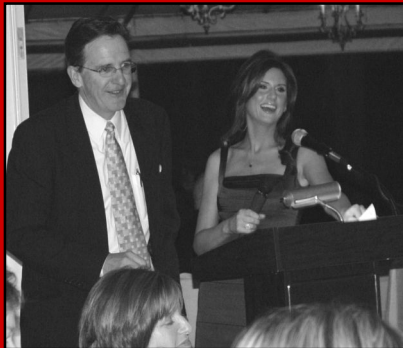


**Pictures from the
Avon High School
50th Anniversary Gala**



Chris Moore and Sonia Baghdady



**Sue Bertolini, with Dr. Richard Kiesel,
honored by the scholarship**



**Jody Goeler, Josie Cannella and Lisa
Cleveland with *The Lounge Lizards***



Message from the Chair

It's been an eventful year. First and foremost, we **topped the \$100,000 mark in grant awards!** This includes the largest grant since our founding in 2003 awarded this past March to Melissa Mirabello at Avon High School (AHS). Mrs. Mirabello sends this update:

Last September, as a new English teacher in Avon, I was focused on how to best impact the minds of my students. I was also interested in challenging myself as a professional educator. Within the first month of my tenure, I became aware of an exciting opportunity that would foster those goals. The Avon Education Foundation's e-mail regarding a grant for educational initiatives served as the impetus behind today's emerging Avon TV. Now, just one year later, the Avon TV studio space in room C108 is available for set construction.

As the world becomes more dependent on technology for information, and our students stand as proud purveyors of electronic gadgets and digital conveniences, schools are compelled to provide an avenue for students' interests and skills. Avon TV will enable teachers, support staff, parents and administrators to work together in supporting students' learning in our increasingly media-infused world. In their capacity as writers, announcers, commentators or camera operators, Avon TV participants will create, direct, edit, produce and act in television productions.

AHS broadcast journalism students are already engaged in several projects including biographies to practice camera and interviewing techniques, stand-ups and news segments. Once the studio is ready for taping broadcasts, all Avon residents will have access to it. Broadcasts may appear on a public access channel (Nutmeg TV) or as a webcast within the schools.

In April, we joined forces with the AHS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to co-sponsor the **Avon High School 50th Anniversary Gala**. About 160 of your friends and neighbors attended with Sonia Baghdady, our emcee from News Channel 8's "Good Morning Connecticut," and Chris Moore, our auctioneer from Fox Sports Radio, helping us to raise over \$12,000. The feedback was tremendous, and the AHS PTO has already expressed an interest in doing this with us again.

At the gala, we announced the **Susan L. Bertolini Education Scholarship** in conjunction with **Avon Dollars for Scholars** to honor Sue's contribution to education in Avon. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior planning to pursue a career in education and demonstrating a commitment to

(Continued on page 3)

MISSION

The Avon Education Foundation supports educational programs for all residents of the Town of Avon to improve the quality of public education beyond conventional academic funding from the Town and other public sources. The Foundation funds innovative and educational endeavors aimed at improving learning, achievement and skill development; encouraging creativity and excellence in teaching; and expanding community involvement from individuals, businesses and civic organizations.

Learn more about us by visiting our website: www.avonedfoundation.org.
Contact us by e-mail at info@avonedfoundation.org.

From the Grant Chair

During the 2007-2008 grant season the AEF awarded \$30,780 to support a variety of vibrant ideas generated by our teachers. Total awards made since AEF's inception in 2003 now exceed \$100,000.

Avon High School received three program grants this year.

- **“Avon TV”** and its hub, the Avon High School television studio, were launched with support from the **Avon Chapter of UNICO National**. The project will create a high quality television broadcast with students drawn from AHS teacher Melissa Mirabello's journalism classes. Opportunities for wider community involvement are significant, and it is expected that high school sporting events, concerts and competitions as well as town meetings may eventually be broadcast via community access channel.
- **World Language** teachers Peter O'Sullivan and Claudine Rose received funding to outfit a mobile language laboratory using 80GB video iPod@s. Until now, the high school had no language lab, and the only technology deployed to world language acquisition was cassette tape recorders.
- With support from **UNICO**, science teachers Michael Marella, Mark Burgess, Janet Loynes, Scott Percival and Scott Tinker partnered to pilot Technology-Enhanced Formative Assessment (TEFA) using a classroom response system (CRS). Four classrooms will be outfitted with devices that will be used to foster classroom discussion and gain immediate feedback on student comprehension.

Three mini-grants were awarded to the elementary schools. Pine Grove and Roaring Brook first grade teachers Laura McDonnell, Erin Dorsey and Lisa Fenn received the **2008 Avon Junior Women's Club Mini-Grant** to develop a new scientific inquiry program investigating the frog life cycle. In addition, an anonymous donor provided a mini-grant to Laura McDonnell **in honor of RBS Assistant Principal Larry Sparks** to assess and encourage reading fluency in first graders. Finally, the RBS fourth grade, led by Wendy Zacchera, enriched its curriculum with the **Hartford Stage Connections Literacy Program**.

—Micky Dorsky



Ryan Pavano and Bob Galliette presenting the **2008 UNICO Grant** to Avon High School science teachers and Jason Beaudin, principal



Leaping into Learning team Erin Dorsey, Laura McDonnell and Lisa Fenn receiving the **2008 Avon Junior Women's Club Mini Grant**

"FITNESS FOR THE FUTURE"

**2007 Leo & Jean Duffy
Memorial Grant**



**Learning to use
the tracking system**



Matt Duffy stretching with Tim Feshler, Physical Education & Health Teacher

(Continued from page 1)

community service. Congratulations to John Puzzo, AHS Class of 2008, who was the first recipient.

The first “Pavers for Posterity” were installed in the walkway at the student entrance to the renovated high school this spring. There is plenty of space for more pavers to honor your family, your graduate or your business. Your generous donation for a paver, engraved with your message, will support arts education in Avon—visual, musical, literary, theatrical. Pavers ordered by February 1, 2009 will be installed in the spring of 2009.

July found us at Tunxis Plantation Country Club supporting the **24th Annual UNICO Golf Tournament**. The **Avon Chapter of UNICO National**, the largest Italian American service organization in the country, has been one of our biggest supporters. If you play golf, this is a wonderful and fun way to support all the UNICO charities.

The AEF mission has never been more important than now when economic times have so many key priorities competing for the same dollars. For example, did you know that AHS had no world language lab? Imagine taking your final speaking and listening exam by telephone because your recording couldn't be found on your cassette tape. That was my daughter last year. The new **Mobile Language Lab** at AHS employs iPod® audio and video technology, in which every teen is expert, to enhance learning. Projects like this and **Avon TV** just don't have a chance in budgets that must find ways, for instance, to absorb skyrocketing energy costs.

Please help us achieve our mission and create opportunities for innovation in public education here in Avon. Your generous donation goes even further when you give through your employer's workplace campaign and request employer matching funds. Many companies match contributions by retirees and spouses and some even donate if you just give your time. If you would like to take a leadership role in our community, we are always looking for people who might want to join our board of directors; contact us at info@avonedfoundation.org. Look at our list of donors (p. 5) and our list of volunteers (p. 6) to see who has already gotten involved. We would love to list your name next year. If it's already there, **THANK YOU!**

—Joanne Beers, Chair

"AVON TV" 2008 UNICO Grant



Avon High journalism students practicing on camera interviewing techniques

MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!

Employer Matching Funds and Workplace Giving make your generous donation worth even more.

It's no surprise that among the names of the Avon Education Foundation's largest donors are Aetna Foundation, ING, Inc., Travelers Community Action Awards, United Way of the Capital Area and United Way of Waterbury.

Many companies give employees an opportunity to support the United Way through payroll deductions, and you can designate some or all of your gift to go to the AEF by writing us in:

Avon Education Foundation
info@avonedfoundation.org
P.O. Box 548
Avon, CT 06001-0548
EIN 20-0944178

Employers often match the gifts their employees make directly to non-profit organizations, too, and some match donations by spouses/domestic partners and by retirees. A number of companies will even “match” volunteer hours with dollars as well. These programs go by a variety of names. See some examples to the right.

To support innovative educational programs in Avon, check with your employer and your spouse's to see if they will match your gift of money or time to the Avon Education Foundation.

The Avon Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Aetna Employee Giving & Volunteering Programs

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United Technologies

United Way of the Capital Area
 Matching Gifts Program
 Volunteer Grants Program

Verizon Foundation

Matching Incentive Program
 Volunteer Incentive Program

**Back-to-School Is a great time to
C.H.E.E.R! for Great Educators**

**Would you like to tell those great educators
just how great they are?**

The AEF C.H.E.E.R! program is just the ticket.

Visit our website, www.avonedfoundation.org, to download the C.H.E.E.R! donation form, pick one up at any Avon Public School or use the form, below. Fill it out, add your note, include a minimum \$10 contribution per request, and mail it back to us. AEF will deliver a letter and a C.H.E.E.R! Certificate to the honored educator sharing your appreciation. We'll also notify the campus principal or supervisor.

All C.H.E.E.R! contributors will be acknowledged as a Friend of the Foundation. C.H.E.E.R! recipients are listed on the AEF website, in each school and in AEF newsletters and publications.



Your tax deductible funds will go towards grants for exciting and innovative projects benefiting children at all public schools and our community as a whole.

The AEF runs the **Celebrate and Honor Exceptional EducatoRs!** Campaign throughout the year. Remember, it's always a good time to send C.H.E.E.R!s to a teacher or staff member.

**C.H.E.E.R! Honorees
2007-2008**

*"Thanks for all you do!"
"You're the best!"
"You are an inspiration."
"I'm so glad you are there for my child each day!"*

Stuart Abrams	Jess Giannini	William Riccio
Gail Balavender	Jennifer Gregg	Claudine Rose
Jason Beaudin	Hurricane Team	Eric Rosow
Blizzard Team	Joan Jacobs	John Salerno
Cara Boland	Nancy Jones	Lisa Schwoerke
Will Boudreau	Martha Kane	Tara Serfass
Mark Burgess	Kyle Kramek	Pam Shand
Ruth Carter	Jodi Kryzanski	Carolyn Shea
AnnMarie Castle	Jeanine LaBrosse	Kelli Shea
Traci Cavanaugh	Diane Lieberfarb	Jill Sheely
Rosanne Civittolo	Lori Maniatis	Donna Taft
Doreen Cohn	Ellen McCabe	Heather Toyen-Weiss
Andrew Cole	Sue McCabe	Nancy Usich
Dave Conway	Laura McDonnell	Sandy Vick
Tim Curtis	Charlie McDougall	Nancy Wall
Kristin Cutler	Elena Musto	Anne Watson
Carolyn Daniels	Marlaina Napoli	Cindy Weidner
Susan DelGallo	Jim Pappa	Nicole Weisbaum
Andrew Dorr	Jane Ellen Peregrin	Wendy Zacchera
Lisa Fenn	Jenny Pooler	Debbie Zacchio
Ardith Franklin	Laura Porter	Betsy Zalaski
Lou Ann Ferla	James Quigley	

I'd like to help support AEF, too!

I want to volunteer: I would like information about volunteer opportunities at the AEF.

\$5,000 to name a Program Grant

\$1,500 to name a Mini Grant

\$1,000

\$500

\$250

\$100

\$50

Other \$ _____

C.H.E.E.R! (\$10 min./honoree) \$ _____

Pavers for Posterity:

___\$100 for a 4 X 8 inch paver ___\$225 for an 8 X 8 inch paver

please download the order form from our website

Check here if you are making this gift anonymously.

This gift is in honor of _____
(Print honoree(s)'s name(s) as you would like name(s) to appear on certificate and for publication)

Name _____
(Print your name(s) as you would like name(s) to appear on certificate and for publication)

Address _____

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I am a graduate of Avon High School, Class of _____

Check here if you would like to receive AEF e-mail updates.

My/my spouse's employer will match this gift. *Please enclose matching gift form.*

Mail with your check payable to: Avon Education Foundation, P.O. Box 548, Avon, CT 06001

You may also donate online at www.avonedfoundation.org

The Avon Education Foundation (AEF) is a 501(c)3, non-profit, tax-exempt organization.



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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness in these Honor Rolls. If you discover an error or omission, please report the correction to the AEF.

Every contribution will be used to promote educational programs in your town—for Avon school children and residents of all ages.



AEF THANKS OUR VOLUNTEERS!



"The wise person will tithe of one's time as well as of one's income"

Our school liaisons: **Sandy Andrade, Linda Becker, Micky Dorsky, Thirza Hyatt, Cindy Pastore** and **Chrissy Polans**;
 the 50th Anniversary Gala Committee: **Abby Kannenberg, Rosa Montoya, Sara Ray, Denyse Reinhart, Julie Sonlin** and **Janice Wingo**;
 and **Mike Hudson** for auction item posters, the **Avon Free Public Library** for help with historic pictures for the Gala Program,
 and **Marco Famiglietti** and **Jody Goeler** for donating their musical talent to the gala;
 our 2007-08 Grant Committee: **Micky Dorsky** (chair), **Sue Bertolini, Melissa Gagne, Pam Lasser, Mark Nolan, Herb Pandiscio,**
Sara Ray, Darlene Salonia and **Robin Venditti Stoll**, and **Doreen Cohn** for printing the "big checks,"
Gayle Bieluch our photographer;
Andrew Burdick, Daniel McGee, Caitlin Nil and **Garrison Nord**, Honor Society students who have helped with a variety of projects;
Bre Collier, Taylor Cronin, Rosa Montoya, Peggy Roell and **Anna Stevens** for helping with the UNICO Golf Tournament;
 our teacher board liaison **Rosanne Civittolo**;
Dr. Richard Kisiel for the use of his conference room for our meetings
 and **Gloria Pereira** for reserving the meeting room and for distributing our e-mails;
Dana Culligan, of **Creative Memories**, for our beautiful scrapbook;
Murtha Cullina, LLP of Hartford, CT;
Bill McGee of **McGee Partners LLC**;
 and our past board members: **Janet Anderson, Sue Bertolini, Tom Boone, Tom Carey, Eileen Carroll, John Czpiel,**
Martin LoMonaco, Cheryl McGuff, Nat Messina, Nancy Muench, Herb Pandiscio, Sara Ray, Sharon Ricci,
Debra Routt and **Magda Stayton**.

~~ We'd love to see your name here, too. Please volunteer! ~~

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