

To: PTA Election Panel

From: Marjorie Prophete, PTA Member, Parent and Teacher at Sycamore Elementary,  
District #12, LU# 238974

Subject: Nomination for PTA Teacher of the Year. Mark Lukehart – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

I am pleased to recommend Mark Lukehart for PTA Teacher of the Year. Mr. Lukehart has been a dedicated teacher at Sycamore Elementary ever since its inception in the fall of 2003. There aren't many activities at Sycamore Elementary that haven't had the benefit of Mr. Lukehart's involvement. His list of achievements defies replication in this short letter.

Mr. Lukehart is not your typical teacher. He spent 16 years working as a parapro to support his family while also attending college. He earned his degree in Early Childhood Education from Reinhardt College. He owes his tenacity and drive to his grandmother, a retired school teacher.

Mr. Lukehart is a skilled, professional teacher. He quickly gains the confidence of the parents and his colleagues. They view him as a valuable resource and solid educator. Of worthy mention is his ability to accurately diagnose learning limitations inherent in his students, and he is able to effectively prescribe the appropriate support to help these children. Mr. Lukehart relates well with his students, colleagues and parents.

He is a pillar in the community, lending his effort to many different events benefiting Relay for Life. One of the favorite events is the Kickball Challenge, where students and

teachers square off against each other. This year, he organized a basketball playoff between Sycamore Elementary and Sugar Hill Elementary teachers. Once a year, parents, teachers and children alike are rewarded with his performance as "Elvis" during the school production of "Faculty Follies".

He is a closeted actor, which is reflected in his teaching method. He does everything to keep the interest of his children. In addition, he teaches in the after-school program for children who need additional instruction in the areas of reading and math.

I have found Mr. Lukehart to be an equable person with above average common sense, good humor and a comfortable amount of self-confidence. In summary, he is a committed and competent educator. We, the Sycamore Elementary PTA, along with parents, students and fellow teachers endorse his candidacy enthusiastically.

## **Pam Roach:**

### **Addison's "Perennial" Teacher of the Year**

"Hello Friends!" These words greet each child in Mrs. Roach's class every morning, surrounding them like a warm flannel blanket on a dreary day. Not one day, out of her thirteen years at Addison Elementary has gone by without her uttering these words. She doesn't just say this out of habit; the words are heartfelt and sincere. She treats each and every child in her class with the respect and love you would give to a good friend. Her circle of friends is wide enough to include everyone she meets. She is our most beloved teacher, leader and role model.

Pam Roach began her career as a Kindergarten teacher. Her humor, her intelligence and patience quickly made others take note. She has the talent of finding unique gifts each child possesses. She compares each one to a beautiful flower waiting for the opportunity to bloom. While still teaching kindergarten, she was chosen to be our Teacher of the Year for the first time.

Throughout her years at Addison she has led both students and teachers. She was chosen by a vote of her peers, to be a member of the first Building Leadership Team (BLT) at Addison. Her strong convictions and the depth of her professional knowledge caused many to turn to her as a mentor. Even within the BLT, her voice stood out. And, her thoughtful and eloquent style inspired others to stop and reflect. She is a true visionary who never waivers from her fundamental belief that there is a solution to every problem.

Pam considers solving Addison's problems her responsibility. When she saw students struggling, she developed an innovative approach to helping them. By combining the tutoring program she manages, with an outdoor garden classroom approach, Pam created our "Seeds of Learning" spring break camp. There, students in jeopardy of not passing the CRCT spend their spring break getting the academic help they need while developing a love for the environment.

Students actually look forward to coming to school during spring break. The work they do in the instructional garden each afternoon directly connects to the content they are required to learn while helping them understand their civic responsibility. They take pride in all they do within the instructional garden and for their school community.

From Kindergarten Teacher to Lead Early Intervention Program Teacher, to Instructional Lead Teacher and now back to the classroom in the third grade, Pam has risen to every challenge put before her. Her love of learning is evident in the many ways she has chosen to serve Addison. Even now, less than one year after receiving her Masters of Education, she is making plans to begin her journey toward her specialist degree. Though a Teacher of the Year for a second time, she would claim that she has yet to fully bloom! But, those of us at Addison Elementary have watched her bloom time and time again.

**Pam Roach is our "Perennial" Teacher of the Year!**

Mrs. Dixie Minor

Mrs. Jennifer Powers

Mrs. Vicki Maticotta

**Savannah High School PTSA**

**Unit #2363**

**Patricia Ann Furman**

The eldest daughter of Margaret and Rufus White, Patricia was born and resides in Savannah, GA. She is a product of the Savannah-Chatham county Public School System, where she attended George W. DeRenne Elementary School, Alfred Ely Beach Jr. High and graduated from Alfred Ely Beach Senior



High School in 1969. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Savannah State College, currently known as Savannah State University, in 1973. She received her Masters degree in Education from Armstrong Atlantic State University in the eighties.

Upon graduation from Savannah State College, Patricia was employed by Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, NY, as a Chemical Technician. She returned to Savannah in 1975, where she began her career in education as a Science Teacher at Groves High School. She transferred to Savannah High School, where she is the chairperson of the Science Department. She has been department chairperson for over fifteen years. She was nominated as the Savannah High Teacher of the Year twice, featured in Who's Who Among High School Teachers and received the Margret C. Robinson Motivational Award of Excellence in Education. In addition, she serves as a member of the Building Leadership Team, faculty advisor for the National Honor Society and the Savannah High School Marching Band and Ensemble. She is a member of the Band's Booster Club, National Science Teachers Association (NSTA).

Mrs Furman is school contact/liason for the Savannah High School PTSA. Her hard work and dedication to this organization is outstanding. She wears many hats, attends meeting

regularly, and volunteers to be in charge of registrations tables, maintain the event calendars/flyers, overseeing projects and is consistently helping us meet deadlines. Mrs. Furman worked on the parade committee and assist with satellite location meetings. Not only is she a dedicated teacher, she is very passionate and committed to the development of our children.

She is married and the mother of two children, Nicole Elizabeth Conner and Kevin Lee Heyward Furman. She is a member of Little Bryan Missionary Baptist Church in Liberty City, where she serves as treasurer of the Deaconess Board.