

SCCTE 2008 - 2009 High School Teacher of Excellence: Ginger Dunker

Ginger Dunker was recently named the South Carolina Council of Teachers of English (SCCTE) teacher of the year. She was honored at the National Council of Teachers of English annual convention in San Antonio, Texas in November and in January will be honored at SCCTE annual conference at Kiawah Island, SC.

A nationally certified teacher of high school English, Ms. Dunker currently teaches at South Aiken High School where she is involved with instructional leadership and advisor of the literary magazine. She teaches creative writing and gifted and talented English. Chairperson of the multicultural committee, she is also chairperson of Writing Across the Curriculum and exemplary writing program.

Nationally certified in Young Adult Adolescent Literature, Ms. Dunker is endorsed in gifted and talented education and secondary supervision and administration.

Co-director of the Aiken Writing Project, Ms. Dunker is chairman and founder of the Aiken County Council of Teachers of English.

At the state level, she is involved with the SCCTE executive board, representative for gifted and talented state standards support team, teacher-consultant for the Low Country Writing Project, and chairperson of the SC Scholastic Press Association Executive Board for literary magazines and yearbooks.

Before teaching at South Aiken, Ms. Dunker taught at Lincoln High School in McClellanville, SC, Easley Junior High School, and Tri-County Technical College.

Ms. Dunker has a bachelor degree from Clemson and a master's of Secondary Supervision and Administration from Furman.

Throughout her career she has won many honors including South Aiken Teacher of the Year and Aiken County Teacher of the Year Honor Council. She has been recognized by the Aiken County School Board for the literary magazine's receiving state and national awards.

She has receive many grants including an Arts and Humanities Grand for character education, writing across the curriculum, and arts integration; Technology Grant from SC State Department of Education to improve writing skills through the use of technology; Clemson University grant for writing in the community project; Governor's office grant to conduct a Hugo writing project in a rural are of Charleston County; and Bread Loaf and Clemson University Writing Grant for research and writing and another for Writing in the Schools Program.

Ms. Dunker has published articles on teaching of writing/magazine production for the *Charleston County Middle School News*, *Tapestry for Teachers* (University of North Carolina Writing Project), Southern Interscholastic Press Association journal article, and South Carolina Press Association journal article, and the Aiken Country Council of teachers of English newsletter *The Toe*.

She has also completed a novel entitled *Emily Nell and Other Dead Fish*.

Ms. Dunker and her husband Cory are the parents of 5 children ages 13 to 26.

