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Staff, Educators Arrive at Houston Hobby

By BRANDON CHAISON
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

HOUSTON, Texas—Over 160 teachers stepped into Houston's Hobby Airport on Monday, June 21, eyes searching for the sign that read "SECME" or "NASA." The teachers were making their way from around the country to the University of Houston for two weeks of education. But they're not the ones who will be doing the educating; through July 2nd, they'll be students under the guidance of SECME Master Teachers. They have come to UH to advance their teaching skills in order to advance the knowledge of the students they'll educate when they return home.

The teachers arrived nearly nonstop from morning through afternoon, but it appeared that not even stressful flights, heat and humidity could diminish their excitement. "I am truly happy to be here. I've been attending this program for three years, and

each year is an experience most teachers do not get a chance [to attend] and it's for the better of both student and teacher," one teacher said later, passing through the registration line at the Cullen College of Engineering building on the UH campus.

Interns Document Arrivals on Video

SECME's Executive Director, Dr. Yvonne Freeman, was greeted at the airport by a team of young filmmakers—



PHOTO—KEVIN KUBASIK

Arriving at Hobby Airport, Dr. Freeman is greeted and interviewed by interns from the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy.

See Staff, Educators Arrive, p. 4

SECME's Brandon Davis, Dr. Hortense Evans & Staff Keep Pioneer Academy Running Smoothly, On Track

Brandon Davis is the man responsible for keeping 47 interns in the right place at the right time. Davis, Director of Finance and Operations at SECME, Inc., is co-founder of the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy and a driving force behind the vision that became the inaugural Leadership Academy. Dr. Hortense Evans, the Academy "commandant," works closely with Davis to ensure that the Pioneer interns have the best Academy experience possible. Dr. Evans, former assistant to the superintendent of Seminole County, Florida, schools, had the lead in planning the Academy curriculum.

"Brandon's key to success was detailed planning followed by flawless execution," says COL Jim Paige, referring to the military precision of the planning that took place in the days and weeks before the start of the Academy on June 13. Planning meetings were held in Atlanta, Washington, D.C. and Houston.

Davis has a team of four section chiefs to help him keep the interns and the educational sessions all on schedule—Lyndsey



PHOTO—TOYIA BROWN

From left: Section chiefs Jamaal Mayo, Alondeia Chaney-Pasha, Kena Sanders (SECME National Office), Lyndsey Kiah and Ronnie Atkinson.

Kiah, Jamaal Mayo, Alondeia Chaney-Pasha and Ronnie Atkinson. All four work at SECME's national office. The section chiefs are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Academy, as well as transportation. The four hold daily Community Meetings with Davis and the team leaders, as well as with the entire group of interns.

Academy interns comprise five teams—The A Team, Team Bravo, the E Team, Double D Team (Duplicate and Demonstrate Excellence), and the E Unit—each headed by a

team leader who coordinates with the section chiefs.

If you see the section chiefs on the UH campus—you'll recognize them by the radios they carry and the Pioneer T-shirts they wear—stop and say "thank you" for all their hard work. Their jobs are nonstop around the clock, from driving the vans and golf carts to dealing with the myriad challenges that quickly transcend into opportunities. "I couldn't do my job without them," says Davis. "They simply make it all work."

Financial Planners from Vanguard Advise Interns

By RON GICKA
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

Establishing good credit and preparing for a strong financial future are things that everyone must do to ensure a secure future. That was the message to interns at the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy from Gary Folk and Ben Boling, both financial planners from the Vanguard Group. Folk and Boling presented the many facets of the financial world that most youth have not yet come in contact with.

The pair discussed the connection between credit, those establishing it, and the pitfalls associated with credit. Folk and Boling explained that making purchases with a credit card, especially by those who are just establishing credit, may be a simple way to get what you want quickly, but may prove difficult in the long run due to high interest rates. The best way to solve this problem is to simply pay in cash.

The speakers then focused on how to become a successful investor and ensure a secure financial future. The key to investing successfully, they say, is diversity—having a balance between risk and return in your portfolio.

With insight from the session, interns can begin preparing for their future financial security.

SECME Hosts a Festival of Food, Fun, Friends and Family

By TIFFANY CHARLES
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

SECME's Multicultural Extravaganza brought together people from every part of the Summer Institute—the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy, the Teacher Institute, the Parents Institute, and the Leadership Institute—for a night of international festivity. The entire 12th floor of the Warwick Hotel was ablaze with the colors of people dressed in cultural attire enjoying the company of new and old friends alike.

Dr. Yvonne Freeman, Executive Director of SECME, introduced the different cultures and the SECME teacher from Kampala, Uganda. Pioneer interns Pegah Javidpour, Marcos Ruiz and Ricky Ly greeted people in their native language.

From the mechanical bull to the jazz band in the Presidential Suite, the festivities of the night were mind-blowing, and so was the international food—Mexican, Italian, Chinese, American and Spanish cuisine. The mechanical bull appeared to be the most popular attraction, with a nonstop line of riders ready to take on the challenge and the crowd cheering them on. Others danced to R&B, calypso and jazz. The many highlights of the night included the Alpha Steppers and the country band.



PHOTO—TOYIA BROWN

From left, William Harris, Lyndsey Kiah, Kena Sanders, Dr. Tommy Chambers, Brandon Davis, Dr. Yvonne Freeman and Brandon Freeman enjoy Wednesday night's Multicultural Extravaganza.

SEMI High Tech U Opens

By JEAN N. PORTER
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

On Wednesday, June 23, several teachers began their two-day adventure into science with SEMI High Tech U. The interns got a taste of the workshop later on that day.

For one experiment, the teachers used water, batteries, salt and other items to make a lightbulb light. The goal of the experiment was to test the conductivity of electricity through water and the effects of adding salt to the water. Some teachers experienced pitfalls, but in the end everyone was successful.

That night, the session was repeated for the interns. They were a human calculator—learning about binary code, they launched hackie sack and koosh balls to determine which went the farthest distance based on angles.



Lind Delivers Disney Magic

By KELSIE ANDREWS
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

"You can have all the great ideas but it takes hard work and dedication to be successful."

—Dennis Lind

Dennis Lind, a director, designer and engineer at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, makes sure the world of magic lives on—and that the magic inspires today's youth to want to be a part of the ideas and creations that exist behind the scenes at Disney.

In Friday's Joint Plenary, Lind explained how the magic is created—by putting together ideas from the minds of many people. Lind leads 200 engineers in designing rides, shows and animated figures.

Lind's goal is to reach out to youth to inspire them to want more in life. "Never give up, because the sky is the limit," he says. "If you feel you can go further, keep pushing until you reach your destination."

Technology in the Classroom Nothing to be Afraid Of

Lockheed Martin shares “Technology Tools for the K-12 Classroom”

By TAMARA ROBINSON
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

The message that Andrea Pair, Vice President for Lockheed Martin Enterprise Information Systems, and Donna Childs, Lockheed Martin Engineer, wanted to share on Monday, June 21, was that Lockheed Martin is dedicated to educating tomorrow's leaders by providing top-notch technology to their teachers. Just after lunch, Pioneer interns made their way to the Law Auditorium at the University of Houston to hear what they thought would be another lecture about what they'll be doing in the year 2020 and virtual reality field trips. Instead, it turned out to be an interesting combination of Lockheed Martin's history, mission and success.

An afternoon of impressive demonstrations and interactive fun at Krost Hall convinced the teachers and students to pay close attention to technological advances that can create easier teaching and learning methods and an overall more exciting classroom. While presenting to a combined group of techno-phobic teachers and tech-savvy, jaded teenagers is difficult, the Lockheed pair rose to the occasion.

“How many of you team teach a course using the Web?” asked Ms. Pair. The one hand that shot into the air broke the

ice. It was apparent most of the audience wasn't aware that team teaching over the Internet is possible. It is, she explained, and it's much easier than many would expect; technology just takes practice. She noted that Lockheed Martin is really interested in providing technology that helps—not that scares users, but that integrates into our daily lives so it becomes second nature.

Pair was not the only one to put technology use in the classroom into perspective. Childs' chose seven teachers to “act out” a small commercial. They laughed their way through wearing silly hats and learning how to use a Webcam and editing system in the classroom. “I bet you didn't know it was that easy!” said Childs. In a matter of minutes, a commercial was born. “And you can take this back to your classrooms,” she said.

Pair and Childs gave teachers and students alike great information to take back to their classrooms. The Pioneer interns now know that a Smart Board is an interactive dry erase board that can save data to a computer. They also understand more clearly what Lockheed Martin is doing for students by providing services that make learning easier and much more fun. “I liked it!” said Pioneer intern Ricky Ly, “especially the CPS [Classroom Performance System]. It enhances the classroom involvement of all students and makes grading much easier for teachers because it's computer based.”

UH Engineering Dean Hosts Teachers at Banquet

By BRANDON CHAISON
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

SECME Master Teachers and staff, UH faculty and staff, and six interns from the Pioneer Leadership Academy were the guests of Dr. Raymond Flumerfelt, Dean of the University's Cullen School of Engineering, at a banquet at the campus Hilton. Invited guests included Dr. Robert K. Wimpelberg, Dean of the College of Education, and Dr. Paskusz, founder and Director of the PROMES Program, originally a program for minorities in engineering studies.

Dr. Flumerfelt introduced faculty and guests, then showed a video created and produced on campus featuring voiceover by John Leinhard, an NPR personality. The evening closed with Dr. Flumerfelt presenting the state of engineering education—how many people go through the curriculum and how many enter the field after graduation. Statistics show a decline in numbers from previous years. His message is that we need more support for the engineering education process from start to finish.



PHOTO—TOYIA BROWN

Dr. Raymond Flumerfelt

One of NASA's Finest Inspires Audience

By TAMARA ROBINSON & ETOSHA CAVE
Pioneer Pages Staff Writers

NASA's Dr. Alanna Howard, an electrical engineer with the Jet Propulsion Labs, captivated the audience of SECME Institute participants at the Thursday, June 24 Plenary. Dr. Howard spoke about NASA and its robotic initiatives, and also discussed the inner workings of the Mars Exploration Rovers (MERs) and the innovations we can expect from NASA to advance research on the Red Planet.

“NASA has been sending several Rovers to space and plans to send several more,” said Dr. Howard. “We know of the presence of ice on Mars,” she continued, “but we want to know if that ice is water.”

The planet Mars is very similar to Earth, said Dr. Howard, or at least to what scientists believe Earth was like millions of



PHOTO—TOYIA BROWN

NASA's Dr. Alanna Howard

Interns Advised to Follow Their Own Course

By ANDRA COLLINS
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

It may have been raining outside on Saturday afternoon, June 26, but inside Barron's on the UH campus, nothing dampened the spirit of Dr. H. G. Adams as he spoke to the Pioneer interns about tapping their full potential and living life to the fullest. Adams is a motivational speaker. Among his advice is to always believe in yourself, maintain a positive attitude, roll with the punches, seek advice, and listen to and learn from others.

Adams spoke to the interns like a long lost relative, illustrating his topic with his own personal story. Adams didn't always follow the crowd as young person, and he encourages today's youth to follow their own course as well. "You never know where your ship might take you," he said. "As you sail through life, check your coordinates and don't let your graduation from your high school be the port you anchor in. Do more with your life."

Adams recommends applying the PIE acronym—**P**erformance, **I**mage and **E**dge: Perform to the best of your abilities every day, portray your best image daily, and keep your edge. Each person, he said, has something that another doesn't. That edge means you can say to another person: "I Got You!"

Adams advocates being results-oriented, and waking up in the morning with something on your mind. "That takes passion," he says. "Passion prompts you to work hard."

Adams went on to explain that people get stuck because they lose their passion. "You can't afford to get tired. When your life is stagnant, ask yourself, has your ship sailed. If you are paralyzed with fear, it probably has," said Adams. He cautions not to be afraid to work at life, that when you continue to work and others grow tired, you can look at them and say, 'I Got You!' and keep your edge."

Pioneer interns presented Dr. Adams with a Pioneers in Education polo shirt in appreciation for his inspiring presentation.

STAFF, EDUCATORS ARRIVE, *From p. 1*

interns Ron Gicka, Kevin Kubasik and Erin Moore—who interviewed her for the documentary that will cover both the SECME Summer Institute and the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy.

Each arriving "celebrity" was escorted by an Academy intern to their hotel, but not before they were interviewed on camera first, and asked about where they came from, what they do, how they are pursuing higher achievement and what they hope to take away from the SECME program.

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Moffitt and Martin Talk Toastmasters

By MONICA RICE
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

John R. Moffitt, District Governor of Toastmasters International, and his Public Relations Officer, John Martin, a distinguished Toastmaster, on Thursday morning, June 24, proved to Pioneer interns the value of public speaking training and skills. Moffitt had prepared a speech for a class of engineers, but quickly discovered his audience of Pioneer interns had a diverse mix of career plans.

Moffitt regrouped—his Toastmaster training prepared him for that—and began by telling interns they need to make a plan to succeed. "If you don't, you probably won't," he said, noting that enhancing oral communication skills should be a part of that plan. "Oral communication is probably the most important type of communication in your career," he said, explaining that communication skills can improve one's self confidence and meeting management skills.

Martin agreed. "People who know how to communicate are perceived to be smarter, more intelligent and more beautiful than those who are inarticulate," he said. He gave the interns "5 Steps to Improve Your Speaking Skills": (1) Practice, (2) learn techniques, (3) practice those techniques, (4) demand criticism, and (5) practice again.

Interns also learned that an agenda is nothing more than a schematic for a meeting. Moffitt illustrated this with a time card system: A green time card represents the minimum time a person has to speak; a yellow time card says the speaker has reached the halfway mark in their speech time limit; and a red one tells the speaker to wrap it up.

The pair wrapped up their presentation together, with Martin sharing some advice from Henry Ford: "Don't find a problem, find a remedy." Toastmasters, as they clearly illustrated, is the remedy for improving one's communications skills.

DR. ALANNA HOWARD, *From p. 3*

years ago. Understanding Mars will help us understand our own planet.

Dr. Howard also shared her progression from being an undergraduate to getting her masters and then her PhD. As an intern to Dr. Freeman at JPL, she developed an interest in Electrical Engineering and NASA, and also discovered she likes using technology to help people. "It was inspirational to see that Dr. Freeman had such an impact on her life," said Monica Rice, a Pioneer intern.

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