

The Pelion High School community began the 2010-2011 school year celebrating the accomplishments of last year's senior class. We received news over the summer that our average SAT score for 2010 was second in the state among non-magnet public high schools (1595 cumulative score for math, critical reading, and writing). Among the 181 students in our graduating class of 2010, we had twenty-three honor graduates, eight Palmetto Fellows, and sixty-seven students receiving Life Scholarships, which means that forty-four percent of our graduates qualified for an educational lottery scholarship. Ninety-five of our graduates headed to college and twelve entered the military. Our 2010 graduates were awarded scholarships of 4.6 million dollars. We had a record number of forty-one students taking Advanced Placement classes/tests in five subject areas.

So far this year we have passed many academic and extra-curricular milestones. Among these accomplishments, we have a record number of forty-three students signed up to take AP exams in four subject areas. Our winter guard team, Aureate, won the State Championship and the South East Regional Championship this year. Our golf team is in the State Championship play-off tournament. Our marching band competed at the AA - State Championship tournament, and the band program won the Overall Performance Award for the state for the first time in school history. The PHS Wildlife Management Team won the State Championship this year, and Pelion High's JROTC rifle team won first place in the Army Sharpshooting National Tournament. The PHS Golf Team finished their season with their first-ever state championship.

Looking forward, our staff remains focused on preparing common assessment instruments and developing project-based teaching strategies to take advantage of one-to-one student-to-laptop computing that we anticipate for our school during the fall semester of 2011. As we embrace this technological opportunity, we are planning ahead to help our faculty implement strategies and techniques that will truly make us a high performance, twenty-first century learning culture. To this end we have a mobile laptop lab that may be checked out by teachers for use in their classrooms, we participate in regular technology training sessions, and we have begun a mandatory online training program for our entire faculty.

We also look forward with great anticipation to the addition of our Center for Advanced Agribusiness Research, which will open to students in the fall 2011 semester and will introduce our young people to new worlds of economic and academic opportunity. Designed to prepare students to pursue post-secondary studies in agribusiness, the center is open to all juniors and seniors in Lexington School District One. Its curriculum will allow students to pursue studies beyond the normal agriculture curriculum to include internships, externships, and research opportunities. The center's program has been developed with partnerships with colleges and universities as well as many local agribusinesses, and it will afford graduates with opportunities for scholarships, college recruitment, and leadership development.

It is easy to see why we at Pelion High School are proud of our growing tradition of excellence, pleased with our current progress, and excited about the opportunities in our future.

