



# Mazel Tov & Congratulations



## NC State University Names 2006 East Meck Grad Halli Sigal as a Shelton/Caldwell Fellowship Scholar

Halli Sigal, East Mecklenburg Class of 2006, has been named as a Shelton/Caldwell Fellowship Scholar by NC State University. The Caldwell Fellowship is granted to 25 freshmen at NC State and is the only university-wide merit scholarship available to students currently attending NC State. To be eligible for the Caldwell, applicants must have a GPA of 3.25 or greater, complete a written application, and sit for interviews with alumnae and faculty. One of the Caldwell recipients is chosen to be a Shelton/Caldwell Fellowship Scholar, and this year's recipient is Halli Sigal. As the Shelton/Caldwell Fellowship Scholar, Halli receives a renewable award valued at \$5000 for her



Halli Sigal

sophomore, junior and senior years. She can seek additional funding to support enrichment opportunities if they maximize program offerings and provide stewardship.

As part of the Caldwell Fellows Program, students will have significant personal growth experiences (i.e., study abroad or the Fellows Wilderness Experience), service opportunities, a career internship, a leadership and ethics course, a retreat and other activities designed by and with students and program alumni. Shelton Leadership Scholars receive automatic membership in the Caldwell Fellows Program, an intensive leadership development scholarship program that stresses the importance of leadership and personal growth and provides a range of enhancement opportunities.

Halli graduated from East Mecklenburg in the International Baccalaureate Program, earning

her IB Diploma and completing nearly 250 hours of service during grades 11 and 12. She earned her Girl Scout Gold Award in her senior year. Halli is the daughter of

Dr. Marvin Sigal and Margie Sigal, and the sister of Benjamin Sigal [East Mecklenburg High School]. All are members of Temple Israel. ☆

## Mann Travels Wins American Express Travel Representative Excellence Award

Mann Travels announced today that it was named winner of this year's prestigious American Express Travel Representative Excellence Award. Mann Travels is one of only 27 members of the American Express U.S. Representative Travel Network to receive the award, which recognizes strong performance in sales and customer service.

Gary and Maxine Silverstein, owners of Mann Travels, will be honored and join the other winners on a seven-day trip to Egypt, tailored specifically for the Representative Excellence Award winners.

"The Representative Excellence Award recognizes our top-performing Representative agencies," said Ellen Bettridge, VP of the U.S. Representative Travel Network. "Mann Travels has represented the American Express brand well and delivered extraordinary results in 2006."

Gary Silverstein said of the award, "It is a mark of distinction that we have been recognized by American Express for the last six years as one of the top American Express agencies in the country. We are proud to have employees

that work to keep the company at such a high level of distinction."

Acquired by Maxine and Gary Silverstein over 25 years ago, Mann Travels is the Carolinas' largest privately-owned full-service travel agency and handles all aspects of corporate, vacation and group travel. With ten offices in the Carolinas, it ranks as one of the top 100 agencies in the nation.

The Representative Excellence Award honors the achievements of the Representative Travel Network member agencies that have reached superior sales results driving cruise and tour supplier goals and have secured the highest year-over-year sales growth. American Express Travel's cruise and tour suppliers are among the most respected names in the travel industry known for providing excellent customer service and travel experiences.

American Express entered the travel agency business in 1915 and today is one of the world's largest travel agency networks.

American Express Company is a diversified worldwide travel, network and financial services provider founded in 1850. It is a leader in charge and credit cards,

Travelers Cheques, travel, international banking. For more information, visit [www.americanexpress.com](http://www.americanexpress.com). ☆

### TOV M'OD

Ollie Polk was interviewed by Carolina Parents' Magazine for their Guide to North Carolina Colleges, in an article titled "S.A.T. Preparation Courses - Should You Pay?" Polk, a teacher with 21 years of experience, believes that certain students benefit from these courses. "Those who benefit the most from it are the 'hungry' ones. They absorb all the strategies and are not afraid to take advice and give up old habits," she says. "Usually, these students are also the 'sharper, higher performing' ones who catch on quickly and are challenged to beat the system and win the game. However, another very successful group is made up of very conscientious [students] who are structured and follow the rules. Even though they might be low-to-average English students, they love having guidelines to follow to the letter and they find that they work most of the time."

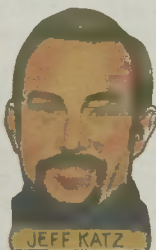
Polk has been teaching an S.A.T. prep course for 12 years. "The students who benefit the least are the undisciplined ones who want a 'quick fix' and are not willing to put in the time. Like a sport, practice makes perfect," she continues.

"I also do some college consulting and I work constantly with ... college counselors to keep informed as things constantly change. For example, the new writing section and essay are highly controversial with admission offices right now and anyone teaching a course must keep up with it or they might lead parents and students astray."

Congratulation to Ollie for being singled out as an expert in her field. ☆

## WBT'S Jeff Katz Selected as One of America's Top 100 Talk Show Hosts

Talkers Magazine, the trade paper of the talk radio industry, has just released its annual list of America's Top 100 Talk Show Hosts and Charlotte's own Jeff Katz is on it. Considering that there are now more than 4,000 talk show hosts in the US, this is quite an accomplishment. The Jeff Katz Show is heard from 3-6 PM, Monday through Friday on WBT-AM 1110 and WBT-FM 99.3. ☆



This drawing of Jeff Katz now appears on the wall of The Palm.

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