

1985 Sophomore Superlatives

Decatur Leaves Brevard

By Julie Thompson

Ren Decatur, professor of English, will be leaving Brevard College to do what he's always wanted but never had time to do--experience living abroad. Decatur will leave this summer to go live in the Greek Islands from six months to a year, then in Austria, and then, in two to three years, he will move to Japan, where he hopes to teach ESL (English as a secondary language).

Decatur won't be working so much for wages, but rather for his own personal enrichment. He will be working on writing fiction, learning languages and, a long-neglected talent that he wishes to rekindle, learning music. He also plans to take time to lie on the beach soaking up the sun in the Greek Islands.

Sounds too good to be true? When asked how he managed the trip, Decatur explained that his wife sold her veterinary practice in Hendersonville. The man who bought it was so generous as to offer to pay a monthly check to Decatur's wife for the next ten years. His wife is also a photographer, and plans to continue her study of photography, as well as keeping up with her veterinary education.

From the Greek Islands, they plan to move to Austria where Mrs. Decatur has a grandmother and many other relatives. Mrs. Zednik, a faculty member at Brevard, will also be in Austria next summer. Decatur and Zednik plan to meet in Austria around that time.

Possibly their next move will be to France. Decatur is partially fluent in French, as well as in German, Spanish, and Japanese.

Decatur plans to move to Japan in two to three years, and teach English conversation there. "Japanese English teachers know grammar, but few know conversation or the pronunciation, so there is a need for conversation English teachers." When asked about proficiency in Japanese, Decatur explained that the grammar and the pronunciation are easy, but mastering the alphabet is very difficult because there are three different kinds of alphabets. "I won't really know the language until I get there. That is true for any language because all languages are so tightly-knit with their cultures."

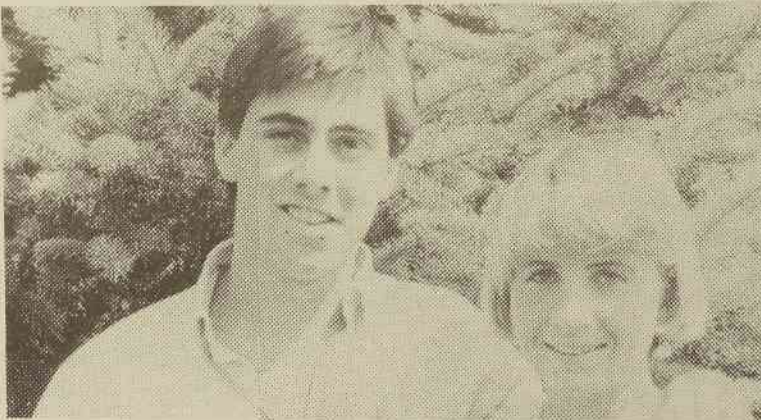
"Besides the students, one of the things that made being here so rewarding is the feeling of brotherhood among the faculty. It is very unusual--many universities and other college staffs are plagued with departmental conflicts. There's just a really good feeling here among staff and faculty."

Cont. on page 4.

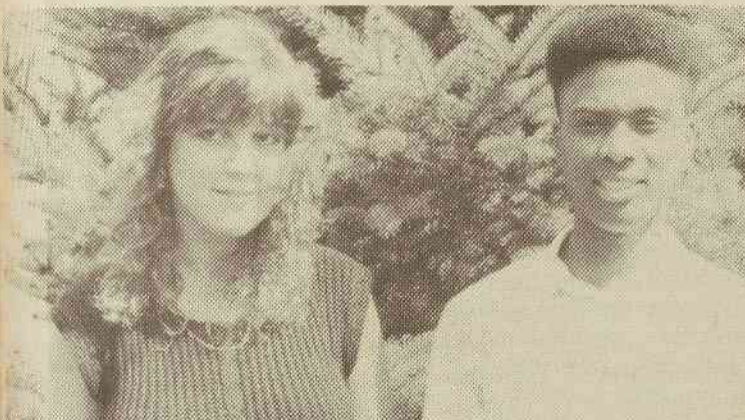
Photos by Ken Chamberlain



Most Caring
Camille Herring and Tom Nassif



Friendliest
Jeff Dent and Suzanne Gay



Most Dependable
Tiz Metcalfe and Eddie Tadlock



Most Likely to Succeed
Caryn Clause, Eddie Tadlock, and Juliette Reynolds



Best All-Around
Richard Ledbetter, Angie Vickers, and Don McGinnis



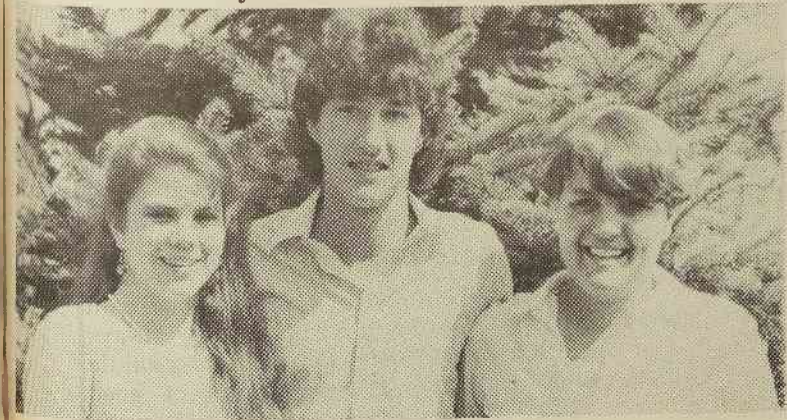
Most Courteous
Kellee Smith and Lew Dyer



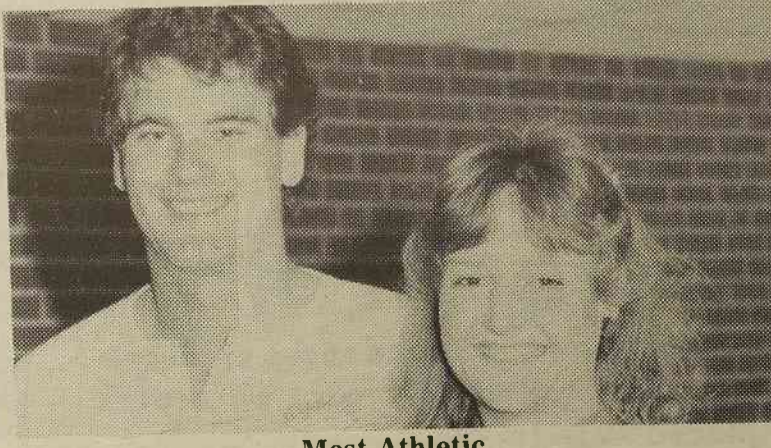
Most Talented
Darryl Williams and Tina Taylor



Most Studious
Andrea Rose and Hal Eddins



Best Personality
Molly Rawlings, Jim Gray, and Mara Klein



Most Athletic
Angie Vickers and Tracy Stringer