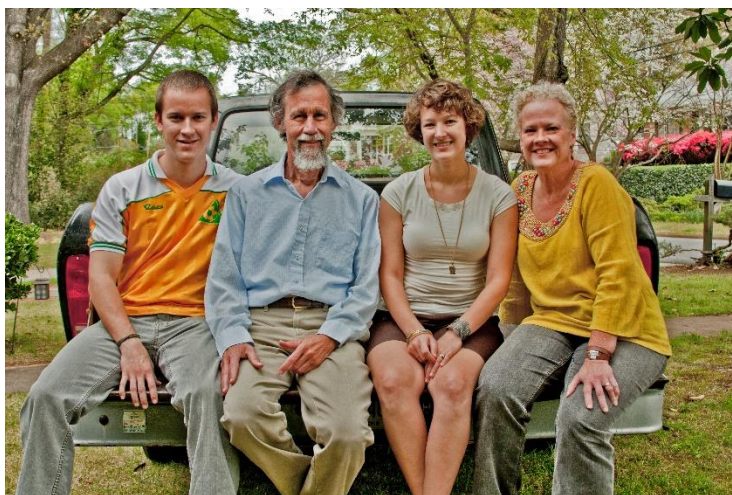




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CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

## **C. Thomas Poss STAR Teacher Award**



Carl Thomas Poss was born in Cordele, Georgia, and lived his adult life in Athens where he first attended and then taught at the University of Georgia. Tom had a thirst for knowledge and a wide variety of interests, with an undergraduate double major in Philosophy and Comparative Literature and a graduate degree in Philosophy. He enjoyed teaching Philosophy at Spelman College, but found his true teaching home in the Classics Department of UGA, where he taught Greek and Roman culture, mythology, and language development from Greek and Latin roots and in study-abroad programs in Italy and in Greece. Tom loved teaching, and he relished the atmosphere of the classroom and the possibilities for discussion, lively debate, and scholarship that it generated. In 2006, Tom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. This disease would ultimately rob him of all the things that had been important to him: intellectual pursuits, teaching, and normal living with family and friends. He died in January 2015.

Brenda Arrington Poss is a product of the Clarke Co. School District and a graduate of Athens HS. She taught music at Cedar Shoals HS for 13 years and was honored to be both CCSD's Teacher of the Year and a runner-up for Georgia TOTY in 1999. She was a moving force in the construction of the new Cedar Shoals HS and, in particular, in the design and construction of the Fine Arts building. Her children, Charlotte Poss Chromiak and Geoffrey C. Poss, are graduates of Cedar Shoals HS. Charlotte is a public school music teacher and Geoffrey serves in the U.S. Army.

The *C. Thomas Poss STAR Teacher Award* was established in 2017 and first awarded in 2018, annually recognizing the STAR teachers for Cedar Shoals HS and Clarke Central HS. The Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, created in 1958 by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and overseen by the Professional Association of Georgia Educator (PAGE), honors



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Georgia's highest achieving high school seniors and the teachers who have been most instrumental in their academic development. High school STAR Students are asked to name their STAR Teachers, who continue with their STAR Students at every level of the program.