

SWT Honors Summer Math Camp

National grant ensures growth for popular summer math program for high school students

By SUSAN HANSON
Staff Writer

"The purpose of the program is to excite students about mathematics and science, and to give them an idea of their career options," Director Max Warshauer says of the SWT Honors Summer Math Camp. "We want to nurture creativity and help the students ask questions."

More than anything, Warshauer says, he wants to give high school students the sort of experience he had years ago while attending a similar camp at Ohio State University.

Recalling the words of his mentor, Professor Arnold Ross, Warshauer says, "I want to teach the students to 'think deeply of simple things,' to take a complex problem and find the simple reason it works."

And now, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation Young Scholars Program, this experience will be available to even more students than before.

With Foundation support, Warshauer explains, the SWT Honors Summer Math Camp will not only be increasing its enrollment from 18 to 40, but it will also furnish participants with free books, room, and board, along with a weekly stipend of \$12.

"A lot of people have already contacted us for applications," Warshauer says, noting that he has received inquiries from New York, Florida, and several states in between. "Somehow the word is getting around about the camp."

As Warshauer points out, the support of the National Science Foundation has done a great deal to promote the month-long camp. "There were 262 applicants from all over the country, and only 74 proposals were funded," he says. "So this is a very prestigious award."

Scheduled to run from June 14 to July 10, the third annual Honors Summer Math Camp is open to any student who has completed the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade by June of 1992. Although applications will be accepted from April 15 through May 20, students are encouraged to apply as early as possible in order to ensure enrollment.

Describing the routine that students will follow during the camp, Warshauer notes that each day will begin with a class in elementary number theory, a course which covers the basic properties of integer arithmetic, including prime factorization, Euclid's algo-

rithm, Diophantine equations, and modular arithmetic.

Following this class, which will be taught by Warshauer himself, students will proceed to problem solving, where they will work with Professor Terry McCabe. As Warshauer explains, this course "focuses on the use of language in precisely describing processes encountered in a wide variety of related word problems."

After breaking for lunch, students will attend a computer lab under the direction of Professor Don Hazlewood, where they will use the software *Mathematica* to "model real world problems."

Finally, all students will participate in an honors seminar in which they will not only explore career options, but also keep a journal and discuss readings on a variety of ethical issues. This course will be conducted by camp Co-Director Ron Brown, director of the Honors Program at SWT, and Dr. Marian Tatum, director of SWT's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Because of increased funding, Warshauer says, the curriculum for this year's camp has been ex-

panded to include yet another component—the intervening year project.

As he explains, each student will work with Professor Eugene Curtin in designing a project based on what he or she has learned in class. In addition, all students will be assigned a faculty mentor, who will work with and advise them during and after the camp.

Once they return home, he adds, students will be able reach their mentors either by electronic mail or through a newly installed 800 number at SWT.

"So we'll be able to keep up with the students through the year," Warshauer says. "That's very exciting."

In addition to this one-on-one work with their mentors, students will also have the opportunity to attend weekly seminars conducted by individuals from academics and industry. This year, Warshauer says, the Friday afternoon colloquia will be led by Richard Brice of MCC, Professor Gary Hamrick of the University of Texas at Austin, and Professor Diane Gu of SWT. Each of these

seminars will be followed by a picnic at Cape's Camp.

On the weekends, Warshauer notes, there will be even more opportunities for recreation. "We go on a canoe trip, go hiking at Enchanted Rock, go see a Chuck Pascoe play, and more," he says.

Describing the camp as a whole, Warshauer says, "It's not a competitive program. It'll be challenging, but fun."

Other sponsors of the SWT Honors Summer Math Camp include the RGK Foundation, HE Food Store, the Merrick Foundation, the San Marcos Lions Club, the San Marcos Kiwanis Club, the STAR Program of the Hays County Sheriff's Department, Thermom Manufacturing, Wal-Mart, the Office of Alumni Affairs at SWT, the SWT Honors Program, the Office of Minority Affairs at SWT, the Department of Mathematics at SWT, Taco Cabana, Furr's Cafeteria, Dairy Queen, and Hardee's.

For more information about the camp, call Dr. Max Warshauer at 245-2551 or Dr. Ron Brown at 245-2266.



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