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Oglethorpe Charter School Celebrates Ten Years



The Small Family (left to right) Arthur (Class of 07), Beatriz (class of 05), Alfredo (incoming 6th grader), Paula (class of 10), Mamie (class of 09), and Alvin (class of 06) perform during the Oglethorpe Ten Year Celebration. Photo courtesy of Sarah O'Bryan.

On Wednesday, May 13, Oglethorpe Charter School observed its tenth anniversary with a program of reflection and celebration at the Lucas Theater.

The program included greetings and reflections from Oglethorpe Charter School Governing Board members, past and present, as well as reflections from current and former students, teachers, performances by current and former students, and a finale performance from celebrated vocalist and Oglethorpe chorus teacher Huxie Scott.

Located at 707 Stiles Avenue, Oglethorpe Charter School is Georgia's first start-up charter middle school, founded by parents and community volunteers in 1999.

Ten years after Martha Nesbit and a team of founding members pursued her vision for an innovative charter middle school, Oglethorpe has grown into a nationally recognized model school. Its small class sizes, rigorous Core Knowledge curriculum and mandatory parent involvement have helped the school achieve high academic outcomes and maintain a

safe, nurturing environment.

In 2004, Oglethorpe Charter School was recognized by the United States Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement as one of eight exemplary charter schools in the nation.

It is among the few middle schools in Georgia to receive a distinguished GreatSchools Rating of 8 out of 10.

Parents have reviewed this school and given it an average rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

Chatham County Health Department Names New Administrator

Randy McCall, Ph.D., has been named new administrator of the Chatham County Health Department (CCHD).

The announcement was made by Douglas Skelton, M.D., Health Director of the Coastal Health District, during today's Chatham County Board of Health meeting.

McCall comes to the Chatham County Health Department from the Coastal Health District where he served as Program Manager.

His duties included overseeing the State's programmatic and financial support for all programs within the eight counties.

McCall has a Master of Public Administration degree and Doctor of Health Science degree and has held various positions in public health for the past 20 years.

As CCHD administrator, McCall will be responsible for the health department's programs in nursing, environmental health, epidemiology, and emergency preparedness and response.

The Chatham County Health Department is the third largest health department in Georgia.

"I look forward to the new challenges that this position will bring and I am committed to continuing the excellent work of Dr. Diane Weems and her predecessor,



Dr. Randy McCall

since 1993 and voluntarily took on additional administrative responsibilities last summer.

Weems will continue as the Health Department's Chief Medical Officer in addition to playing an active role with other community organizations in expanding services for the uninsured and underinsured in Chatham County.

"Dr. Weems is a model public health physician and I am pleased that her talents can again be focused fully on her medical responsibilities and interests," said Skelton.

"With Dr. McCall and Dr. Weems, the Chatham County Health Department has two of the strongest public health leaders in Georgia."

Dr. Kathryn Martin, in enhancing public health's services to the citizens of Chatham County," said McCall.

McCall will replace interim administrator, Diane Z. Weems, M.D. Weems has served as Chief Medical Officer of the Chatham County Health Department

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