



COLUMBIA ACADEMY

News Release

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Dr. Barry Farris receives ‘Teacher of the Year’ award from National Christian School Association



COLUMBIA, TENN (April 11, 2012) – At a special awards ceremony held in March at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Ala., Columbia Academy teacher Dr. Barry Farris was the proud recipient of the “Teacher of the Year Award” from the National Christian School Association (NCSA). Columbia Academy is a member of the NCSA, which represents more than 120 Christian secondary schools throughout the U.S.

Dr. Farris has taught science and math at the Columbia Academy upper school for 32 years. During this time, he has taught almost 100 percent of the graduates at some point during their time at CA, including CA’s current President Dr. James Thomas.

“As I remember Dr. Farris as my teacher, I recall the high standards he held for us as students, because he wanted us to be the very best we could be,” Thomas said. “Serving in this role has helped me see the tremendous impact that Dr. Farris continues to have on his students daily. Our alumni regularly return and tell us how well Dr. Farris prepared them for college and for life. He is extremely deserving of this high honor.”

In addition to his work at CA since 1980, Dr. Farris has also taught science and chemistry at the college level at MTSU and Columbia State Community College. His professional experience also includes published articles for Science Quarterly, and work as a reviewer for Corwin Press, the Journal of Chemical Education and the Electronic Journal of Science Education. He has served as the Chemistry I and II Standards committee chair for the Tennessee Department of Education, chair of the National Science Teachers Association regional conference and Treasurer of the Tennessee Science Teachers Association for the past 14 years. Dr. Farris has also served as an ACT science question writer.

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Before the NCSA award, Dr. Farris received various other teaching awards including two national awards – the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) and the American Chemical Society’s Southeast Regional Chemistry Teacher of the Year. Dr. Farris received his B.S. from Lipscomb University, along with his M.S in Chemistry and D.A in Chemistry from MTSU while working at Columbia Academy.

“I am honored and humbled by receiving the NCSA award. I love what I do for a profession,” Dr. Farris said. “Teaching and learning is a passion to me. I have seen many students get their foundation right here, and they have gone on to build on it at colleges and universities. I don’t teach chemistry, physics and calculus; I teach *students* those courses. My hope is that they are prepared to achieve in their post-high school careers. I teach at a good school, and I teach with some wonderful people who care deeply about their students. Being part of a fantastic team is very rewarding. If all goes well, I plan to teach 20 more years - perhaps all of which will be at CA.”

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Columbia Academy is a PreK-12th grade college preparatory school founded in 1979 to provide high quality academics from a Christian perspective. With an enrollment of more than 700 students, CA is located on a beautiful 67-acre campus in Columbia, Tenn., formerly home to the Columbia Military Academy. CA also maintains a satellite campus in Spring Hill, Tenn. Columbia Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the National Christian School Association.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

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