

Gulliver sponsors PBA luncheon honoring local public schools

BY LINDA RODRIGUEZ BERNFELD

Despite the fact that Gulliver is a private school, it has traditionally sponsored the Pinecrest Business Association luncheon that honors Pinecrest area public schools. At the luncheon, the schools are awarded the proceeds from *The Taste of Pinecrest*, held each year in Pinecrest Gardens.

Even though Gulliver does not receive funding from the Taste of Pinecrest, it is no accident that Gulliver is the sponsor. Henry Langston, Gulliver dean of faculty, says educational institutions need to support each other, be they public or private.

"We're there for the purpose of education," Langston says. "We're there to support the students of the community whether they are in public schools or private. We've always had a very good relationship with the public schools as well."

Gulliver has been a PBA member since the organization formed with the advent of Village incorporation.

"We were one of the initial members," Langston says.

Gulliver also is a sponsor of *The Taste of Pinecrest* even though the funds raised only go to public schools.

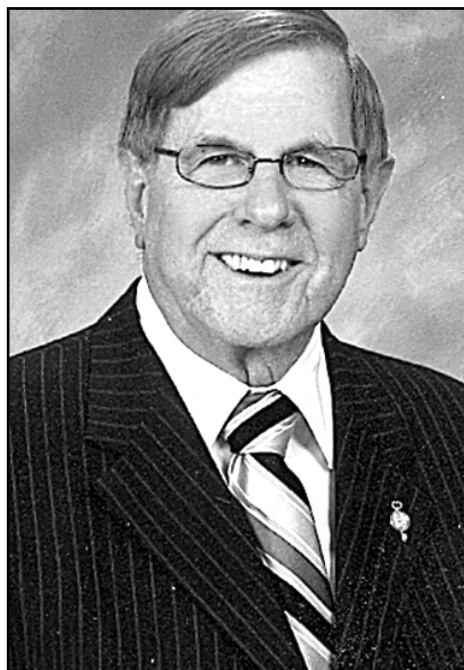
"We sponsor the tee shirts," he says. "I think it's about a thousand dollars. We provide the tee shirts and on the shirts we have the Gulliver logo. We give them to the people who work the event."

The *Taste* generates approximately \$30,000 annually, which is equally distributed to Howard Drive Elementary, Pinecrest Elementary, Palmetto Elementary, Palmetto Middle and Palmetto High School. Langston says it is important to support the public schools — especially since Gulliver often gets students who live in Pinecrest and attended a public school first or a Gulliver student transfers to a public school.

Gulliver works with the Village in a variety of forums in addition to the business association. Langston says the school is involved in the Junior Orange Bowl and holds membership in Chamber South, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Coconut Gove Chamber of Commerce. He says that's because Gulliver students aren't limited to the Pinecrest area.

"We have students that come from all over South Florida," he says. "Our students come from South Broward all the way down to the Keys and from as far away as Hollywood and Weston. We have them coming from Miami Beach and

PBA SPOTLIGHT



Henry Langston, dean of Faculty at Gulliver Schools.

one family came down from Golden Beach."

There was even one student who commuted each day from Boca Raton until the family bought a home closer to the school.

"The thing that we strive for is that 100 percent of our students go on to a four-year college," Langston says. "We have the largest number of students that are going to Harvard this year. Our program is set up for college prep. That's why our parents are putting their children in this school."

But Langston believes that students can also get a good education in some of the public schools, particularly those in Pinecrest.

"I tell people I'm a product of the public school system in Miami," he says. "I felt I got an excellent education in the schools. There is a place for everybody."

Langston says he has a responsibility to the children in his school and also to the children at Palmetto High or Pinecrest Elementary.

"They all need our support and our direction," he says. "Just because you are in business and not in education, you still have a responsibility to these young people."