

Marriage class popular at KMHS

JIM
From 4A

"And they lived happily ever after is one of the most tragic sentences in literature," according to Cleveland Community College sociology instructor Al Dunkleman.

He recently told this to a select group of students at Kings Mountain High School.

"It's tragic because it's a falsehood," says Dunkleman. "It is a myth that has led generations to expect something from marriage that is not possible."

For the past several weeks, 29 juniors and seniors at Kings Mountain High School have been participating in a special Marriage and Family class to learn more about the reality of living happily ever after. The class is offered through the Huskins pro-

gram at CCC.

Dunkleman says students learn about health expectations, realistic love, communication, gender differences, resolving conflict, parenting styles and many other topics related to marriage and family.

Dunkleman, who recently joined the staff of CCC, is no stranger to the field of marriage and family. For the past 16 years, he has been involved in full-time youth and family ministry. He served 11 years as Youth Minister in Bristol, VA and for the past five years served as Family Minister at the Pine Valley Church of Christ in Wilmington.

About four years ago, a young couple approached Dunkleman and asked if he would perform their

wedding ceremony. His replay was not what they expected. "I would certainly be glad to help you have a successful wedding," he told the couple, "but I am more concerned with helping you have a successful marriage."

As a result of numerous other couples requesting pre-marital counseling in Wilmington, Dunkleman created an eight-hour pre-marital instruction course entitled "Building a Marriage That Will Last," that he has presented to over 35 couples in the past four years. Besides using a regular college-level textbook, Dunkleman shares segments of his pre-marital course to the Kings Mountain students.

"I see this Huskins class as an

extension of ministry - a ministry to get some useful information and tools in the hands of young people before they get married. I adhere to the philosophy that when we know better, we do better," said Dunkleman. "This is a golden opportunity to possibly save some marriages before they even start."

Students can enroll in Huskins classes by contacting their high school guidance counselor, or Cleveland Community College at 484-4081. There is no cost and students receive college credit.

For more information about the marriage and family class at Kings Mountain High School, call Dunkleman at 484-6070 or dunkleman@cleveland.cc.nc.us.

when it comes to Southerners. They don't even like liver mush and Cheerwine.

Anybody who considers Rivera a journalist isn't thinking straight. He is noted for setting up phony TV stories, such as the one in Afghanistan where he was "shot at."

I read a letter to the editor in one of the newspapers the other day where a transplanted Yankee talked about how he couldn't wait to get back up north. I would almost give good odds that when he retires and goes back, he'll return here within a year. I don't know who he thought he was kidding. His comment was that he had been flip-flopping about whether to go back north upon retirement, but the Trent Lott episode made up his mind for him. What kind of sense does that make? He doesn't live in Miss. That's just another example of a Yankee thinking all Southerners are racist.

I can't stand it anymore.

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East educators give presentation in D.C.

Communities in Schools, the nation's largest stay-in school network, recently held its 25th anniversary convention in Washington, DC.

Over 1,000 CIS employees and partners from all across the country attended the three-day event.

Among the honored participants were three educators from Kings Mountain.

East School principal Jerry Hoyle, guidance counselor Grace Costner and site director Terrie Lewis were asked to host a presentation about the unique partnership that exists between the professionals at East and Communities In Schools. Their presentation highlighted the practices that have helped make the partnership so successful.

The facilitators shared with an engaged audience their plan for success.

"We believe in a seamless delivery of service to our children," said Hoyle.

"We are more than willing to work together to ensure that our students are successful," added Costner.

They talked about the specific events that have resulted from the partnership between East Elementary and Communities In Schools. The team has worked together on a number of projects, including everything from recruiting Christmas sponsors for families in need to planning teacher appreciation events.

"We are a family at East and we do the best we can to support each other because we care about each other," Lewis said.

The care extends directly to students at East in programs that focus on meeting their needs, she said. Included among these programs are the BEST Homework Club which meets twice a week after school, the Lunch Buddy Program which pairs members of the

community with a child to mentor, and the Great Leaps program which promotes literacy in students reading below grade level.

"These programs help bring out the best in our students," said Lewis. "That's what we at CIS and we at East focus on."

Their presentation was given rave reviews by persons attending the conference. Remarked one CIS employee, "I am so impressed by their regard for each other and their dedication to their students and programs."

Communities In Schools is the nation's leading community-based organization helps kids succeed in school and prepare for life. It focuses on five basics:

- A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult.
- A safe place to learn and grow.
- A healthy start and a healthy future.
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation.
- A chance to give back to peers and community.

There are 193 CIS programs operating in 30 states. Nearly 1.9 students and their families have access to CIS services in near 2,500 schools.

More than 45,000 volunteers donate their time to CIS.

Records from the 2000-01 school year showed that 78 percent of CIS students improved attendance, 60 percent had fewer incidents of discipline, 76 percent improved academic performance, 88 percent were promoted to the next grade, and 86 percent of eligible seniors graduated. Only four percent dropped out, lower than the national average.



East Principal Jerry Hoyle gives presentation at Communities in Schools Conference in Washington, D.C.

Allen student of month at KMHS

Tyler Allen has been selected December Student of the Month at Kings Mountain High School.

Allen was nominated by Dan Owens, Drafting III/Architecture teacher.

Allen's hobbies are baseball and landscaping. He is employed by Hometown Lawn Care. After graduation he hopes to pursue a career in the engineering field.

Allen is the son of Dena and Tim Allen of Kings Mountain.

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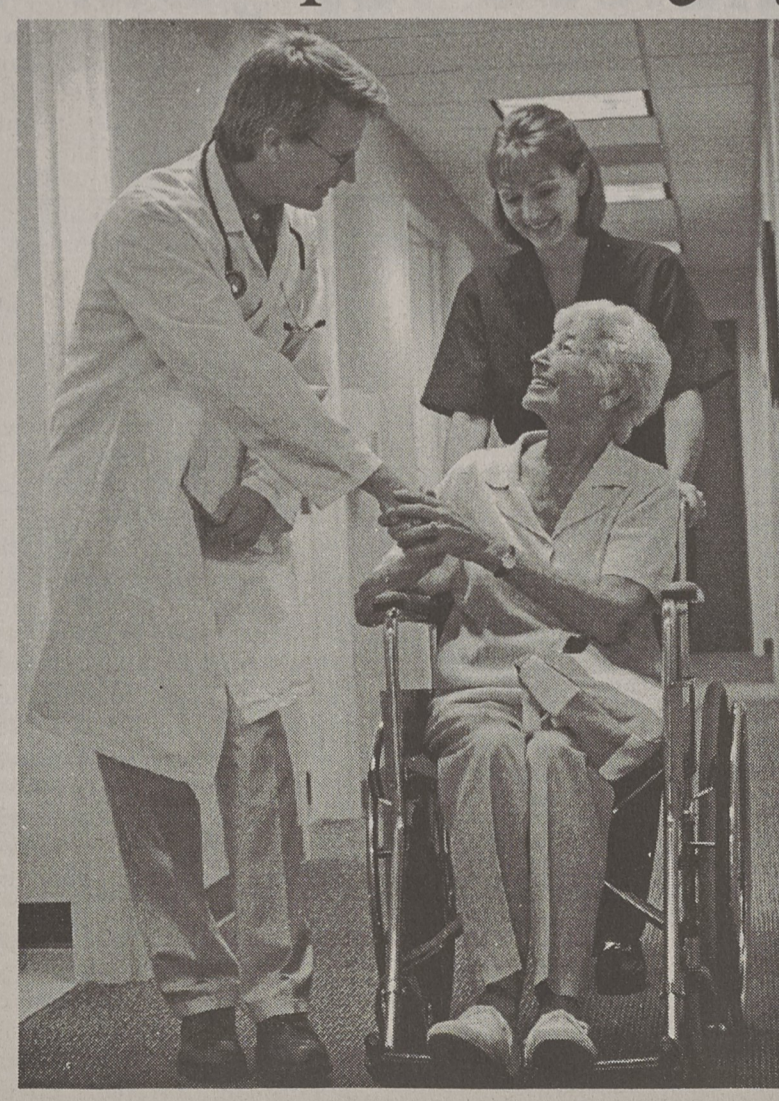
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