

## Building dreams

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make teaching science, algebra, technical mathematics and statistics to Midwood's students brings him bliss.

"When a teacher creates an interest or a thirst in a student, then that student is inspired to go and find out more," he said. "That is where a teacher can make a great impact. When I see what they are now able to attain, it brings me great joy."

He believes it takes parental and student involvement to make the public education system successful. Despite critics who argue that the qualitative gap between private and public school is growing, Ramesh remains optimistic. "Many Nobel laureates have come from the public school system, so we know it can work," he said. He believes so strongly in parental involvement that every Friday he calls each student's parents to update them on their child's progress.

### Lessons learned for life

Ramesh sees his role as one that connects lessons both inside and outside the classroom. "Why does man become depressed?" he asked. "Because he is deprived of creativity. Creativity means holding your hands to the stars. You may not reach, but you still strive to do your best. I tell them that in the outside world, no one will ask if you had an A or B grade but they will see how well-behaved and gentle you are."

Ramesh's positive attitude adds to what Martin-Tanner calls his "aura of happiness." On a personal level, he applies philosophical reasoning to his own life. "Science helps you ... not accept anything that doesn't pass the test of reason," he said. "It's not that I'm right and you're

wrong. We're all learning together. Our life is a continuous learning experience where each day we have the opportunity to become better human beings."

### Teacher, learn thyself

Literature and lineage shaped his life. Ramesh comes from a long line of educators. "My father was a learned scholar," he said. "When he died he left more than 5,000 volumes of books. My grandfather ... was a professor of English."

An accomplished writer, Ramesh has authored more than 70 papers on topics such as materials science, high-temperature chemistry and optics. He also has written for nationally and internationally known newspapers. The topic he's most passionate about these days is education for both adults and children.

He expands his own learning through books he reads "not just for content but to learn how the author expresses himself or herself." His favorites are "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," Dickens' works and other classics. He's also a linguist fluent in English, French, Hindi, Bengali and Japanese.

He's strongly influenced by great teachers such as British geneticist J.B.S. Haldane, whose most famous student, Francis Crick, helped map the DNA molecule's structure. Other teachers from whose lives he takes cues are Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa, with whom he worked for six months. "One of the lessons I learned from Mother Teresa, who was a very humble lady, is that we remember people for what they did, not what they did not do."

How would a man of his accomplishments want to be remembered? "I went into teaching so I could share my interest in science and how scientific work is

## hometown hero



Charlotte Weekly and WBT partner to bring the city's Hometown Hero to newsprint. Each week in this section, you'll find recognition of a community hero identified by News Talk 1110 WBT in weeks prior. We're proud of these standout citizens and honored to share their stories.

### This week's hero is Josh Fosdick of York, S.C.

After his overnight shift at the Samuel Strapping Company, Fosdick headed home and noticed a motorist trapped in a creek near Carowinds Boulevard. The motorist had lost control of his vehicle and was stranded in rising creek waters.

As Fosdick approached, he noticed that the motorist was beginning to panic as the force of the water made the vehicle unstable. The motorist clung to a tree branch while waiting for



Josh Fosdick

the fire and rescue squad.

Fosdick immediately strapped a tow strap to his body and jumped into the frigid water to calm the motorist. He knew he couldn't rescue the man without trained help, but he wanted to keep the man calm during the wait.

After about 40 minutes, the two men were rescued and brought to safety. Without Fosdick's quick thinking and willingness, the outcome could have been drastically different. For this, we are honored to name him this week's Hometown Hero.

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done," he said. "I want students to know how important independent thinking is, rather than just listening to someone. Then they can take on societal problems. If I did that, then I could feel like I've done a great service to the field of education."

Ask any of his students and they'll tell you he already has. □

### Want to know more?

For details about Ramesh, visit [www.ksramesh.com](http://www.ksramesh.com); to learn more about Midwood High School, visit [www.cms.k12.nc.us/allschools/midwood/index.htm](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/allschools/midwood/index.htm).



## Do you collect anything? Is it of value or does it simply accumulate dust?

Interviews and photos by Kathryn Daniel. Question asked at the Arboretum shopping center.



**Joan Fox,**  
video store manager  
"I collected Barbies for a while. They collected dust, and they are still collecting dust."



**Stephanie Detrich,**  
salon associate  
"No, I'm not really a big collector."



**David Reese,**  
retail manager  
"Yes, lighthouses. I have miniature lighthouses all over the place. They do collect dust, but they are of value."



**Robert Herrin,**  
oral surgeon  
"Silver dollars and they collected dust. That would be it. I collected them when I was a kid, put them in a drawer and have never seen them again."



**Diane Hager,**  
advertising sales  
"David Winter houses. They are little houses that are supposedly hand-painted. ... They are supposed to be of value. I do have them on display, but it's been years since I've gotten a new one."