

Calculator Workshop for Teachers Recently Held at UNCP

Pembroke—Students in area high schools may soon give up pencil and paper to solve math problems and turn to computers. The second annual calculator workshop for teachers was held from July 7-11 at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Eight high-school teachers and one UNCP teacher took part in the 40-hour course designed to help teachers introduce graphics calculator-based laboratories (CBL) into college and college prep classes.

Dr. Leonard Casciotti and Dr. Don Becken both of UNCP coordinated the class with Ohio State and Texas Instruments. They invited teachers from each school in the region to take part in the program.

"This is becoming such an important aspect of the professional world that the students from this region will not be able to compete for jobs if they cannot manipulate a computer, especially the small graphics and the CBLs," Casciotti said.

The high school teachers came from Cumberland and Robeson counties along with South Carolina schools. Instructor Stuart Moskowitz, of Humboldt State University in California, was recruited by Ohio State University through the Teachers Teaching with Technology program.

"The students did very well," Moskowitz said. "They get here early and leave late every day. I had to tell

them to take a break, or to go home when class was over."

This course marked the second year that UNCP has worked with Ohio State to offer graphics calculator courses for teachers.

Linda Hafer, a UNCP math teacher said, "This is an exciting tool that we hope will make students want to learn. It takes math out of the text book where the student is able to see the problem, the equation and the answer."

The students learned how to graph the rate at which coffee cools using the Texas Instruments 81 graphics calculators and a CBL, which is a device that can measure changes in barometric pressure, temperature, altitude, and light. They also learned how to write a series of equations that allows them to graph their findings.

"We are no longer restricted by what we can do with pencil and paper and the problems have more meaning," Stuart said. "Now we can teach students, not what buttons to push, but what methods to use—like how to draw with math programs, how to download information off of a computer directly into a graphics calculator and graph the answers."

The Texas Instruments 81 calculator is a cutting edge tool for students and professionals. Texas Instruments helped fund this project and also gives discount rates to anyone buying one of their products while taking the course.



Swett High held a retirement dinner to honor retirees and others who left at the end of the school year. Shown left to right are Ernie Locklear, Tiffany Kerner, Laura Kellaric, Barbara Jones, Dorothy Chavis, Carolyn Whittington and Principal Wesley Revels.



Swett High seniors were honored for their academic achievements as they participated in the Honor Society's induction ceremony prior to the closing of school. Shown left to right: Kristy Sampson, Marcus Hunt, Delois McRae, Brooke Locklear, Katie Jacobs, Lance Hugans, Cheryl Jones, Nicholas Bullard and Barry Graham.

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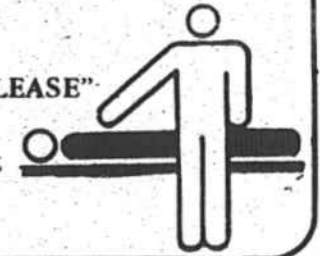
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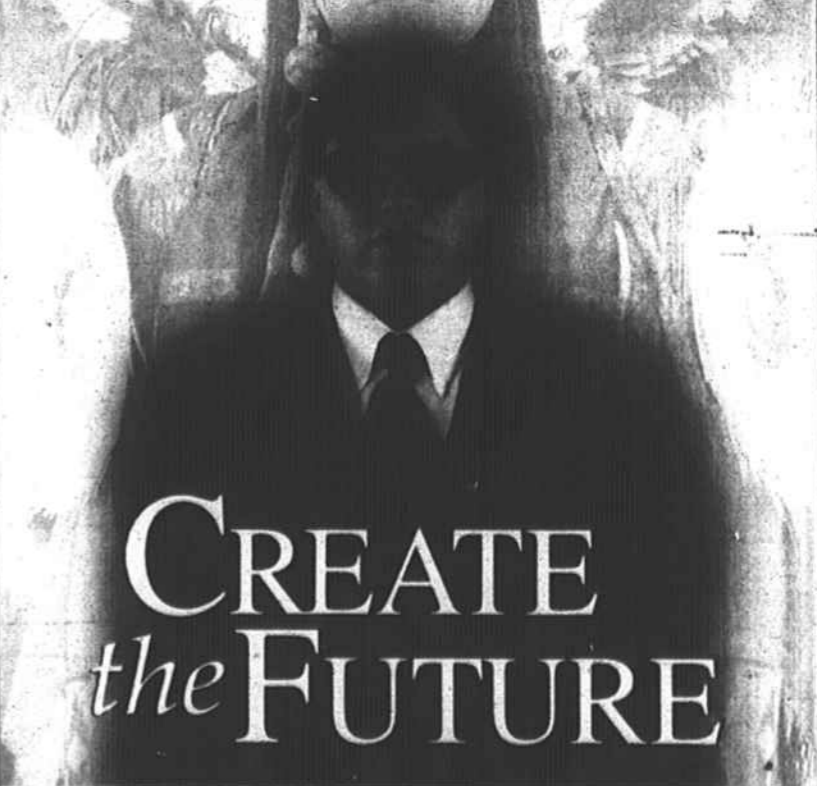
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