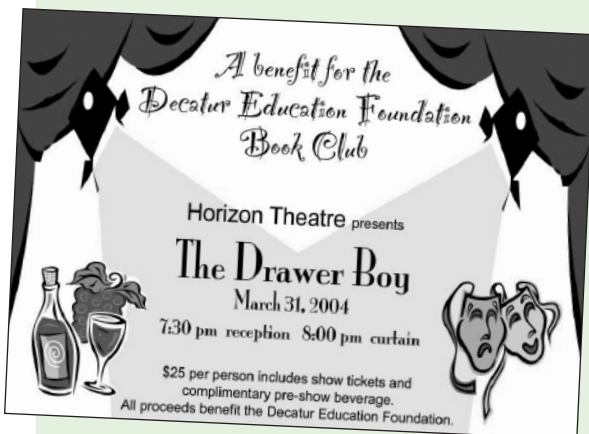
Other fundraisers are planned for the 2004-2005 school year. Let us know if you would like to be included on our guest list by sending an e-mail to sherri_breunig@decatur-city.k12.ga.us. 🍏



Top: Jon Abercrombie and City Commissioner Fred Boykin served as "celebrity chefs" for the Low Country Boil fundraiser.

Above: Decatur resident Paula Collins opened her home to the Decatur Education Foundation for the Low Country Boil.

Left: Horizon Theater staged a performance of "The Drawer Boy" to benefit the I. Love to Read book club.



One for the Kids

Employees Support Payroll Deduction Campaign

In fall 2003, the foundation launched an employee payroll deduction campaign called "One for the Kids." All employees with City Schools of Decatur were challenged to donate at least \$1 each pay period to support the programs of the Decatur Education Foundation. Currently, 201 employees are participating in the "One for the Kids" program and the foundation receives \$393 each month in donations.

We'd like to thank Mr. Jimmy Smith of Rutland Contracting Company for providing financial support for the campaign. We'd also like to thank the following Decatur businesses for offering incentives for employee participation:

- Intown Ace Hardware
- Jake's Ice Cream
- My Friend's Place
- Starbucks
- Twain's Billiards and Tap



FOUNDATION FRIEND: Paula Collins



A big supporter of the I Love to Read Book Club, Decatur resident Paula Collins hosted our first Low Country Boil fundraiser at her home in the Great Lakes neighborhood. The event raised \$5,000 to buy books for kids.

An Apple for the Teacher

If you're looking for a creative way to say thank you to the people who work with your children each day, consider buying an Apple of Appreciation.

For a minimum donation of \$5 to the foundation, we will send an Apple of Appreciation to any employee in the City Schools of Decatur. A duplicate apple will be hung on the school "foundation tree" in their honor.

Order forms are available in each school office and on the foundation website. In 2003, more than \$1,500 was raised for the foundation from the sale of Apples of Appreciation.

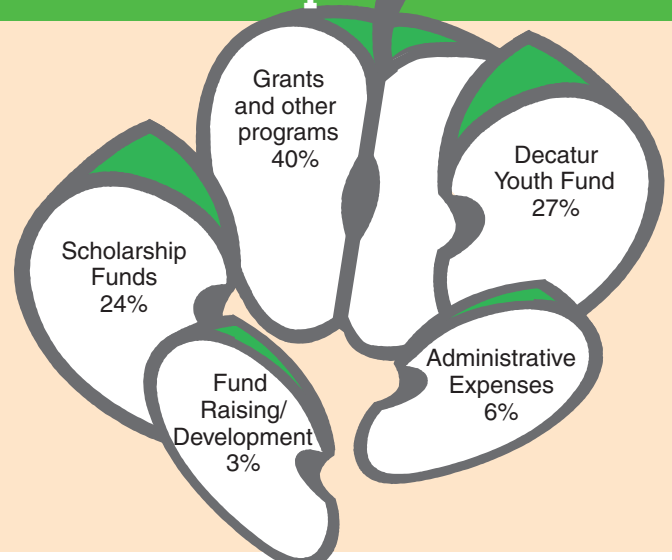
Decatur Education Foundation Financial Report for 2003

Revenue and Support:

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 61,915
Restricted Contributions	\$111,927
Investment Income	\$ 874
Total Revenue and Support	\$174,716

Expenses:

Administrative	\$ 9,914
Fund Raising and Development	\$ 5,380
Contributions for Scholarship Funds	\$ 41,720
Contributions for Decatur Youth Fund	\$ 47,586
Contributions for Programs and Grants	\$ 70,116



A Letter to Decatur from the Renfroe Family

DEAR FRIENDS,

Mother and Daddy, Mae and Carl Renfroe, moved our family to Decatur in 1953 from Waynesboro, Georgia. Daddy accepted the job as principal of Decatur High School, and six years later became superintendent of City Schools of Decatur.

In 1964, Dad received his doctorate in education from the University of Georgia. We believe this advanced degree was most important for it signified to all in Decatur the value

Dad placed on education. Since his tenure, every subsequent superintendent of the school system has had his/her doctorate.

Mother initially taught at the old Scottish Rite Hospital, and later when spouses were allowed to work within the same school system, she became Decatur's first special education teacher at Ponce de Leon Elementary. In the following years until her retirement, she taught third grade at Winnona Park Elementary.

In 1972, the board of education surprised our family by choosing to name Decatur's middle school after Dad in appre-



Dr. Carl Renfroe, pictured with his wife, Mae, passed away on March 21, 2004, at the age of 93. He served as superintendent of schools 1959-1975.

ciation for his years of service to the community. Dad always spoke lovingly of the middle school, and whenever he was complimented, he could be heard to say, "I built that school just for you!" It was with some sadness, yet faith in the future, that Mother and Daddy both retired in 1975.

In August 2002, Mother passed away and Dad (at 93) followed this past March.

The morning he died, Dad told us he'd had a happy life – wonderful family, great friends, and a great community in which to live. "I wouldn't change a thing," he said.

Because of Mother and Daddy's love for and dedication to the City Schools of Decatur, we established a scholarship memorial with the Decatur Education Foundation. Each year, scholarships will be given to one male and one female member of the Decatur High School graduating class in their honor. We know it would have pleased Mother and Daddy immensely to know that their memorial fund is being used to help Decatur students continue their education.

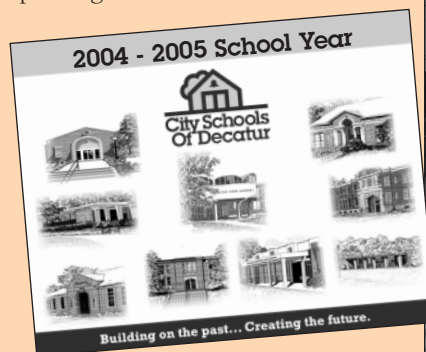
We are seeking to bring the Carl and Mae Renfroe memorial fund to an endowed level so that it will be a permanent scholarship fund with the foundation. If you'd like to assist us in securing this legacy for our parents, please send your contribution to the Carl and Mae Renfroe Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Decatur Foundation, 320 N. McDonough St., Decatur, GA 30030. Thank you so much!

With gratitude,

Sue Renfroe Tetterton
Jean Renfroe Eickhoff

FOUNDATION FRIEND: Office Depot at Toco Hill

Office Depot at Toco Hill has been very generous to the Decatur community this year. Store manager Lee Osaer and print shop manager Gloria Moore (pictured) supplied all of the printing for the foundation calendar that was distributed to all Decatur parents, students and teachers for the 2004-2005 school year. In addition, Office Depot provides support for our teacher recognition programs and donated more than 125 backpacks and school supplies for kids.



Decatur High Grads Receive Scholarships

DEF awarded \$7,500 in college scholarships to these members of the Decatur High School Class of 2004.

Sarah Woolf Memorial Scholarship

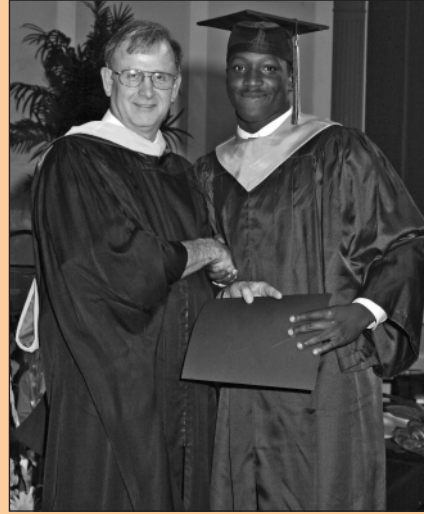
Meredith Webb, Carlton College



The Sarah Woolf Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a female member of the DHS graduating class who excels academically and demonstrates character qualities that defined the life of Sarah Woolf.

Bill Mealor Scholarship Fund

Andrew Kelly, Miles College



This Bill Mealor Scholarship is presented each year to a graduating male student who best displays the positive attitude and overall determination and spirit that were characteristic of Bill Mealor.

Carl and Mae Renfroe Memorial Scholarship

Chris Tavel, University of Georgia

Audia Jones, Georgia College and State University



Established in honor of former Superintendent of Decatur City Schools Dr. Carl Renfroe and his wife, Mae, the Renfroe Scholarships are awarded to one male and one female member of each DHS graduating class who demonstrate a determination to succeed.

For more information about establishing a scholarship with the foundation, visit our website at www.decatureducationfoundation.org.

The Decatur High School Class of 1960

is working with the Decatur Education Foundation to establish a scholarship in honor of their classmate, Harry Edwards, who was killed in Vietnam in 1966. Leading the effort is Jim Moore of Advance, N.C. For more information about the fund or to make a donation, contact the foundation office at 404-370-4400 ext. 28.

Making Every Marathon Minute Count For Thomas

by Dr. Gary Hauk

In August 2002, my son Thomas died at the age of 16 from complications of Addison's disease. This extremely rare disorder had come into his life when he was 13, and he had lived under its shadow for three years, before it caused a cardiac arrest and subsequent six-week coma leading to death. Until then, however, he had lived his life to the fullest.

Enthralled by wrestling, and determined to find an outlet for his competitiveness, Thomas lobbied hard to join the Decatur High wrestling team while he was still in seventh grade, the year after his diagnosis. And although the regimen of the sport took a tremendous toll on his body during that year, the satisfaction and enthusiasm on his face each time he ran into the gymnasium in his singlet for the warm-ups before a meet warmed the spirits of those who knew him.

Unable to keep on much weight because of his illness, Thomas wrestled in the smallest weight category – and sometimes won by default because other teams lacked competitors so light. His greatest achievement, he thought, was progressing enough

“Friends, colleagues, family members, and community supporters pledged to push me along to finish the race – and to support a worthy cause: the further education of Thomas’s generation and generations to come.”

as a wrestler to advance from being pinned in 15 seconds by a particularly skillful – and much bigger – senior, to hanging in for a whole 30 seconds.

Thomas possessed a wry sense of humor but could also cry easily at the pain of others. He had a gift for connecting immediately with strangers, often years older than he, but was also content in solitude.

Passionate about great food, to the point of learning gourmet cooking, he could not keep enough meat on his lanky frame. A fanatical fan of professional wrestling, he also took great pride in serving as a peer mediator at Renfroe Middle School and learned the art of peace while enrolled at

the Friends School of Atlanta. Reared as a Christian, he identified early with Buddhist philosophy and at age 14 shaved his head for several months to emulate Zen monks.

Following his death, our family established a fund through the Decatur Education Foundation to make an annual college scholarship award to a graduating Decatur High School senior in Thomas's memory. The Thomas Hauk Fund honors Thomas's fearless spirit for making peace and friends, by recognizing a Decatur High School senior who embodies many of Thomas's qualities.

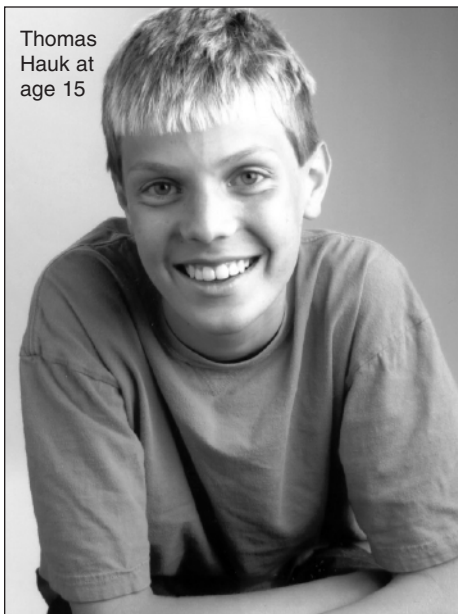
As of January 2004, that fund was about halfway toward being fully endowed at \$25,000. In February, I ran to close the gap. I had been training for my first marathon the summer when Thomas was stricken with his last illness and coma. On February 7, at Tybee Island, Georgia, I ran my second marathon to raise funds for the scholarship.

Friends, colleagues, family members, and community supporters pledged to push me along to finish the race – and to support a worthy cause: the further education of Thomas's generation and generations to come. Some pledged a dollar or more for each minute I shaved off my first marathon time. Others pledged a dollar for each mile finished in under four hours. And others simply pledged a specific amount to make me run.

In the end, I finished in 4:13, taking more than a half hour off my first finish – and, more importantly, raising more than \$5,000 toward the scholarship fund. By the end of 2004, the fund will be fully endowed, and the first Thomas John Anthony Hauk Scholarship will be awarded next spring to a member of Thomas's own graduating class.

Not a waking hour goes by without my thinking of Thomas, and his family misses him terribly. But I am grateful that his memory will live not only in us who have known him, but also in the young lives that will be enriched and shaped by the scholarship in his name.

Donations may be sent to the Thomas Hauk Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Decatur Education Foundation, 320 N. McDonough St., Decatur, GA 30030. 🍏



Gary Hauk, at right, with Craig Henderson and Sara Haigh Porter, both of whom ran the race with him “for moral support and also to raise a bit of money.”



DEF Youth Fund Receives Falcons Grant

The Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation has awarded a grant for \$43,500 to the DEF Youth Fund. The grant will be used for a broad-based training program for coaches who work with children and youth in Decatur athletic programs.

“Our coaches are the heart of any quality youth sports program,” said Mary Miller, director of the Decatur Recreation and Community Services Department. “This grant will allow us to provide coaches with training that supports them as volunteers and to enhance the quality of the sports experience for all of our kids. We hope this program will serve as a model for other communities.”

Up to four major training opportunities will be available each year to all coaches who work with the Decatur Recreation Department and City Schools of Decatur, including First Aid/CPR, Sport Psychology, How to Work with Teens and Nutrition for Adolescents. The grant funds will also be used to host an annual coaches appreciation dinner.

The Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation (AFYF) is a fund of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, which awarded more than \$1.8 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations around the state of Georgia in 2003. The Decatur Education Foundation was one of 34 Georgia nonprofit organizations approved by the AFYF board of directors to receive grants in the third round of grants for 2003. 🍏



Decatur coaches receive CPR training at DeKalb Medical Center.

Tech Support for DEF

Quinn and DEF Streamline Record Keeping

Sean Quinn joined the Office of Community and Public Relations for City Schools of Decatur in the summer of 2003. In his position, he does a lot of work for the foundation, especially with technology.



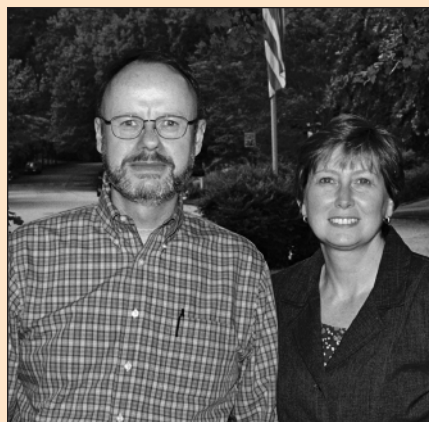
Sean Quinn

Since coming on board, Sean has given our website a facelift and revolutionized our record keeping by using a web-based software solution for managing donor contributions. The software, called eTapestry, was specially designed and built for charitable organizations to manage donors and their donations and pledges.

The software has greatly simplified reporting, allowing us to view total donations by user or specific funds. Through a powerful mail merge feature, we can create personalized thank you letters and acknowledgements. It has saved us time and effort while maintaining accurate records of contributions.

FOUNDATION FRIENDS: Trish and John Haugaard

When John and Trish heard that the foundation wanted to have an appreciation event for Decatur teachers before the start of school, they did not hesitate. They made a generous contribution that was matched by contributions from Ply Mart and Bank of America. Their gift allowed us to host a picnic on the grounds, catered by the Varsity, for all school district employees on the Friday before the first day of school. It was a big success and would not have been possible without their generosity.



John and Trish Haugaard



Decatur Schools employees enjoy an appreciation picnic on the lawn.

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Vol. 3, No. 1

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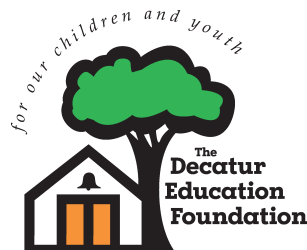
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If you are interested in receiving updates on the work of the Decatur Education Foundation by e-mail, contact Sean Quinn at sean_quinn@decatur-city.k12.ga.us



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