



Shown here are two of the Ashley teachers who helped author Matthew Gollub bring one of his stories to life.

Tongue Twister

Trilingual author uses scat, drums and more to motivate kids

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

"It was wonderful" is how Wendaishia Kelly and Anita Terry — two students in Mildred Benjamin's second-grade class at Ashley Elementary School — described award-winning author Matthew Gollub's 45-minute program at Ashley last Thursday morning. The program included children's stories and music, with splashes of Japanese and Spanish language. In fact, Gollub began the program by speaking in Japanese.

At one point in the program, Gollub had several children hold up a large banner that said "Zabaza Boo-zaq-ba Zee-zah ROni!"

That's the scat sound that Gollub's jazz fly makes. "The Jazz Fly" is one of 12 children's books Gollub has written.

Gollub really knows how to get the children's attention as soon as they walk in, Ashley principal Brenda Butler said in an interview.

A news release says that Gollub "projects the beautiful illustrations of his books visually and acts out his stories while playing drums, all while engaging his audience with hand movements, chants and rhythmic clapping."

The Chronicle interviewed Gollub after his second 45-minute program at Ashley last Thursday morning. (He presented the program four times so that all of the school's grade levels could see it.) Gollub said: "I try to get them involved in storytelling and recitations and reading fluency. Some of my books have audio CDs. They've won awards. They have musical narration set to

either a jazz quartet or a rhythm and blues band. So students can enjoy the stories on different levels. They can enjoy them with music; they can read along; they can sing along; they can work on their own performance."

Toward the end of the 45-minute program, Gollub called teachers forward to help with a playful exercise that he calls "psycho-motor interpretation of

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—Matthew Gollub

story content." This gives teachers a chance to act out parts of the stories and remind them that reading is joyous and fun.

Gollub, who lives in Northern California, said he has made presentations in about 30 different states. He said he was in Winston-Salem to give a general session keynote address March 5 at the N.C. Reading Association conference at Benton Convention Center. "With the teachers, I'll be pointing out ways to make their reading come to life, using body language, using voice inflection, using stories of different cultures to broaden children's perspec-

tives," he said.

At Ashley, in addition to presenting the program, he had lunch (from 12:30 to 1:15) with selected students in which he talked about writing and being an author, and he did a creative writing workshop from 1:30 to 2:20.

Gollub is trilingual and has traveled to more than 30 countries. His native language is English. He began studying Spanish in the seventh grade. In college, he majored in Japanese and international studies. He then lived in Japan for three years, where he worked as a translator, newscaster and taiko drummer before he became involved with children's books, according to a news release. He became fluent in Spanish while living and working in Oaxaca, Mexico, the news release says.

He tries to show children that speaking more than one language broadens one's perspective.

Joan Crotts, media coordinator at Ashley, said, "Because we're an International Baccalaureate School, I think it's (Gollub's appearance at Ashley) going to be an experience because he's trilingual, and it's a good experience for them to get that aspect of the culture. Plus the combination of the music and the stories, the kids are really enjoying them."

Principal Brenda Butler agreed. "It's exciting....He's wonderful. As we implement the International Baccalaureate Program we want to get our children interested in things around the world and how they relate....We just try to bring in as many people as we can....Always you're interested in writers, no matter what your theme is."

News Clips

Compiled from staff, wire and submitted reports

Wake Forest Law School best private school for your money

Wake Forest offers the most bang for the buck, according to the cover story in the latest survey by National Jurist magazine. Characteristics, including comparatively moderate tuition, above-average bar pass rates, and excellent student-to-faculty ratios, put Wake Forest at the top of the list among private schools.

National Jurist decided to compare schools on several different objective factors to determine which schools offer the most value for their money. The rankings for both public and private schools are based on tuition, bar pass rates, unemployment rates for graduates, the median grant given to students as a percent of tuition, number of clinic slots available as compared with total enrollment and faculty-student ratio. Tuition costs and grant payouts were rated more heavily, which added up to 40 percent of the total score for each school. The balance of 60 percent is based on traditional performance factors.

Wake Forest also offers small first-year classes, a strong commitment to ethics and professionalism, and a healthy competitive atmosphere to educate students. These are other reasons students choose Wake Forest.

Hodges named interim dean at Forsyth Tech

Forsyth Technical Community College has announced that Warren Hodges has been named interim dean of Forsyth Tech's business information technologies division as of March 1. Hodges has been with Forsyth Tech since August of 1997.

Jaycees seek young leaders

The Winston-Salem Jaycees are seeking nominations to recognize outstanding achievement by individuals between the ages of 21 and 39 and an emerging young leader who is a junior or senior in high school. These outstanding young leaders will be recognized for exceptional leadership and community involvement. The Jaycees are sponsoring the first Outstanding Young Leader Awards banquet on March 29. Nomination forms can be found on the Winston-Salem Jaycees Web site at www.winstonsalem-jaycees.org or call (336) 777-3663 for more information. Nomination forms will be due on March 9 and can be mailed to 1001 S. Marshall Street, Suite 89, Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

Costa Rican activist to speak at A&T

Quince Duncan — a Costa Rican novelist, human rights activist and professor — will speak at N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University from 7 to 8 p.m. March 19 in the General Classroom Building A Auditorium.



Duncan

Duncan will discuss his book, "The Afro-Latino Experience: A Journey Through Time."

This event is sponsored by the department of foreign languages, the liberal studies program and the Consortium on Afro-Romance Studies. It is free and open to the public.

Candidates forum

Forsyth County Republican Women will host a candidate's forum for those who have declared their intentions to run for governor or lieutenant governor.

The event will be March 23 at the Ramada Inn on University Parkway. The doors will open at 7:30 a.m. and the

forum will begin promptly at 8 a.m. The event is free and open to all registered Republicans and Independents.

Band to perform

Brooklyn-based indie rockers KilowattHours will play March 13 at PS211. Founded in 1998, the band has recorded two albums, "Strain of Positive Thinking" and "The Bright Side," and has created a sound built around "swelling keyboard-heavy harmonies." The four man band recently recorded a split CD with California-based band The Rum Dairy. KilowattHours is in the middle of nationwide tour. The band plans to release its third CD in early summer. Performing with the band at PS211 will be All Astronauts and Officer May. The show will at 10 p.m.

Steel band to play at WSSU

The world renowned University of the West Indies (U.W.I.) Festival Steelband Ensemble will conduct a workshop and perform March 15 at Winston-Salem State University, as part of the ensemble's inaugural Spring Break East Coast Tour.

The workshop will run from noon until 1 p.m. and the performance will begin at 7 p.m., both in Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium. The 15-member student ensemble, selected by a rigorous audition process, represents some of the finest players of steelband performers in the West Indies. It is the premier instrumental orchestra at the Centre for the Creative and Festival Arts of the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Trinidad, and won first place in the 2002 World Steelband Festival in Trinidad.

In a country full of steelbands, this ensemble has distinguished itself by developing a distinctively clear, precise and festive sound and through its repertoire. The works the band performs are written and arranged by indigenous composers of calypso music, as well as classical and popular music transcriptions.

Both the workshop and the performance are free and open to the public.



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Having trouble with your taxes?

Think you are entitled to a refund?

You might be eligible for tax assistance through the

**Earned Income Tax
Credit (EITC)**

If you earn between \$11,000 and \$35,000 a year, then you may qualify to receive the EITC.

Last year eligible taxpayers lost between \$93 million and \$176 million of their own money because they did not claim federal taxes due back to them through the EITC.

The failure to file for the EITC can cost a family an average of \$1700 a year. Also, free tax services offered through this program can look at back taxes for up to three years to see if any money is owed back to you.

To find out where the nearest free tax preparation session is or to see if you are eligible for the EITC, please visit

www.nctreasurer.com

**21st Annual
Awards Banquet
Thursday, March 25, 2004
Benton Convention
Center**

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tickets: \$25.00

Table of Ten available

Ticket reservations and all payments due by Friday, March 19th.

For reservations call

722-8624 (ext. 100, 107 or 121)