

# The Palmetto

SPRING 2006 NEWSLETTER

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

## SCCEC 2006-2007 Awards

The following awards were given by the SC Council for Exceptional Children at the annual conference which was held earlier this year in Myrtle Beach. The Council extends a very sincere congratulations to them all.

### EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The Exceptional Educator of the Year Award recognizes the accomplishments of exceptional special educational professionals. These are professionals who are uncommonly devoted to their craft and regularly go above and beyond the call of duty.

Award recipients were selected through a review process by their peers across the state of South Carolina. Criteria for selection included the demonstration of innovation and creativity as well as an ability to inspire students both within and beyond their classrooms. Recipients are also judged according to the degree of their professional involvement.

Jill Chapman currently teaches children with emotional disabilities in kindergarten through third grade. Jill's principal described her as "an effective teacher who truly makes a difference in the lives of the children she teaches ... the students in her class feel loved, like they belong to a family, and that they are important and special."

Jill's dedication to her students goes well beyond the classroom walls as she often attends ball games and dance recitals (to name a few) to support her students' extracurricular activities and thereby foster stronger school-home relationships. Jill has been devoted to advocacy efforts on behalf of students with disabilities for many years. She has been a member of SCCEC since her undergraduate studies at the College of Charleston. She currently serves as vice president of the South Carolina Council of Exceptional Children (SCCEC) as well as the treasurer of the South Carolina Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (SCCCBD). She was awarded Scab's Teacher of the Year in 2001.



Jill Chapman: SC-CEC's 2006-2007 Exceptional Educator of the Year.

Three other finalists were also recognized for their exemplary devotion to addressing the educational needs of students with disabilities.

Susan Burkett has worked with children with disabilities for 17 years. She uses many strategies to address her children's academic and behavioral needs. She currently teaches preschool children with disabilities at Batesburg-Leesville Primary School in Batesburg-

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### REMINDER: UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

■ Saturday, April 22, 2006  
Lexington One District Office, 9:00 AM  
(Leadership Training Institute)

## 2005-2006 OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT**

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### **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Laura Mohr  
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Susan Burkett was one of three finalists recognized for working with children with disabilities.

Leesville, SC. She has also been active in a variety of professional organizations for more than 15 years. These include serving at the local and state levels of the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children as well as the local chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa. Susan summarizes her experiences by saying: "Teaching children with and without disabilities is one of the most stressful and rewarding jobs that I have ever had. I hope that I have made a positive impression on all of the children that I have taught. I know that each of them has made an impression on my life. The lessons that I learn from them have made me the teacher that I am today."

Angela H. Hutto, who teaches at Ben Hazel Primary School in Hampton School District One, was also recognized for her exemplary skills as a teacher and advocate

for students with disabilities. She has taught special education for 16 years in combinations of middle, elementary and preschool levels within both a resource and self-contained setting. Currently, she teaches preschool children between the ages of 3 to 5 who have a variety of developmental delays. She has served as a mentor to other educators in both special and general education. She was described as a very strong supporter of early literacy and family involvement and implemented several projects over the years to address these goals. She is affiliated with numerous national, state, and local organizations and committees, including the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children and the International Reading Association. A quote from her principal and peers summarizes her accomplishment by indicating, "Angela gives one hundred percent every day ... she truly makes a positive difference."

Cecelia (Cece) Wright was also a Finalist for the Exceptional Educator of the Year Award. Cece has been a resource teacher at Pine Street Elementary School, in Spartanburg County School District 7 for 15 years. The Director of Special Services in her district described Cece as "tireless in looking for new ways to reach her students." She pioneered the use of a variety of direct instruction methods and implemented a co teaching model of instruction at Pine Street. She was also noted to be a valuable resource to fellow teachers and staff members, as well as to student teachers from Converse College and the University of South Carolina-Upstate. She is currently Vice President of Chapter 272 of the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children. Finally, it was noted "Parents love Cece as they know they can call on her anytime, and they know that she has their child's very best interest at heart. They know that when no one else can get through to their child, she seems to find a way."

### **MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

Pat Hensley was named Member of the Year by the SC Council for Exceptional Children. She teaches a self-contained class at Mauldin High School in the Greenville County School District, and has been a teacher for over 25 years, but her involvement with services to exceptional children goes far beyond her responsibilities in the classroom setting. Pat has served the SC Federation as webmaster for a number of years. She has been responsible for keeping the members of SCCEC informed about all the legislation that has affected the professional educators of special education across the state.

### **ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**

Elizabeth Leonard was named Advocate of the Year by the SC Council for Exceptional

Children. Elizabeth is the assistant principal at Mauldin High School and a former special education teacher who excelled in teaching exceptional children. She is an outstanding individual who has demonstrated advocacy through her service to children on a daily basis. She keeps current on special education laws and regulations to be a resource to those in the school. She works with special education teachers in order to find alternative ways to discipline students and still be effective. Elizabeth is a great role model for teachers and students.

## ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Carie Dixon was named Rookie Teacher of the Year by the SC Council for Exceptional Children. Carie teaches students with autism in a self-contained class at Sedgefield Middle School in Berkeley County. She is enthusiastic and energetic when working with her students. She can make a simple task into an exciting adventure with her students. Carie ensures that all of her students are part of the class no matter their limitations. She is very proactive for her students and makes sure they are involved with regular education peers. The attitude that Carie has towards her students seems to spread to children and adults that are around her.



Carrie Dixon, Rookie Teacher of the Year.

## LAURA MOHR SCHOLARSHIPS

This year the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children gave away a new scholarship in honor of Laura Mohr. The applicants needed to be students in a special education program at a South Carolina university or college.

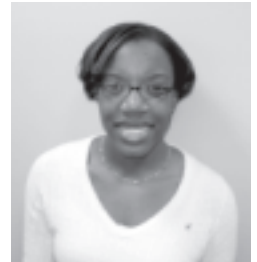
SCCEC awarded the Laura Mohr Scholarship to two outstanding students studying to teach special education at its recent SCCEC Convention in Myrtle Beach. The recipients of the SCCEC Laura Mohr Scholarships for 2006 are Kristi Barnes, a student at Furman University, and Samantha Hucks, a student at Lander University. Each student will receive a \$1000 toward her studies in teaching special education.

Kristi Barnes is majoring in Elementary Education and Special Education: Mental Disabilities at Furman University. She says, "As a child, I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher...When people

learn of my endeavors to pursue a degree in special education, they always say that it takes 'a special person'...I feel that the only thing 'special' about being a special education teacher is the distinct bond shared between teacher and student that cannot be described." Kristi is described by her professors as having both important skills and dispositions that lay the foundation for being a successful teacher and as a positive role model for the many students whose lives she will touch.

Samantha Hucks, known as "Sam" to her friends, is a student at Lander University with a double major in special education and psychology and a minor in child and family studies. Her plans for the future are teaching in a self-contained special education classroom and one day becoming a school psychologist. She says her goal is to facilitate learning for students with disabilities who usually develop learned helplessness. Her professors speak of her as an exceptional student and a dedicated leader and a natural teacher who relates well to the students by not only presenting content in an understandable way but also connecting with the students to create an ideal environment for learning. Samantha has been an active member of the Student CEC at Lander University in South Carolina and National Student CEC. She has presented at SCCEC state conferences in 2005 and 2006 and will co-present at National CEC 2006 in Salt Lake City in April. Samantha says, "Not only am I dedicated to the Council for Exceptional Children, I am devoted to the field of special education."

The SCCEC Laura Mohr Scholarship is named in honor of Laura Mohr, a retired educator who spent over 30 years in the field of special education serving several school districts in South Carolina and as an active member of the Council for Exceptional Children. Dr. Mohr lives in Irmo, SC, with her husband Wendell, and continues to provide consulting services to schools and parents along with enjoying grandparenting.



Kristi Barnes (top) and Samantha Hucks (bottom), receive Laura Mohr Scholarships.

## OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AWARD

Debbie Gunter, Director of Special Service in Lexington School District Four, received the 2006 Outstanding Administrator of Special Education Award from the SC Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE) at the SC CASE Spring Business Meeting in Myrtle Beach on March 9.

The Outstanding Special Education Administrator award recognizes exceptional achievement in the field of special education administration through the innovations and contributions made to the field of special education, the impact that the person has had over time on the quality of services to

exceptional children, and the level of professionalism in organizations that advocate for exceptional children such as the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE), and other professional organizations through

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active membership, leadership and involvement.

Ms. Gunter has been the Director of Special Services in Lexington Four School District since 1977 with leadership responsibilities for Title I and V, Gifted and Talented, Homebound, Section 504, and Special Education. She is a former general education and special education teacher. Ms. Gunter is an active member of CEC and several of its divisions, including CASE. She has served as the vice president, president-elect, president and past president, and currently membership chairperson of SC CEC, secretary of SC CASE, and is a member of the SCASA Allied Division. Ms. Gunter is sought after often by the SC State Department of Education to serve on various committees and task forces. Currently she is on the Education

Oversight Committee's Task Force on Testing and ELL Special Education Review Committee for ELA and serves on the State Department of Education's Alternate Assessment Task Force and Office of Assessment Modifications and Accommodations Task Force. Ms. Gunter is active in the leadership of the Midlands Area Consortium (MAC) of Special Education Administrators.

Her colleagues state that she sets an example of professionalism by her leadership and involvement, not just for herself but in the way she encourages and provides opportunities for professional growth for teachers and administrators in Lexington Four to learn about the current research and best practices in special education and general education. Ms. Gunter involves the teachers and programs in her district

in research projects in conjunction with the University of South Carolina to help advance the research base in the field of special education in South Carolina. She provides exceptional leadership, collaboration, and "hands on" help for the Exceptional Education Institute (EEI), the annual summer institute of the Lexington County Schools for training special and general educators in teaching students with special needs.

Teachers and administrators who work with Ms. Gunter are quick to praise her as a leader and a support in meeting the needs of students with special needs, and as one colleague stated, "No one exemplifies the concept of 'Servant Leadership' better than Debbie Gunter, and she does without ever "tooting her own horn!"

## News from the South Carolina Department of Education

SUSAN DURANT, OFFICE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

We are anxiously awaiting the final regulations on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. A task force of all stakeholders is currently being developed to write the state regulations for South Carolina. We are continuing to offer professional development opportunities in the state.

Please plan to attend the Third Annual Research to Practice during the week of July 17. There will be many classes offered during the week.

The Department will also conduct a series of professional development modules via phone conferences and ITV. You may find all professional development opportunities listed on our website at [www.myschools.com/offices/ec/sig/](http://www.myschools.com/offices/ec/sig/).

### 2006 College Bowl

The 2006 College Bowl was fun and exciting, thanks to teams from Lander, Clemson, and Erskine. Lander College won the trophy with intense competition from the other two schools. GO LANDER!

We hope to see more teams next year in Hilton Head. Faculty sponsors are requested to send new questions to Dr. Judy Bell at [judy.bell@furman.edu](mailto:judy.bell@furman.edu).



### SCCEC Elections held at Representative Assembly

On Saturday, February 25, 2006, the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children held elections for officers for 2006-2007. The results are as follows:

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY—JANICE LYERLY**

Janice, a National Board Certified teacher, currently teaches at Harbison West Elementary in Richland/Lexington Five. She has been an active member of SCCEC for more than 15 years and has served as Recording Secretary for the SC CEC for the 2005-2006 year.

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT—KATIE STAPLETON**

Katie currently serves as an instructional specialist for special education in Berkeley County School District. Prior to this position, Katie taught students with learning disabilities in a self-contained setting within a middle school. She is currently serving as the corresponding secretary for the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children as well as president of Chapter 936.

# President's Message

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
SPRING 2006

What a successful conference we had in Myrtle Beach! With almost 750 in attendance, there were lots of opportunities for networking and having fun with colleagues. Although you do not have to be a member to attend, this conference is just one of the many benefits of membership in CEC. We will be following up with letters to those who came, but are not currently CEC members, encouraging them to join. In addition, the support by Susan Durant at the Office of Exceptional Children in the State Department of Education has helped foster stronger ties between SCCEC and the OEC.

On April 22, 2006, all members are invited to attend our Leadership Training Institute. The meeting will be held at the Lexington One District Office and will begin at 10 AM.

Susan Simmons, the Director of Membership Services from CEC in Washington, will be the featured speaker. She will be sharing ideas to build and retain membership. We will also be offering small group training for chapter and subdivision officers on a variety of topics, such as how to write or revise your constitution, write a planning document, plan chapter/subdivision activities, as well as the explain the roles and responsibilities of different officers within your chapter or subdivision. It will be VERY important for officers to attend this meeting! All members are invited to attend, as this may help you understand how SCCEC "works" and entice you to take a leadership role within your chapter and/or subdivision.

— BARBARA R. CRISS

# Chapter News

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
SPRING 2006

## CHAPTER 877

Our chapter had a wonderful meeting on November 15 with Susan Durant who came and spoke about IDEIA. We had over 112 people who attended this very informative session. It was so exciting to see so many regular education teachers as well as special education teachers who were interested in hearing about special education regulations and implications. We also had a Teacher Sharing session in December. If you are interested in being notified about upcoming chapter 877 events, please mail Amanda Walkup (awalkup@greenville.k12.sc.us). If anyone is interested in being on the email list for legislative updates, please email Pat Hensley (loonyhiker@charter.net).

## CHAPTER 936 NEWS

One of our topics at the November 14th meeting was sharing different lesson plans to utilize in the classrooms. One shared was from the CCBD conference on "Adventures in Learning." Our chapter was also excited to nominate the winner of Rookie Teacher of the Year, Carie Dixon. Carie teaches students with autism in a self-contained class at Sedgefield Middle. At our last meeting on February 27th, we elected our new officers for next year. The winners were Amy Ray for vice-president and Karen Lawson for secretary. We are

## Students receive SCCEC grants

The South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children, an organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted, held its 2006 annual conference February 23- 25 at Sand Dunes and Ocean Dunes resort and conference center, Myrtle Beach, SC. The theme was, "Ride the Wave of Evidence-Based Practices."

During the convention, two students from the state received the Betty Brown Training Grant to further their education beyond high school. Each recipient received \$1000. The grant is awarded to students with disabilities who have been recognized for leadership, academic and service learning accomplishments.

This year's recipients are Michael Daniel Ahern, a senior of Lexington High School, who plans to attend Lander University, Greenwood, and Victoria Rose Hammond a senior at Swansea High School, who plans to attend Midland Technical College.

Barbara Williams, president of the local Tri-County Council for Exceptional Children (Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg) Chapter 451 presented the awards. The chapter also co-hosted the conference along with chapter 165.



L-R: Michael Daniel Ahern, Barbara Williams, and Victoria Rose Hammond

## SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN 2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION February 23-24, 2007 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**PROPOSALS ARE TO INCLUDE:**

1. Completed "Call for Proposals" form
2. Original and 2 copies of 200 word summary including: clearly state objectives, desired outcomes of the presentation
3. One 50-word description with each presenter's name, address, and affiliation/job title for the convention program.  
This MUST be submitted in WORD format on disk OR as an e-mail attachment in WORD to chapmanjt@earthlink.net
4. One stamped, self-addressed envelope

SEND PROPOSALS TO: Jill T. Chapman, 116 Fox Chapel Drive, Irmo, SC 29063

TITLE OF PROPOSAL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SESSION LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH OF PRESENTATION:  1 hour  2 hours

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31, 2006**

**AREA OF CLASSIFICATION:** Please indicate applicable area(s)

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration          | <input type="checkbox"/> Future trends               | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool disabilities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government              | <input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior disorders      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing impairment   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research                | <input type="checkbox"/> Career/Transition           | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion               | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher education    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication Disorders | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disabilities       | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology              | <input type="checkbox"/> Low incidence        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual impairments      | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Based Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Disabilities     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural           | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood             | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/School/Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify:)        | _____  |  |   |

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** More than one may be checked

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration   | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers-elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers-university      | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers-middle  | <input type="checkbox"/> Students            | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers-Early Childhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers-secondary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify:) | _____  |   |   |

**STUDENT PROPOSALS:** I have reviewed this proposal and acknowledge its appropriateness as an SCCEC presentation.

Professor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### INFORMATION REGARDING PROPOSALS

**SELECTION PROCESS:** The Program Chairperson and the Program Advisory Committee are responsible for the selection of proposals. Selection is made on the following basis:

- Innovations to the field
- Evidence-based practice
- Estimated audience appeal
- Clarity and organization of the proposal objectives and outcomes
- Feasibility of presentation
- The degree to which it addresses a special need

**PRESENTATION INFORMATION:**

1. All sessions will be 1 hour or 2 hours in duration.
2. Suggested formats:
  - a. Workshop, demonstration, panel discussion, and other practical applications
  - b. Current research results and implications for practitioners
  - c. Instructional and/or curricular applications
  - d. Use of technology in teacher-learner process
  - e. State and national legislation
  - f. Make-and-take workshops which focus on participants making new materials for use in their classroom. (Special consideration will be given to make-and-take workshops geared toward students.)
3. Only projection screens and overheads will be provided.
4. Presenters should provide handouts for 75 participants.

**STUDENT PROPOSALS:** Student proposals are welcome. The student's professor MUST sign the "Call for Proposals" form acknowledging the student's program and appropriateness as a convention presentation.

**APPLY FOR A \$1000 SCCEC MINI GRANT!**

**PURPOSE**

The SCCEC Mini Grant was established to support efforts of direct services to exceptional children. Such projects could include, but are not limited to: individual/classroom teaching practices, education programs, enrichment programs, recreation/leisure programs, parent training programs, or career education programs.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Any teacher, administrator, school psychologist, support staff, related service personnel, teacher trainer, or college student who is a member in good standing of SCCEC may apply for the Mini Grant.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The applicant shall submit an original application and 5 copies. All applications must be postmarked by September 1, 2006.

**RECIPIENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The recipient must submit a final expenditure report with **attached receipts**.
2. The recipient is encouraged to make a presentation related to the project at the next Annual Convention.

**SCCEC MINI-GRANT AWARD APPLICATION**

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CEC Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Employer and Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Budget Request: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Give a brief description of your project:

## SCENES FROM OUR RECENT SC-CEC CONVENTION



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Council for  
Exceptional Children

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