

Youths Become Junior Scientists

By Henry Duvall
They may not know it, but the experience some 75 minority high-school students are gaining from an intensive science program this summer may put them on the road to becoming the next generation's leading scientists.

The catalyst for such a prospect is the Howard University-Rockefeller Foundation Program in Life Sciences Careers for High School Minority Students.

Sixteen black students

are conducting research in the areas of biochemistry, immunology, genetics and microbiology as well as anatomy and embryology in the zoology department at Howard University in Washington, D.C. where the program is based. Some students are analyzing chicken embryos, aimed in part at finding the chemical mechanisms that cause organs to form.

"The summer program started by the

Rockefeller Foundation and managed by Howard University is a most appreciated initiative," says Harvard Medical School's Dr. Torsten Wiesel, 1981 Nobel Prize winner in medicine. In a letter commending the program, he indicated that the program is in the forefront in providing "educational opportunities which are greatly needed in order to encourage minority students to enter basic science."

Four black students

from North Carolina are conducting research on aspects of cell development at the prestigious Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. Two of the students are analyzing clam eggs while the other two are studying sand sharks and squids.

They are designing projects, collecting and analyzing original data, and will write a report with information of their research to be published in the laboratory's journal, says Dr. George Langford, associate professor in the physiology department at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, who is overseeing their research at Woods Hole.

At the same time, three American Indians, five Hispanics and one black student are immersed in research at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. One student is studying the distribution of antigens associated with arthritis while another is working on a project involving the autonomic nervous system.

These students are working with researchers "who are among the best in their fields," says Dr. Robert Kelley, chairman of the department of anatomy at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine.

Ten black students from four high schools in Macon County, Ala., are working on research projects at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Two students are trying to find the effects of a carcinogenic pollutant on goats and ducks while two others are analyzing tissue cultures of the sweet potato in an effort to improve the quality or cultivation of sweet potatoes.

Nine Native American Indian students are participating in the research-oriented program at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine in Duluth. One of the students is working on a research project entitled "Biofeedback: Cigarette Smoking in Humans."

The Howard-Rockefeller program is designed to open doors to scientific research and illustrate to bright minority students that careers in the biomedical and health-related fields are indeed within their grasp, according to Dr. Winston Anderson, program coordinator and chairman of the Howard zoology department.

These youths are being introduced to biomedical laboratories at 17 academic and research institutions across the nation. They are getting a taste of college life, and gaining exposure in programs of experimental veterinary medicine, dentistry and dental research, medicine, marine biology, reproductive biology, organic chemistry, biochemistry and anatomy.

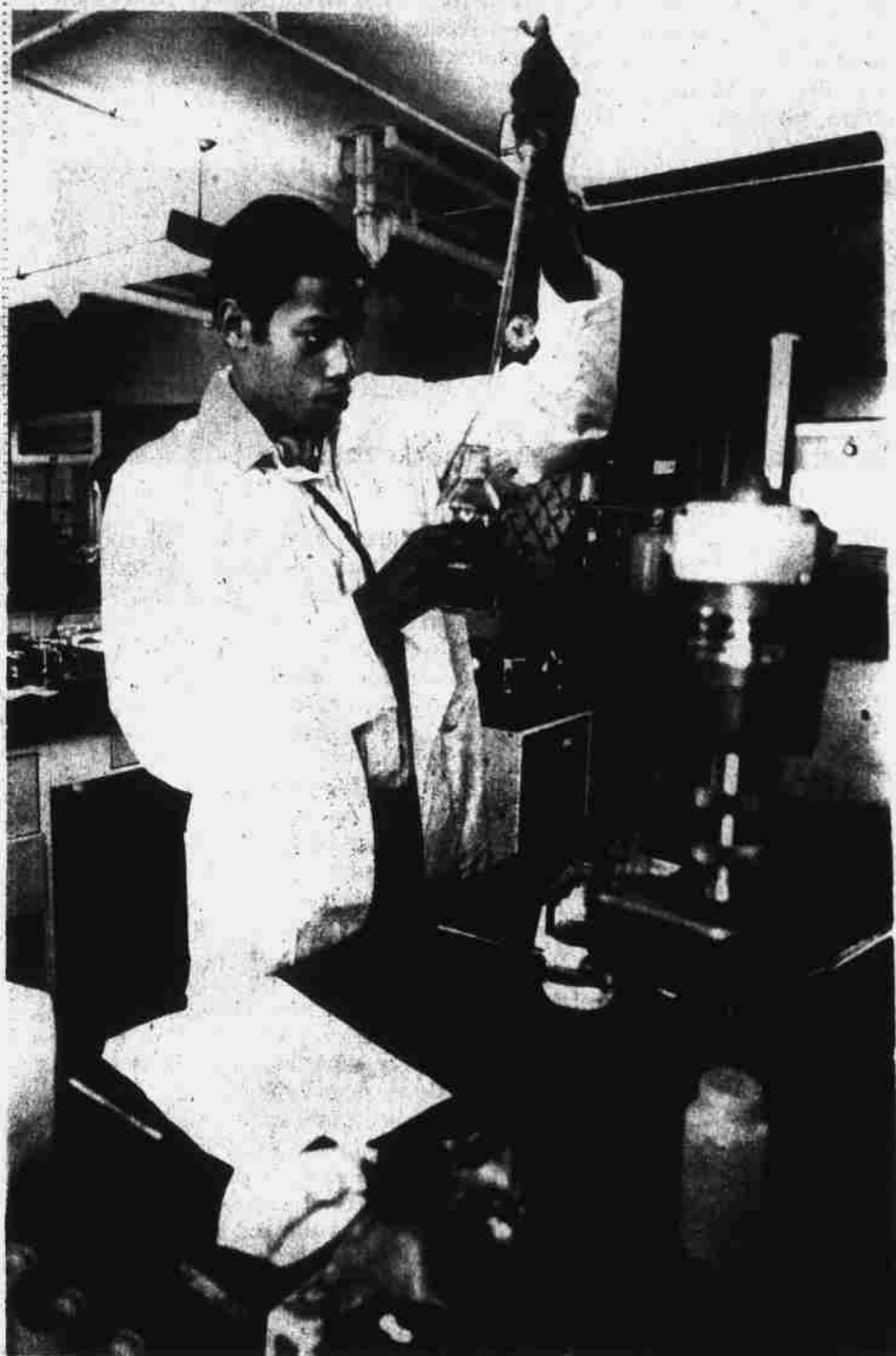
Not only are they meeting other high-school students with interest and potential in the sciences but they also interact extensively with college students and faculty. "We emphasize the importance of peers and role models — both male and female," says Anderson.



Bahamas Trip Winner

Joseph Burt (right) was winner of the Bahamas trip prize being presented by Pernell Cannady, director of the Zafa Youth Group (left) and Ms. Chris Brown, president of the Zafa Parent Club. The Bahamas trip was the result of a fund raising effort by the Zafa Parent Club to support the Youth Group of Zafa Temple No. 176.

Photo by Silas Wayfield



MICHAEL COX, 16, of Silver Spring, Md., conducts biochemical analysis of enzymes in cancer tissues at Howard University in the Howard University-Rockefeller Foundation Program in Life Sciences Careers for High School Minority Students. The national program, administered by Howard, is introducing minority youths to biomedical laboratories at 17 academic institutions around the nation.

Starting with only three academic and research institutions in 1978, the Howard-Rockefeller program has succeeded beyond the expectations of its founder, Dr. Sheldon J. Segal, director of the Population Sciences Program of the Rockefeller Foundation.

"I would've been happy if 50 per cent of the youngsters benefited from the program," he says.

Thus far, about 86 per cent of the more than 200 students who have trained in the program are enrolled in college and are pursuing biomedical careers, according to Anderson.

Segal credits Anderson for most of the success of the program, which Howard began administering in 1979.

"Win' Anderson has been an evangelist in presenting the idea to labs. My only regret is that we don't have more money," he emphasizes.

Segal started the program with an \$8,000 budget. Bernard Anderson, responsible for equal opportunity programs for the Rockefeller Foundation, was instrumental in expanding the budget to its current level of \$150,000 a year.

Under conditions of awards of the past four years, participating institutions receive \$2,000 a trainee to cover student stipends and other costs. The students receive stipends from \$400 to \$1,000 depending on need during the period of training, which lasts from eight to ten weeks, says Howard's Winston Anderson.

Students must have interest and potential to participate in the program. Acceptance is based on information in applications, personal interviews and recommendations from science counselors at the high schools.

According to 1980 National Science Foundation statistics, of the 383,600 Americans in life-science professions only 7,300 are black, 9,200 are Asian-Americans and 1,800 are classified as other minorities.

The racial mix of students in the Howard University-Rockefeller Foundation program primarily reflects the communities in which the program is located. Hence, black American students are prominent at institutions in the northeast and the South; Asian-American and Hispanic students, in the California institutions; Hispanics, in institutions in the southwest; and Native American Indians are prominent in institutions in north-central and southwest regions.

Three schools joined the Howard-Rockefeller program for the first time this summer. The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor is training minority high-school students from the Detroit area; the University of Louisville is training youths from the Appalachian region; and the University of Texas

medical branch in Galveston is training students from high schools in southern Texas.

Other participating institutions include the Harvard Dental School, Chicago State University and University of California-San Diego.

The operation of the program varies from school to school.

At Howard University, there is a blend of students from disadvantaged and moderately affluent backgrounds, from both private and public schools. "Based upon our experience, the mix of disadvantaged and moderately affluent (youths) seems to work better than purely a group of disadvantaged students," says Anderson.

Roderic Swiner, 16, a senior at H.D. Woodson High School in Washington, says the program is "influencing" him to think about the possibility of a career in medicine.

Susan McConnell, also 16, of Regina High School in suburban Maryland, points out that she aspires to be a neurosurgeon. She emphasizes that the program exposes her to people who have succeeded in the sciences and who "remind you that you're

'young, gifted and black'."

Michael Cox, 16, of Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, Md., is trying to decide whether to pursue a career in engineering or medicine. He says he is now leaning more and more toward medicine after meeting students in the Howard medical school.

Giving the high school students personal insight on what to expect in college is Ms. Colette Foster, 21, a 1982 zoology graduate of Howard who will start medical school this fall.

A mother of one of the

youths in the program, Carole DeCosta of Silver Spring, Md., stresses that her 16-year-old daughter Lisa "loves the program." She enjoys research so much that she wants "to go on Saturdays and Sundays. She's so turned on. No exaggeration!"

"The more you challenge them, the more they respond," says Dr. Theodore Bremner, a faculty member in Howard's zoology department working with the youths.

Subscribe To
The Carolina Times
Call Today
682-2913

HUD Secretary Pierce To Discuss Housing With Rowan

[NNA]Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Samuel K. Pierce in commenting on a recently televised report by columnist Carl Rowan on the Nation's housing problem viewed the presentation as "slanted and unfortunate."

Having declined an invitation to appear on the original program because of its format and anticipated biased presentation, Secretary Pierce announced he has accepted an invitation

for a one-on-one housing discussion with Mr. Rowan on a program to be telecast in September. This format, he states, "will give me the chance to make a more balanced presentation and to report the initiatives this administration has taken on behalf of the housing industry."

A fluorescent tube that darkens may not necessarily need replacing. Reversing the tube may brighten it at its dark end.

Professional & Tradesmen Center

"Serving Your Home Improvement Needs"

Tate Construction And Realty
(second location)
Residential, Church
And Commercial Construction
Complete Real Estate Services
682-3062

Sturdivant Roofing Company
Gutters, Roofing
Waterproofing
688-4944

RMV Electric
Residential and Commercial
Electrical Wiring
682-3062

Morrow & Dixon Construction Co.
Water, Sewage
Storm Drain Lines
682-0532

Let us Solve Those Home Problems Today!!!

2919 Fayetteville Street

Tradesman, Do You Need Office Space With Paid Utilities, Secretarial And Janitorial Services? Contact Us At Any Of The Following Numbers:

Tate Realty Co. — Leasing Agent
942-1938 942-6325 682-3062

Subscribe Now

The Carolina Times

PLEASE ENTER MY SUBSCRIPTION FOR...

[] 1 year—\$12.48 (Out of State—\$12.00)
[] 2 years—\$24.96 (Out of State—\$24.00)

Mr. _____
Mrs., Ms. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

() Check or Money Order Enclosed
() Bill me within thirty days

If you are a present subscriber, please give this card to a friend

WE'RE THE BANK

For all the seasons of your life...



May Your beautiful family prosper! Providing for a family today requires a variety of resources. Among those resources is a sound banking institution. Services such as trust funds, savings accounts, savings certificates and a variety of loan plans could keep your family's financial picture a happy one! Ask us about these services ...

MECHANICS & FARMERS BANK

• 615 Fayetteville Street • 116 West Parrish Street • 411 E. Chapel Hill Street
Member FDIC