

WSSU's Futuristic Math/Science Institute reaches out to local middle school students

Fifty local middle school students have traded a few extra hours of sleep on Saturday mornings this fall for another day in the classroom. They are participants in the Futuristic Math/Computer Science Institute at Winston-Salem State University.

The institute, began as a four-week program last summer by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, and was so successful that R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. provided a grant of \$22,000 so that it can continue until May 1992.

"We steer clear of traditional teaching techniques," said Geneva B. Brown, program manager for research and development in the local schools. Ms. Brown and former math professor Virginia Newell collaborated in developing the concept and the program. "Our teachers push the kids to higher thinking and help them understand that education is important not just for today, but for the rest of their lives. If we help them succeed and accept that success we can have a positive influence on their future."

She said the students who have taken part in the program have greater ability than their test scores indicate. They were selected on a basis of their IQs and their math scores. Most of them also are from low-income neighborhoods.

They attend four one-hour classes each Saturday in science, math, life skills and computer science. There are 15 students in each class along with a lead teacher and assistant. Larry Fields is the headmaster of the institute, which is held in the R.J. Reynolds Business Center on the university campus.



Instructor Stetan Williams helps Lacheika Cook on the computer at WSSU's Futuristic Math/Computer Science Institute.

Fourth annual Guatemala Festival, Dec. 5

The 4th Annual Guatemala Festival takes place Thursday night, December 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Parkway United Church of Christ, 2151 Silas Creek Parkway, across from Forsyth Community College. A wide selection of Guatemalan crafts from Mayan Crafts, Pueblo to People, and Native Expressions will be sold, including clothing, personal accessories, tableware, dolls, and other products. Profits from the festival will benefit Central American communities, refugees, and craft cooperatives.

A beans and rice supper, indicative of the subsistence living in Guatemala, will be served from 6 to 7 p.m., costing \$3 for adults or \$2 for children 5-12. Central American songs and tales will be presented at 7 p.m. by "Hermanos de Piaz," composed of Jon Sundell and Marty Province, with plenty of chance for audience participation. At 8 p.m. Manuel Mejia Tol, a Guatemalan Indian farmer and activist, will speak and answer questions. People are free to attend any or all of the festival - the crafts, supper, music, and speaker - that is convenient. There is no admission fee.

Few Guatemalan Indians can read or write, but their colorful, richly textured crafts are highly val-

ued. A number of craft cooperatives have developed in recent years, providing greater opportunity for craftspeople to share in the profits and decision making involved. Pueblo to People, a national non-profit mail order business, and Native Expressions, a private enterprise in Asheville, N.C., purchases their materials from these cooperatives with a minimal mark-up. Mayan Crafts in Arlington, Virginia purchases their material from Guatemala refugees, who rely heavily on craft sales for subsistence.

Manuel Mejia Tol, the speaker at the Guatemala Festival, is a 30-year-old Quiche Indian who has worked on the fincas, or plantations, since he was 6 years old. He is a board member of CERJ, the Council on Ethnic Communities, and is currently acting as leader since the director has fled the country because of repeated death threats. Twenty-six members of CERJ have been killed this year for protesting the violence and oppression of "Civil Patrols," in which nearly all indigenous Guatemala men are forced to participate. Approximately 140,000 people have been killed or disappeared in the civil war and political violence waged by the

Guatemalan military and security forces over the past decade.

The Guatemala Festival is co-sponsored by the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America, which seeks to raise awareness among local citizens of the reality in Central America and to improve that reality by forging a more just and peaceful U.S. policy toward the region. [At a time when all Americans are re-evaluating the legacy of Christopher Columbus, the festival and its speaker provide an important opportunity to get a personal, first-hand look at the legacy as seen by indigenous people of our hemisphere.] The other festival sponsor

is the Mission Committee of Parkway United Church of Christ, which will prepare the meal and provide the space to raise additional money for its Central American fund. This fund will go to assist a Central American community in a self-help project, hopefully also providing church members with a more personal connection to the people and problems in that region.

[The Guatemala Festival also provides its guests with an opportunity to spend holiday gift money in a way that is both spiritually and esthetically satisfying, while having a good time and getting a cheap meal to boot.]

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American Legion Post 220 & Auxiliary donate money

The Annual American Legion and Auxiliary Pilgrimage Day was recently held at the Children's Home in Oxford, N.C.

The Ralph R. Morgan American Legion Post #220 and Auxiliary donated \$1,550 to the Children's Home. The Central Children's Home is funded by private donations only.

Each year all black American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries meet at the Children's Home and present their donations. Many children would be homeless if the Central Children's Home did not exist.

Larry Wilson was the chairman who presided over the service. The J. F. Webb JFOTC High School Color Guard presented the Advancement of the Colors.

Others taking part in the service were: Speaker - Brigadier General Horace Russell - Ret. USAF; Roll Call - Adjutant Henry Wilson - Post #220; Special Presentations: Clyde Brown - Post #220, Fayetteville; Marion Fowler - #319 Naomi Lane Unit #220, Winston-Salem; Remarks - Mr. Michael Alston Sr. - Executive Director of the Central Children's Home; Taps in Remembrance of Fallen Comrades - Post #166; Mrs. Harriet Morton - Pres. Unit #166; The Rev. Leroy Spells - Post #166, Oxford, N.C.; Comrades - J. W. Carrington - Post #175, Durham, William Boyd - Post #223, Elizabeth City; Adjutant Leonard Dunn - Post #166; Grace and Benediction -

Grady Moss - Post #107, Salisbury.

The music was rendered by the Central Children's Home Choir, and the Consecrated Spiritual Choir.

An organization that would like to make a contribution may do so at any time of the year. Our black children's lives are very important and we will lose them if we don't provide for them. Please give generously.

The American Legion Post #220 and the Auxiliary hosted a party for approximately 400 youth in the community recently.

Dance contests, games, and other planned activities were enjoyed by the youth. Prizes were awarded and extra bags of goodies were given. Ms. Sharon Berrow chaired the committee. James McWillis was commander.

Another event hosted by the Post #220 Auxiliary on Sunday, November 17, was its Annual Membership Seasonal Tea at the Post Home. Greetings were presented by the President Lucy Boykins and Commander James McWillis. Seasons represented were Spring - Jr. Auxiliary Members; Summer - Mrs. Lois Smith; Autumn - Ms. Bianca Boykins; and Winter - Mrs. Carrie Richardson.

Awards were given for: Attendance - First Place: Spring; Finance - First Place: Summer; Best Decorations - First Place: Summer. Martha G. Jones was the Mistress of Ceremonies and Addie Jenkins was Chairman.

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