

Education

Young Mathematicians Emerge in Community

"When fifty African American students from our community are exposed to the highest level of mathematics anywhere, you can bet something good is happening in education." So says Michael "Chappie" Grice who has directed the Saturday Academy Outreach effort since 1984, and who oversees the Contemporary Applied Mathematics summer institute.

The program is designed primarily to boost students "confidence and competence" through exploration of real-life problem solving and conceptual models. Such sophisticated topics as Information Theory, Queue Theory, Optimization techniques, Dynamic Programming, and Medical Data and Statistics Analysis are some of the selected subjects.

Renee Anderson, former director of the Portland Schools' MESA program taught this year's Information Theory course. She said she was not surprised by what the public would find an anomaly: Black children getting up everyday, paying tuition, studying "industrial strength" math-



ematics till early afternoon on hot summer days. "These young people are not the exception, they are the

rule," she said. "We just have to give them the opportunity and the tools to explore."

One of those tools is the Black Literature and Black History component of the institute. Mr. Geoff

Brooks, Portland schools' only teacher of Black History and Gwendolyn Grice, library/media specialist teamed up to present the "General Assembly" - a daily dose of heritage and culture which is designed to add "purpose" and pride to the Institute. Dr. Chuks Ogbuobiri, visiting professor from Clark Atlanta University, rounded out the teaching staff.

A most exciting part of the program was the use of former students, who are now in the 10th grade, to come back and work as teacher assistants.

These ten "graduates" are given responsibility for three or four students each. "In this way, we are reinforcing mathematics achievement, and helping shape a few African American candidates for the teaching careers," says director Grice. "When you see this level of performance, it gives you hope and satisfaction."

The greatest success story of all, however, is Elisa Bennett. She participated in the Institute her entire

high school career, graduated Benson High in 1995, and because she mastered the curriculum, was hired to teach right along with the seasoned professional team. "This is no gift," insists Grice. "She's got it down. She's a great role model, and the kids love her." Miss Bennett teaches Optimization/Quickest Route techniques, and will return to Hampton University this fall as a sophomore.

The Lorenzen Education and Conference Center on the campus of Emanuel Hospital played host recently for the closing ceremony and public demonstration of this very exciting program.

African American students are selected from the Portland Public Schools and local private schools to participate.

The project is sponsored by Saturday Academy and is in its fourth year of funding from the National Science Foundation.

More information about the program is available at Saturday Academy (690-1175).

Minority Ph.D. project takes off

Presently, African-, Hispanic-, and Native Americans make up less than 5% of all business school faculties.

Academic research has demonstrated that minority students are discouraged by the scarcity of minority business school professors serving as role models and mentors.

The results of virtually a mono-ethnic doctoral community are seen clearly in the accounting field where, as a result, minorities are grossly underrepresented.

In support of its continuing effort to diversify the ranks of our nations business schools and eventually the greater business community, the

KPMG Peat Marwick Foundation has, to date, earmarked a total of \$1,829,000 in scholarships to minority accounting doctoral candidates.

It awarded 15 new scholarships renewable for the next 5 years to 15 African-, Hispanic-, and Native American accounting doctoral candidates beginning the 1996-97 academic year.

They will study at various universities, including University of Washington, New York University, Rutgers University and George Washington University.

Bernard Milano, Executive Di-

rector of the KPMG Peat Marwick Foundation, says the program "is one more substantial way that we can help get more minority professors in the classroom. We believe that more minority professors will yield more minority students, which, in turn, will yield more minority business professionals, something all of corporate America will benefit from."

The scholarship program complements The PhD Project, a groundbreaking \$1.3 million program created by KPMG Peat Marwick that recruits minority professionals from all business fields into doctoral programs in all business disciplines.

Getting FOCUS

Will children who don't have access to technology in schools be prohibited from entering first-rate colleges and getting good jobs? Can technology serve as an equalizer in society? How can technology improve educational opportunities in America?

These are some of the issues raised in the first report of the Aspen Institute Forum on Communications and Society (FOCAS), "Creating a Learning Society: Initiatives for Education and Technology." FOCAS is a group of chief executive officers from the communications and information industries, government, and nonprofit sector who meet annually to suggest innovative ways the public and private sectors can collaborate to use communications and information services for the betterment of society.

"Skills and knowledge acquired through the use of technology in the classroom will be instrumental in building habits of lifelong learning that individuals will need for the technology rich society of the future," said Charles Firestone, director of The Aspen Institute's Communications and Society Program and report co-author. "Creating a Learning Society" outlines several new initiatives for overcoming two key obstacles — funding technology and training teachers — to acquiring new technologies and to improving incentives for learning.

Northwest history rewritten

Carlos Arnaldo Schwantes didn't grow up studying Pacific Northwest history, but the study of this region has become his passion and his vocation today. Now the director of the Institute for Pacific Northwest Study at the University of Idaho, the former Indiana school-boy has written a number of books on Northwest history and recently revised and expanded his well-received 1989 book, *The Pacific Northwest: An Interpretive History*.

"I cannot go back in time," Schwantes writes, "but I can seek inspiration by going to places of historical significance. This grass-roots approach to history is all a bit crazy, perhaps, but it is certainly worth the effort."

In the new edition of *The Pacific*

Northwest, published this summer by the University of Nebraska Press, Schwantes describes his own journey of discovery in the region, wrestling with old questions of the historical record as well as asking new ones. He traces the steps of early explorers near the Bitterroot divide between Idaho and Montana, examines the ruts of the Oregon Trail in eastern Wyoming, and returns to remote canyon in northern Idaho where metal miners battled mine owners a century ago.

This book contains significant additional material on the first sea routes to Oregon, early mining as well as the impact of the Klondike gold rush, the experiences of women and ethnic minorities in the region, and politics since 1945. In it, Schwantes also

examines the history of more recent concerns, including the economic effects of the Cold War and the environmental controversies over endangered salmon runs and lost spotted owl habitats.

"After having lived in Eugene, Seattle, Victoria, and now Moscow, Idaho, I find myself still immersed in study of the region's past," Schwantes admits. "But also I am increasingly drawn to pondering its future in terms of the profound economic and social changes that have recently overtaken the region. Thus the new edition of *The Pacific Northwest* seeks to look both ways, past and future, as it appraises life in the Far Corner of North America."

THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL BUDGET
According to the American Express Retail Index on back-to-school shopping, parents plan to spend \$363 per child for back-to-school items this year. Accounting for more than half of the budget (58%): clothing.

Source: American Express Retail Index

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Happy Birthday
Gary Washington

THE SAME ENERGY THAT

BRINGS SO MANY THINGS TO LIFE

CAN ALSO TAKE A LIFE AWAY.

With this in mind, you can prevent electrical accidents this summer by following these important safety tips:

- ❖ Don't let children climb, build treehouses or play in trees near power lines.
- ❖ Don't let children fly kites near power lines, or in rainy weather (never use any string containing metal or foil).
- ❖ Teach children to stay out of electrical substations and other areas marked "Danger: High Voltage."

Exercise caution and use common sense around electricity, and teach your children to do the same. When it comes to kids and power lines, safety is no accident.

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