

WAKE FOREST TO TAKE LOCAL IB SCHOOLS UNDER ITS WINGS

Meeting on Monday will lay out plan to parents, students

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University is launching a long-term initiative this fall to partner with the International Baccalaureate Program offered by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

"Our goal is to partner with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, sharing resources and expertise, to create events and programs on our campus and their campuses that inspire the work of the teachers and the students in the International Baccalaureate program," said Wake Forest Dean of the College Jacquelyn Fetrow.

Wake Forest will host a community forum on the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14 in Carswell Hall's Annenberg Forum on campus. The event will provide information to Forsyth County families and students about the program's curriculum and its value in helping students prepare for college.



Parkland is one of three IB schools in the county.

Students and their parents from the three local IB schools will talk about their experiences with the program. Wake Forest students who completed the IB program and then enrolled at the university will also share their experiences.

Introduced to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools in 2002, the program is available at Parkland Magnet High School, Paisley Magnet School and Ashley Elementary School. The IB program is open to any highly motivated student who wants

to participate. International Baccalaureate offers a rigorous comprehensive curriculum requiring students to demonstrate knowledge and skills in six academic areas: English, foreign language, math and computer science, individuals and societies, the arts, and experimental sciences. The program places an emphasis on global awareness and community service. Students may join the program before they progress to high school or while in high school. Developed initially in Europe, the IB curriculum, which is

offered at schools around the world, emphasizes an integrated approach to learning across the academic areas. Participants in the program may take exams in their senior year of high school to receive the IB diploma, which is separate from the regular high school diploma.

Wake Forest's support of the program will come in many forms this year. University faculty are providing guest lectures and carrying out special projects in the local IB schools. For example, math professors have already shared their expertise on topics such as calculus and statistics; biology professors have led science demonstrations; and other professors have lectured on mythology and other topics. IB students also come to Wake Forest for lectures and presentations, and attend University cultural events.

The university's support of the IB program in Forsyth County began gradually in recent years, initially through individual faculty members with children attending the schools. In recent months, University faculty and administrators joined forces with the schools to create a more structured, expanded effort.

Atta

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Philanthropy is nothing new to the 57-year-old. He was a well-known community activist in Tema prior to coming to the United States. He lobbied for clean drinking water and better living conditions for residents, and even helped convince the newly-formed local government to build a public school, as none had existed there before the 1980s.

A port city, Atta and many of those who lived in Tema were lured there to work for the company that had established the town, Tema Development Corporation.

Atta became an activist after becoming fed up with the appalling conditions in the town.

"It was a whole community; it wasn't only me who suffered a bad environment," he commented. "There was no water, no electricity, and other basic necessities were not available."

He convinced fellow residents to form a coalition that could lobby for the needs of the community.

"I told them (the government) would come to our aid faster (as a group) than to individuals," he said.

Conditions began to improve as a result of citizens pulling together, Atta said. He later went on to represent Tema on the local governmental level, where he convinced his colleagues to establish a scholarship committee to help young people further their educations.

"The kids, some of them excelled in schools, but their

parents were poor, so they couldn't go far in education," he related.

Though he left Africa in 2000, after procuring a U.S. Visa through a lottery system, Atta says his heart remains with the people of Ghana.

Atta's story and devotion to his people have impressed and inspired others to lend a hand. Greensboro resident Dorothy Myers has contributed "truckloads" of clothing, as she puts it.

A friend had given Myers the items after her consignment shop closed. Myers said she had originally planned to sell the clothing when she met Atta and learned about his project.

"When I really understood what he wanted to do with it, I gave him everything I got," she related. "...It made me feel good."

Myers says she was impressed by Atta's dedication to the people of Tema and thrilled to be able to help out.

"You couldn't find no nicer person," she said of Atta. "He has a perfect, giving, loving heart."

Three years ago, students and staff at Greensboro's Mendenhall Middle School, where Atta once worked, helped him collect the items for his very first donation. He traveled to Tema to deliver the items in person and saw firsthand how appreciative the people there are.

"They were very happy to even see me back and moreover, with that in hand," he related. "Everybody was amazed."

To make monetary or in-kind donations to Atta's mission, contact him at (336) 988-2400.

COPD

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lung cells as well, including the alveoli, and causes emphysema.

How is COPD diagnosed?

Examinations of nasal and lung activity during breathing, called pulmonary function tests, allow doctors to determine whether a person has decreased airflow and are used in conjunction with chest x-rays to diagnose COPD. Blood tests may also be done to determine the level of oxygen in the blood; most persons with COPD have hypoxemia, or low levels of oxygen in the blood. Blood tests are also done to diagnose AAT deficiency.

What are the treatments for COPD?

Most importantly, patients diagnosed with COPD should stop smoking. Treatments for COPD include a combination of inhalers and oral bronchodilators (medications that reduce swelling and open the airways in the lungs), although many people with COPD will have to rely on supplemental oxygen as they age and progress through the disease. Antibiotics and

steroids (anti-inflammatory medications) are often used during flare-ups. Recently, for some severe cases of COPD, surgery to remove part of the lung and lung transplant has been done and has been shown to help some patients. Patients with AAT deficiency may receive AAT replacement therapy.

Unfortunately, lung function in persons with COPD will continue to worsen as the disease progresses, and aside from lung transplant, none of the current COPD treatments have been shown to improve this long-term decline. Instead, medications are used to provide relief from symptoms and hopefully prevent other complications as a result of the disease.

The ALA recommends that all patients with COPD receive a yearly flu vaccine as well as the pneumonia vaccine, as this is a common complication of the disease. The most important ways to reduce the risk of COPD is to avoid tobacco smoke and improve the quality of air in our homes and workplaces.

- Contribution by Sarah Langdon

Do you need further information on this topic or

Plantation?"

The stories he found in legal records were often not preserved anywhere else.

"This was info that was not tapped," he said. "Very few scholars had gone to county courts."

Building the database for the archive was painstaking work. Schwenger visited about 160 county courthouses in the South and 15 state archives between 1991 and 1995.

"The first three years, I was on the road 540 days," he said.

Slavery

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North Carolina university libraries with all or part of the microfilm collection are located at Duke, East Carolina, N.C. A&T, UNC Chapel Hill and Wake Forest.

Schwenger knows the value of conducting research from primary sources, something he learned from his mentor, the late Dr. John Hope Franklin, with whom he penned several books, including the acclaimed, "Runaway Slaves: Rebels on the



Dr. Franklin

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