



AUTUMN HALLSM

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Autumn Hall Announces Winners of its Middle School Excellence in Teaching Program

Three New Hanover County Middle School Teachers Share \$2,000 in prizes.

September 30, 2008 -- The winners of the Autumn Hall Middle School Excellence in Teaching program were announced at a reception on Tuesday, September 30, in the community's first completed park, Arbor Park. The three winning teachers were each presented with prize checks for their efforts in the classroom, with another 11 teachers receiving honorable mentions for their entries in this, the inaugural year of Autumn Hall's Middle School Excellence in Teaching Program. First prize of \$1,000, was awarded to Beth Upton of Roland-Grise Middle School for her motivational and organizational strategies that encourage under-performing students to seek greater challenges, build their confidence and stay on track. Second prize of \$600 was awarded to Claire Bennett, a pre-algebra and algebra teacher at Cape Fear Academy who makes no accommodations for intimidation of math by replacing it with humor, fun and enjoyment in learning. DC Virgo Middle School's Gloria Eckerson won the third prize of \$400 for her success in redirecting students who had been labeled with behavioral disabilities to achieving measurable classroom success. Members of the New Hanover County School Board and administration, as well as principals, headmasters and teachers from the county's middle schools attended the reception. Each of the winning teachers was asked to say a few words about the rewards and challenges of teaching today's middle school students.

"As real estate developers, we are naturally eager to see Wilmington continue to thrive," said Raiford Trask, developer of Autumn Hall, adding, "Autumn Hall celebrates the quality of life that is so important to Wilmington. We are making a long term investment in that quality of life, and there is no more important investment than our school children." Mr. Trask looks forward to building this awards program into an annual community-wide reflection of the challenges, opportunities and achievements in New Hanover County's middle schools.

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This past June, letters were distributed to New Hanover County’s 450-plus full time public and private middle school teachers encouraging them to sing their own praises. Teachers were asked to enter with letters that explain their motivation and dedication to young people, their achievements in the classroom, or their stories of a student’s success that reflects their own. The panel of judges to review the submissions and determine the winners included Autumn Hall Developer Raiford Trask, Autumn Hall Development Coordinator Lisa Thompson and Deloris Rhodes, former guidance counselor, middle school principal, assistant superintendent of Pender County Schools and presently adjunct professor with UNCW’s Watson School of Education.

The schools invited to participate in the award program include:

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| Myrtle Grove Middle School | Williston Middle School |
| Roland-Grise Middle School | DC Vigo Middle School |
| Trask Middle School | Murray Middle School |
| Noble Middle School | Cape Fear Academy |
| Cape Fear Center for Inquiry | Calvary Christian School |
| Friends School of Wilmington | Myrtle Grove Christian School |
| St. Mary School | St. Mark’s Catholic School |
| Wilmington Christian Academy | Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences |

About Autumn Hall

Autumn Hall is located just 1.5 miles from Wrightsville Beach and minutes from historic downtown Wilmington. When complete, the project will include 300 single family residences and 200 multi-family units. Some 51 acres of parks, walking trails and green space, in addition to an eight acre lake, a first class tennis facility and a Creek Club on Bradley Creek will contribute to the community’s natural and recreational amenities. Autumn Hall will also be home to a wide range of retail, dining and shopping establishments. For more information, visit www.autumnhall.com.