

# Five teachers nominated for Teacher of the Year

29/98

Space Center Rotary announced it has selected five Clear Creek Independent School District teachers to receive Certificates for Excellence in Education awards.

The five teachers were selected from the 25 schools throughout the district.

The awards program marks the seventh consecutive year Space Center Rotary has honored and recognized outstanding CCISD teachers. The Teacher of the Year will be selected from the five certificate recipients and announced at a special Rotary luncheon at noon, May 11, at the Nassau Bay Hilton Hotel.

The five recipients of Certificates for Excellence in Educations awards include Linda Andrews of Hall Elementary School, Janet Barksdale of Space Center Intermediate School, Cathy Hudson of Clear Creek High School, Katherine Roberts of Ed White Elementary School and Sally Wall of Seabrook Intermediate School.

Four of the five recipients will each receive certificates and a \$300 award. The Teacher of the Year will receive a Rotary Excellence in Education award of \$1,000, a honorary membership in Rotary, a personal plaque and a plaque for display at the teacher's school. The honoree's name will be added to a permanent plaque on display at the CCISD administrative offices.

Space Center Rotary Club is an organization of approximately 185 business leaders from throughout the Clear Lake area. It is affiliated with Rotary International whose motto is "Service above self." Space Center Rotary has contributed more than \$1 million to local charitable causes over the past 27 years.

\*Linda Andrews teaches the emotionally disturbed in the social development program at Hall Elementary School. Andrews said, "These kids need tough love, understanding, and patience." Her goal in teaching is "to be a children's advocate and find any way that will help them learn." She participates in several professional organizations such as Texas Federation of Teachers, Community Resource Coordination Group and State PTA. The school district's diagnostician writes that, "Linda Andrews' dedication to her students is remarkable. I see the fruits of her work evidenced time and again in the outstanding progress — academically, emotionally, and behaviorally — made by her students. Our district is blessed to have her as one of its staff." Andrews has a bachelor's degree in teaching from Sam Houston State University.

\*Janet Barksdale teaches theater arts, and radio and TV broadcasting at Space Center Intermediate School. Barksdale believes, "A teacher must teach the whole child, not just the subject area. This age needs guidance in organization, re-

sponsibility, caring for others, and social skills as well as academic instruction." Principal Jim Stephens said Barksdale's classes are special because, "they give students who do not have a long list of successful experiences, a new, non-threatening arena in that they can prove that they can succeed. This increases self esteem and makes them feel good about themselves which gives them the confidence to succeed in other classrooms." Barksdale is a member of TCTA, TSTA, and Texas Educational Theater Association, and has received a Texas PTA Honorary Life Membership from the Space Center PTA. In 1996, her peers honored her with the Space Center Intermediate School Faculty Merit award. Barksdale has a bachelor's degree in English and speech from the University of Houston, and a master's in humanities from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

\*Cathy Hudson teaches mathematics at Clear Creek High School. Hudson's love for teaching began at an early age. She believes that, "A teacher is a role model, leader, motivational speaker, a facilitator, and a surrogate parent." She incorporates guest speakers in her teaching to allow her students to understand how mathematical concepts are used in the real world. Hudson is involved in numerous school and district committees and is a member of the following professional organizations: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Texas Computer Education Association, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, Clear Creek PTA, and is currently serving as secretary of Mu Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. Hudson is also involved in a robotics program with NASA. Hudson has conducted many teacher training programs across Texas, Louisiana, and California. She has made presentations at regional and national mathematics conferences, and has written the curriculum for the Houston Post, "Play the Passing Game." Principal Kevin Crowell said, "Her contribution to education and CCHS are invaluable." Hudson has a bachelor's degree in math and a bachelor's degree in physics from Lamar University, and is working towards a master's in instructional technology.

\*Katherine Roberts teaches third grade at Ed White Elementary School. Roberts believes, "Learning must be purposeful. It must focus on the development of each student's curiosity, and conceptualization of what is being taught." Her primary goal as an educator is, "to motivate and challenge my students to want to learn, to ask why, to understand why, and to above all, enjoy learning." Roberts has served as grade level chairman and has been active on numerous committees. She has pre-



LINDA ANDREWS



JANET BARKSDALE



CATHY HUDSON

sented workshops entitled, "ADD/ADHD-Discipline with Humor!" and, "Self-Esteem — You Have the Power" and "Self-Esteem — Feel the Freedom!" She has started student groups such as the Environmental Club and Students Against Hunger. Principal Glenna Shields said, "Katherine has a true commitment to children that only a few dedicated individuals possess. She constantly searches for ways to make school and the learning process beneficial to all students." Previous recognition includes being chosen Milne Elementary Teacher of the Year 94-95 and Milne Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year 1993-94, Houston Independent School District. Roberts has a bachelor's degree in education from Central Michigan University and is working toward a master's degree in the gifted and talented area of teaching at St. Thomas University in Houston.

\*Sally Wall teaches science at Seabrook Intermediate School. Wall's goal is, "For my students to be independent thinkers that can function in any circumstance by using problem solving skills," and, "as an educator to make sure my students are successful." Wall belongs to the following professional organizations: National Science



KATHERINE ROBERTS



SALLY WALLY

Teachers Association, Texas Biology Teachers, Texas Science Teachers Association and is currently president-elect of Clear Creek Classroom Teachers Association. Wall was chosen through competition to be a trainer for teachers and has conducted many workshops including PDAS, new teachers appraisal system, Great Explorations in Math in Science, and Teaching Strategies in Helping Women and Minorities Succeed in Science. Her honors include being one of the thirteen chosen to participate in a National Science Foundation Grant on Mt. St. He-

lens. She was chosen by the Texas Association of Curriculum Development to be a curriculum fellow in the Project ABCD. She also has been chosen by the district to develop curriculum and codevelop Project Self Respect. Wall has experience presenting activities at state and national conventions. Principal David Williams said, "Sally is an excellent teacher and works extremely hard to be prepared for class. Her teaching style motivates students and keeps them involved in science." Wall has a bachelor's degree in science from Stephen F. Austin State University.