

2008 TEACHER OF THE YEAR BANQUET

MAY 29TH, 2008

Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students



Joe DeSantis—LHS



Amy Tunstal — BMS



Jason King — CCMS



Kim Sledge — BES



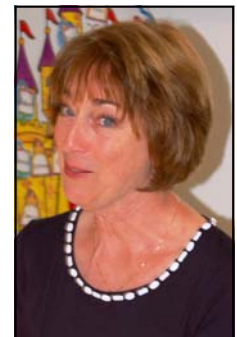
Lacy Coley —LMES



Amber Bottoms — LES



Katie Tatum — TLMS



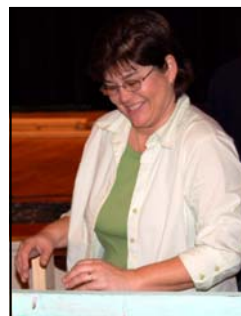
Margaret King—RES



Cindy Miller-Walker — YES



Rebecca Bishop — FES



Lisa Lawrence — FHS



Amanda Cash — EBES



Nancy Goodwin— BHS

Individual Profiles Inside

Congratulations from Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme

Teachers of the Year,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate each of you on this tremendous accomplishment. We have very fine teachers in this county, and you are the cream of the crop. You are making a positive impact, and our schools are growing because of your efforts. We are truly fortunate to have such wonderful people educating our students. Again, from the bottom of my heart, I congratulate each of you.

Dr. Bert L'Homme, FCS Superintendent

Kim Sledge — Bunn Elementary School

Kim Sledge is a Franklin County native but never really pictured herself as being a teacher when she grew up. But looking back, she says it really doesn't surprise her and it has been a great fit for her. Sledge has always enjoyed working with children. She has taught at Bunn Elementary for the past 23 years and continues to lead a strong Speech and Language Program. She graduated with honors (Magna Cum Laude) from Appalachian State University with a BS in Speech Language Pathology. She earned a Master of Speech Language Pathology from UNC-Chapel Hill and is certified by American Speech Language Hearing Association.



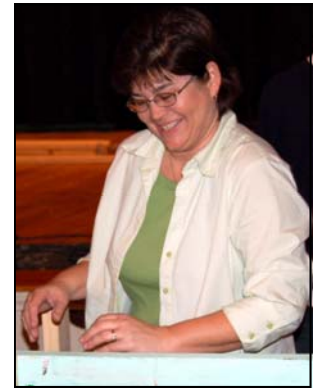
Amy Tunstall — Bunn Middle School



Amy Tunstall has had a year full of honors, including earning her National Board Certification. She has taught at BMS for the past four years and is a sixth-grade AIG teacher. She has wanted to be a teacher for most of her life. In fact, she distinctly remembers writing an essay about her desire to be a teacher in the third grade. Amy graduated salutatorian of Northern Vance High School and went on to earn the James M. Johnston Scholarship to UNC-Chapel Hill where she earned a BA with Distinction in English in 1999 and wrapped up her Master of Arts in Teaching in 2000.

Lisa Lawrence — Franklinton High School

Lisa Lawrence took a different route to teaching, but Franklinton High School sure is glad to have found her. Lisa, who was an engineer prior to becoming an English teacher, originally started out as a volunteer in the school system in hopes of spending more time with her two daughters. That eventually led to her becoming a long-term substitute teacher at Franklinton High School in 1999 and a full-time teacher later in the same year. Lisa grew up in Garner, NC, but is now a proud and active member of the Franklinton community.



Joe DeSantis — Louisburg High School



At 19, Joe DeSantis found himself in the world of broadcast radio. He wound up broadcasting the 1976 Olympics, but after five years in radio, he wanted a change. He would later follow a path into teaching college courses in communications at Edinboro College in Pennsylvania and later at Florida Southern College. After working in Alaska for a little more than a year, he found himself working as the editor for the *Franklin Times*. Five years ago, he decided to give high school English a shot at Louisburg High School. He's well-known throughout the community, not just for teaching, but also his Saturday morning radio show on local issues. It's a show that continues to grow in popularity.

Nancy Goodwin — Bunn High School

One thing is certain about Nancy Goodwin—she expects excellence. She's taught English 10 Composition for five years at Bunn High School and still demands the best results from her students. Her courses are labor intensive but at the same time, interactive. Her students are free to comment, thus making for a warm, yet very educational, atmosphere. As a child, Nancy traveled to many parts of the world and spent many of her formative years in Turkey without modern luxuries such as phone and TV. She was forced to use her imagination and that has trickled down to her teaching style. She has four children—all have been educated in Franklin County Schools.



Amanda Cash — Edward Best Elementary School



As a little girl, Amanda Cash spent a lot of time practicing her teaching skills by reading to her stuffed animals and practicing math facts on her chalkboard—the pretending has paid off. She is now in her fourth year at Edward Best, and she continues to bring smiles to all of her first-graders. She graduated from Appalachian State University and followed with a Master of Arts in Education from East Carolina. She is a native of Franklin County and followed the track of Louisburg Elementary, Terrell Lane Middle and Louisburg High School. She is committed to the community and thankful to be able to give back to it.

Jason King — Cedar Creek Middle School

Jason King is well traveled, well educated and is always true to his word. He's a native of Franklin County and is dedicated to serving not only this area but the world. He's a journalism teacher for the Jaguars and through his world travels and uncanny ability to explain himself, is sure to have a positive impact on the students he teaches. The UNC-Chapel Hill graduate never really considered being a teacher until his senior year at Franklinton High School. He does not regret the decision and truly believes this is a lifetime journey for him. His community efforts extend much deeper than CCMS; he's had major involvement with organizations such as the US Peace Corps.



Rebecca Bishop — Franklinton Elementary



When students enter Rebecca Bishop's classroom, they know they are going to get fair treatment. As a result, Bishop has excellent rapport with her students. Rebecca has seven years under her belt at FES, is a certified AIG instructor and is very active with new teachers coming in. She is both a Model and Mentor, teacher. This fall she earned her National Board Certification. She received her teaching degree from Lock Haven University, PA—her native state. Upon graduating from Lock Haven, she and her husband, Brandon, moved to North Carolina to pursue their careers.

Cindy Miller-Walker — Youngsville Elementary

Fifteen years and counting. Cindy Miller-Walker left Wake County Public schools in 2002 and headed to Youngsville Elementary. She's been teaching third grade at YES ever since, and her impact and enthusiasm have helped YES to continued success. She's married with two boys and one daughter. She continues to invent new ideas in the classroom and maintains a safe environment for learning. Cindy is a firm believer in keeping the students engaged through innovative teaching ideas.



Katie Tatum — Terrell Lane Middle School



Katie Tatum makes her science classes so interesting that students are often disappointed when class is over. She has racked up more than \$20K in grant money to use toward class projects. Her hands-on approach has proven to have a big effect on student performance. Katie is from eastern North Carolina and received her teaching degree in science from N.C. State University. She has been teaching at Terrell Lane for the past three school years. Her strong efforts in her classroom and throughout the TLMS science department will lead her to department chair next

Lacy Coley — Laurel Mill Elementary

During her senior year at Northern Nash High School, Lacy Coley wanted to pursue a career that involved both journalism and math—so she decided teaching would be the best way to meet that goal. She went on to East Carolina University and attended through a Teaching Fellows Scholarship. After graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2004, she packed up and headed to Laurel Mill to teach third grade. Her teaching philosophy mirrors the children's book *The Little Engine That Could*—she firmly believes every child can succeed if he or she tries.



Amber Bottoms — Louisburg Elementary School



A Franklin County native, Amber Bottoms is making sure she brings her approach to life into the classroom. She incorporates her values and experiences from her daily life into her teaching lessons simply because she believes in it. She makes sure each student gets an equal education and establishes a strong sense of respect in the classroom. Amber graduated from Louisburg High School in 1999 and went on to earn a teaching degree from East Carolina and finished with honors—Magna Cum Laude. She is in her fourth year of teaching at LES and is currently enrolled in a graduate program at ECU.

Margaret King — Royal Elementary School

During her days at Louisburg High School, teaching didn't seem like a career Margaret really wanted to pursue. But after working with children and realizing interior design didn't have the appeal she had hoped, she realized she should be a teacher. Her teaching credentials were earned through a path that included Louisburg College and East Carolina University. Margaret began her teaching career at Gold Sand Elementary in Franklin County after graduating from ECU but moved to Indiana with her husband in 1973. She taught first grade in Indiana, had three children and earned her Masters in Education from Indiana University. The family moved back to NC in 1985, and she began teaching at Bunn Elementary in 1986. She was transferred to Royal in 2001. Since being at Royal, she has become the lead kindergarten teacher and won over her peers as well as Principal Rob Bendel.



**Congratulations to All of the 2008
Teachers of The Year!**