

## Faculty Honors...

The Awty International School is delighted to announce that two of our colleagues, Mr. Guy Benet and Mrs. Rebecca Johnson have recently become the recipients of prestigious awards.



Mr. Guy Benet, Head of the Language Department, received the Chevalier des Palmes Académiques 2005, one of France's highest academic honors. The *Palmes Académiques* is an order founded by one of France's most widely-known figures, Napoleon Bonaparte. A brilliant administrator, Napoleon appreciated the importance of education. By the decree of March 17, 1808, he established this award for devotion and accomplishment in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and research. The form of the award has changed, as has the organization which administers it but these arts and sciences awards have been cherished for almost two hundred years. The greatest change in the history of the *Palmes* took place in 1955, with three ranks created: *Commandeur*, *Officier*, and *Chevalier*. The *Palmes* can be conferred on both French citizens and citizens of other countries who have contributed to the extension and appreciation of French culture around the world. Only a few dozen *Palmes* are awarded in the U.S. annually.

Mrs. Rebecca Johnson, Head of the Fine Arts Department, is the recipient of The 2005 Walter Kase Teacher Excellence Awards given by the Anti Defamation

League (ADL). The ADL was established in 1913 as a civil rights/human relations organization. Its experience over the years working with schools has shown that educators are crucial in promoting the understanding and appreciation of diversity. The Walter Kase Teacher Excellence Award is given to teachers whose efforts nurture mutual understanding and respect in increasingly diverse school population. The award is named for Walter Kase, a Polish born Holocaust survivor who dedicates a great deal of his time talking to young people in schools about prejudice.

Congratulations!