



FOUNDATION NEWS

APRIL 2009

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Celebration Of Excellence Awards Program



Jerome Conlon
Educator of the Year



Don Olear
Support Staff of the
Year



Ron and Cathy Easley
Volunteers of the
Year

Two school district employees and a local couple will be recognized at the Third Annual Celebration of Excellence on Thursday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. The annual Celebration will be held at the Spring Cove Middle School. In addition to the recognition ceremony, teachers and students will be present to showcase the Venture Grants awarded for the 2008/09 school year. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

These public servants have been identified by their peers as people who go above and beyond in their service to the Spring Cove School District. In addition, they serve as role models to staff and students for their diligence and dedication.

We hope you will join us to honor these special people and to help us celebrate the great things happening in the Spring Cove School District. Please read further to learn more about the Educator, Support Staff, and Volunteers of the Year.

SPRING COVE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION MISSION

To help acquire and distribute funds to provide for innovative programs which offer each student opportunities for extended learning, as well as expanding horizons in the arts and athletics.



SAVE THESE DATES

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 23, 2009
CELEBRATION OF
EXCELLENCE**

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 18, 2009
13th ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Literacy Field Trip Sponsored By Venture Grant

On November 17, 2008, the 8th Graders at Spring Cove Middle School ventured on a field trip to Barnes and Noble, the Altoona Public Library, and Penn State Altoona's Eiche Library. The trip was sponsored with a venture grant that was submitted by Mrs. Nancy Newlin, Middle School Librarian and turned out to be a complete success with the students benefiting from a day of literacy and cultural awareness. The group learned about different genres of books, how the libraries/bookstores were organized, and even had time to explore extra sections of each building. The trip provided a fun and educational experience for all.

Article Submitted By: Alyssa R. Maurer



8th Grade students enjoy Barnes and Noble and Penn State Altoona on their Literacy Field Trip.

13th Annual Golf Tournament Scheduled

The 13th Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 18, at Iron Masters Country Club. Information regarding the tournament, along with a registration form, is included in this newsletter. For the last several years, the Foundation has steadily increased its annual allocation for Venture Grants based on the success of the annual golf tournament. All proceeds are used to fund the grants. At a recent meeting, the Foundation Board of Directors voted to allocate \$30,000 for Venture Grants for the 2009/10 school year. We hope you will join our tournament this year and help to support these classroom grants for students and teachers.

Educator, Support Staff, Volunteers Recognized



Jerome Conlon
Educator of the Year

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Mr. Jerome Conlon, a Special Education Teacher at Central High School, has been named by the Spring Cove Educational Foundation as the 2009 Educator of the Year. A 33-year teaching veteran, Mr. Conlon was nominated for the award by Mrs. Barb Black, Head Cook at Central High School. Mrs. Black stated in her nomination that she has watched Mr. Conlon interact with his students over the years and *“can’t help but admire the way he has taught them, nurtured them and befriended them. He handles them with love and respect. You can see that they respect and love him in return.”*

Mr. Conlon is a 1972 graduate of Central High School, and graduated from Lock Haven State College in 1972 with a degree in Elementary and Special Education. He began a teaching assignment with the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 in 1976 at Taylor Elementary School teaching Intermediate EMR students. Mr. Conlon continued his education by attending Shippensburg State College from 1976 until 1979, graduating with a Master’s Degree in Special Education. In 1983, he began to teach Special Education at Central High School. In 1990, Mr. Conlon became an employee of Spring Cove School District when the district assumed responsibility of many special services from IU 8. He continues to teach Learning Support students from grades 9 through 12 at Central High School. Unfortunately for the district, Mr. Conlon is retiring from teaching at the close of the 2008/09 school year. In addition to teaching, coaching sports has been a major part of Mr. Conlon’s life. In addition to coaching football, wrestling, and cross country, Mr. Conlon has spent the last 30 years coaching Track & Field. He has also served as a PIAA official in Volleyball and Track & Field.

Mr. Conlon noted that his influence to become a teacher came from his family. His father, Mr. Joseph Conlon was a teacher and coach at Roaring Spring High School and Central High School for 42 years. His mother, Dorothy, a homemaker, impressed upon her children the importance of education. His brothers and his sister are all teachers. His wife, the former Patrice Wight, is an Elementary/Special Education teacher.

“It just seemed to be a very important career – one which I felt strongly should become my occupation. In teaching, I recognize an opportunity to influence people, to hopefully educate and affect their lives in a positive manner. Helping students to become contributing members of society, life long learners, not afraid to face challenges, no matter the level of difficulty, has always been a goal of teachers.”

One of the biggest rewards in teaching, for me, is to find out about the achievements of former students and athletes. It is fascinating to discover what post secondary schools they may attend or have graduated from and what careers they have pursued. It is gratifying to learn that each one had some kind of success and to know that a teacher or coach was partially responsible for that success. As in any job, disappointments occur which test a teacher’s resolve. Perseverance and the knowledge of doing a good job in the classroom have always helped me through the down times.

Former educators, administrators and the dedicated teachers I work with each day give me a sense of hope. The patience and expertise of these people are needed to successfully graduate our students into the world of tomorrow. They have taught me over the years that education is just not an academic “thing.” It encompasses emotional, social and physical aspects of learning. The teachers I work with are facilitators of learning, and I am pleased to be associated with these quality individuals.”

Mr. Conlon and his wife, Patrice, reside in Roaring Spring. They have four children: Matthew, serving with the Peace Corp in Bulgaria; Tara, an Art Teacher at Portage High School; Katharine, a teller with Citizens Bank; and Quinn, a senior at Central High School.

Educator, Support Staff, Volunteers Recognized



**Don Olear
Support Staff of the
Year**

SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Mr. Don Olear was selected by the Foundation as the 2009 Support Staff of the Year. The support staff at the district's Administration Office nominated Mr. Olear for this honor because of his service-oriented dedication to the students and staff of the district.

To quote the nomination form, "Don's official title is Custodial Utility Worker, but it should be "jack of all trades," because, on any given day, Don can be found doing just about anything in just about any location throughout the district. Don just doesn't do his job; he goes above and beyond in everything he does." A staff member in the office stated, "Don takes care of things before we even realize they need done. He is a trustworthy and loyal individual and employee." Other qualities that made Don deserving of this recognition were his courteousness and friendliness. Don is called upon quite frequently to fill in for staff members who are off duty, but no matter what he is asked to do, he never complains or has a cross word for anyone.

After 11 years of working in the district, Don's goal every day is "to take pride in all my work and do something good every day to make a better tomorrow." Don's work ethic was shaped very early. At the age of 12, his first job was picking potatoes and mowing lawns. Beginning at age 13, he worked for six summers at his uncle's janitorial and cleaning business in Cleveland, Ohio. When asked what the most important thing staff members should consider about their role in the district, Don replied, "Don't do the job because you have to.....do it because you want to."

Don's dedication to his work with the district was demonstrated most recently when his father was hospitalized with a critical illness. Don would come to work every morning at 4:30, work his shift, and then take his mother to the hospital to be with his father. Many days, this meant over 100 miles a day in travel. Don would arrive home late at night, catch a few hours sleep, and be at work again the next day at 4:30 a.m. to do it all over again. This went on for weeks, with Don only missing work when his father was actually having surgery. One of Don's biggest concerns during this stressful time was making sure his work was done thoroughly and efficiently. Sadly, Don's father lost his battle and passed away on Christmas Day. After only a few days, Don was back on the job, doing what he does best - taking care of the needs of the staff and students in the Spring Cove School District.

Born and raised in Barnesboro, PA, now known as Northern Cambria, Don graduated from Northern Cambria High School in 1974 and attended Johnstown Vo-Tech, taking classes in mechanics, air conditioning, and refrigeration. Prior to being hired at Spring Cove, Don was employed for over 20 years at Coca-Cola in Ebensburg and Greensburg. Don held several positions at Coca-Cola, including Forklift Operator, Production, Route Truck Driver, Service Repairman, and Service Repair Manager.

Don and his wife, Phyllis, have been married for 30 years. They have two sons, Jason and Craig, and reside in Ebensburg with their dog, Kasey. Don is the son of Catherine Olear and the late Ronald J. Olear of Northern Cambria. He enjoys woodworking, hunting, fishing, and most sports.

***Being a man or a woman is a matter of birth.
Being a man or a woman who makes a difference is a matter of choice.
~ ~Byron Garrett***

***It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference.
~ ~Tom Brokaw***

Educator, Support Staff, Volunteers Recognized



**Ron and Cathy Easley
Volunteers of the
Year**

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Ronald and Catherine Easley were nominated for the Volunteer of the Year Award by Mrs. Lori Gochnour and Mrs. Gale Reeve, teachers at Martinsburg Elementary School, for their volunteer services through Blair Senior Service's Foster Grandparents Program. This is Mrs. Easley's third year in the program and Mr. Easley's second.

Mrs. Easley works in Mrs. Reeve's kindergarten classroom and provides a reassuring voice, a guiding hand, and an atmosphere of security for students attending school for the first time. Mr. Easley, known as "Mr Ron," provides daily support in Mrs. Gochnour's first grade classroom and is a continual source of motivation for students. Often seen wearing his "educational tool belt" complete with pens, pencils, sharpener, post-it notes, tissues, etc., he makes sure that the students have what they need to be successful in school. Mrs. Gochnour describes him as the "consummate positive male role model."

The Easlys are originally from Hastings, PA, in northern Cambria County. For many years Mr. Easley operated the family businesses, running both a furniture store and the local funeral home with his sister and younger brother. Mrs. Easley worked at the local A & P store. After Mr. Easley retired in 1991, the couple moved to Greenville, South Carolina, where Mrs. Easley went to work in the Credit Department at Dillard's Department Store. Sensing that her husband needed something more, she suggested that he find something to get him out of the house. Because he missed his own grandchildren, he looked into opportunities to work with children. He found himself as a volunteer at the local hospital working with children, and then at the Greenville airport, where he gave educational tours of the airport for over 500 preschoolers, 1st and 2nd graders each week.

Upon Mrs. Easley's retirement from Dillard's in 2001, the couple moved back to Pennsylvania at the urging of their son, Doug, who lives in the Spring Cove School District. The goal was to be able to spend more time with family and see their grandchildren grow up. It wasn't long until both Ron and Cathy felt the need to be involved in the community, and they began volunteering at Homewood. Shortly thereafter, Ron mentioned that he would love to work with children once again. The couple found the perfect solution in Blair Senior Service's Foster Grandparent Program.

In addition to their daily work at Martinsburg Elementary, Ron and Cathy attend monthly inservice programs to stay up to date on the latest strategies and techniques for effective classroom assistance. They serve as excellent models for life-long learning. "The Easlys do a wonderful job working with the children, and their teachers report that they are a great asset to the classroom. They are ideal Foster Grandparents and selflessly commit themselves to the children and to the work they do every day. They are two really wonderful people," says Cheryl Nolan, Assistant Director of the National Senior Service Corp Program and Coordinator for the Foster Grandparent Program.

Believe it or not, this couple still finds time for other volunteer service, including calling Bingo every Saturday at Homewood and serving as Eucharistic ministers at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church. They are both avid readers and enjoy traveling and walking. When asked why they devote so much time in volunteer service and to children, Mr. Easley responded, "We are so proud when we see how the children blossom throughout the year, and we enjoy playing a part in that transformation. It enriches our lives and keeps us young."

The Easlys reside in Martinsburg. They have three grown children, Cheryl Wright of New Mexico, Beth Cerrone of New York, and Doug Easley of Martinsburg. They also have eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The Foster Grandparent Program has about 55 grandparents in schools, daycare centers, head start programs, and area hospitals. For more information about this program, call 814-946-1235.

Spring Cove Educational Foundation

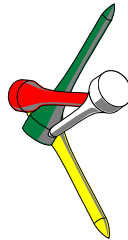
13th Annual Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 18, 2009
Iron Masters Country Club
Ore Hill

(For directions, call 224-5124)

12:00 Noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start
Scramble Format
5:30 p.m. Dinner

Awards presented during dinner.
(Must be present to win)



Entry Fee Includes:

- 18 Holes/Cart/Refreshments/Prizes
- Lunch Sponsor:
- Dinner Sponsor:
- 1st Place team awards in three divisions

Tuck this portion in your calendar as a reminder.

Return this portion with check.

Registration Form

Please register by May 29, 2009

Sponsorship Level (See Back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tournament Sponsor - \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - \$2,500 <input type="checkbox"/> Silver - \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner - \$1,500 <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze - \$100 each # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Gold - \$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond - \$100 each # _____				
	Player Name (please print)	Mailing Address	Phone	Handicap	Staying for Dinner?
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
Primary Contact Name & Phone Number					
Spouses and guests are welcome to join us for dinner at a cost of \$20 each. Please list the name(s) of additional guests for dinner and enclose payment with your registration.					
Please print or type the name to appear on the hole sponsor sign or banner and provide artwork if available.					

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
Spring Cove Educational Foundation
1100 E. Main Street
Roaring Spring, PA 16673
PHONE: 814-224-5124
FAX: 814-224-5516

The Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible.