CAREER AND EDUCATION

Maryland Institute plans open house

The Continuing Studies Program of the Maryland Institute, College of Art will hold a free open house, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 6-8 p.m. at the Institute's Fox Building in the 1300 block of Mt. Royal Avenue.

Maryland Institute faculty and staff will be on hand to acquaint potential students with the college and the exciting continuing studies program offered for the spring semester. Catalogs and other information will be available.

Continuing Studies offers credit and non-credit courses for a variety of skill levels. Introductory classes, youth courses and professional visual communication workshops are among the types of instruction available. Courses are held evenings and weekends, and convenient parking is available.

A sampling of the credit courses available: Basic Color Photography, Understanding Textiles, Screenprinting, Issues in Modern European History, Portraiture, Computer Typography and Fundamental Drawing.

Non-credit courses include: Handcoloring Photographs, Large Format Painting, Drawing From Observation and Framing and Matting.

An expanded program of Professional Visual Communication Workshops is being offered in the spring semester. These non-credit courses are designed for communication professionals in fields such as publications management, public relations, marketing, advertising, graphic design and illustration. A few of the courses: Preparing Graphics For Offset Printing, Reportage and Courtroom Art, Establishing a Design Studio and Television Graphics.

The Continuing Studies Program also includes a Faculty Lecture Series. The first series, "African Art: Origins and Transformation," is led by Dr. Leslie King hammond, dean of Graduate Studies at the Maryland Institute. "Children and Their Art," the second series, is conducted by Dr. Al Hurwitz, former chair of the Art Education Department at the Maryland Institute.

For more information, call the Office of Continuing Studies at 669-9200.

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VCU prof Fulbright choice

Dr. Larry Beall, associate professor of economics in Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Business has received a Fulbright lecture-research grant to teach and study at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji.

The grant, which extends from 1988-89, will enable Dr. Beall to research health care delivery and financing in the South Pacific as well as the role of developing labor unions in that region. He will also lecture at the University of the South Pacific.

Dr. Beall, who has taught at VCU since 1970, received a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton, a master's degree from the University in Durham, N.C. He is a native of Binghamton, N.Y.

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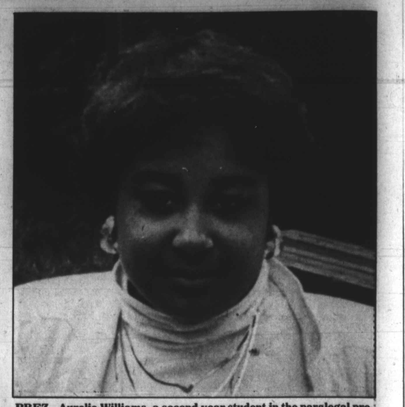

PREZ—Aurelia Williams, a second year student in the paralegal program, is the president of the Student Government Association at Villa Julie.

Villa Julie awards tuition grants

Villa Julie College has announced that it will award three full-tuition scholarships to minority students with demonstrated academic potential and leadership qualities.

These scholarships, designated specifically for minority students, are funded by a contribution from The Abell Foundation.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for qualified minority students," said Robert G. Koermer, director of admissions at Villa Julie. "It holds out the promise of a quality private college education, tuition-free."

The scholarships are renewable each year until graduation — four years for the bachelor's degree and two years for the associate degree.

Villa Julie, located on Green Spring Valley Road about 15 minutes from downtown Baltimore, offers a wide variety of programs such as Paralegal, Computer Information Systems, Accounting, Business Administration, Travel and Tourism and Executive Assistant.

Also, Medical Laboratory Technician (affiliated with the Johns Hopkins Hospital Medical Laboratories), Chemical Laboratory Technician, Pre-Nursing, Child Development, Video, Television and Theatre — and many others.

Each student is given a solid foundation in the liberal arts along with career education.

Villa Julie's job placement record is second to none among area colleges. It receives more than 100 calls a week from employers seeking its graduates.

Besides The Key Scholarships, Villa Julie provides generous financial aid in the form of grants and other scholarships.

For more information call 486-7000, Villa Julie College.

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What are we doing to solve the nation's math problem?

According to the National Science Foundation, the United States is in trouble.

Japanese and Soviet students significantly outperform Americans in math and problem-solving. Five out of six American high school juniors cannot solve a simple percentage problem.

It's not that Americans are less intelligent than the competition. Rather, the problem can be traced directly to our educational system: Students are not learning basic skills — and they are not learning to like math.

Much of the blame has been laid on the teaching profession. But the truth is, the problem isn't math teachers — it's the lack of them. Virtually every school system in the United States is being forced to use math teachers from other disciplines who have little training, and often little enthusiasm, for math.

At Western Maryland College, we have ideas about the math problem — and people who want to solve it. Skip Fennell, a math teacher and professor for 21 years and chairman of Western Maryland's education department, is the lead author of a new K-8 textbook series, *Mathematics Unlimited* (Holt, Rinehart, Winston). Recently adopted by the California Board of Education — chosen over 150 other candidates — the series connects math to daily life. Fennell has also developed in-service programs for Maryland teachers, not only to improve their math skills, but also to fire their interest in the subject.

In 1986 Western Maryland Professor of Mathematics James E. Lightner was named the state's Outstanding Mathematics Educator. He coordinates the College's math proficiency requirement and teaches elementary school educators who wish to upgrade their skills and knowledge for teaching advanced high school mathematics.

These mathematicians haven't solved the nation's math problem yet, but they are making headway: They are turning students and teachers into math enthusiasts.

Western Maryland College
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CAREER AND EDUCATION

Black kids: The peer pressure battle

WASHINGTON — Educators must help black children develop a positive attitude about learning so they can ignore the pressure of friends to define school achievement as "acting white," says a Howard University professor.

Faustine Jones - Wilson, professor in Howard's School of Education and editor of the **Journal of Negro Education**, leads a national initiative to get more people involved with educating minority children.

The National Conference on Educating Black Children was launched in 1986 with the purpose to "save our children," Jones - Wilson said of the initiative spearheaded by Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D-CA, chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Jones - Wilson said the nation has a great stake in minority children and whether they achieve academically. Statistics show black students account for about 15 percent of the public school population today and will account for about 19 percent of all pre-college students at the end of the century.

While the high school completion rate of blacks increased between 1975 and 1985, they still lag far behind those of whites and a large number with diplomas do poorly on literacy tasks — suggesting they would have difficulty keeping up in a world relying on rapidly changing job requirements for technical knowledge.

Jones - Wilson said many blacks believe that "being smart is not cool" because of the mixed signals they receive from whites and from society as a whole.

She pointed to a 1986 study by the **Urban Review Journal** that suggested white Americans refuse to acknowledge that black Americans are capable of intellectual achievement and this view causes some blacks to subsequently "doubt their own intellectual achievement."

As a defense, black students begin to define academic success "as white people's perogative and begin to discourage their peers even unconsciously from emulating white people in academic striving. And that's where you get the code word 'acting white,' " she said.

Even black children who do perform well in school — "and many of them do" — perform below their potential for the same reason, she said, explaining that the focus is switched from school learning to street learning.

"The point is to offset whatever they may do academically in order to be accepted by their peers," she said, adding, "The peer group is a powerful force. You have to be strong internally as well as in home."

Besides facing "the basic choice" of having friends or not, Jones - Wilson said the situation is further complicated because there's little reward for a black child who bucks the system.

"He or she may not get a good job, or may not get the money to go to college," she explained. "From the teenager's perspective, there is no payoff or there may be no payoff for going against the peer group, which says don't learn in school. The situation never seems to change fundamentally."

Another study, she said, showed that many of the children "had broken dreams and saw broken dreams of neighbors, friends and parents," thereby losing any incentive to learn.

Jones - Wilson said the initiative plans to implement in classrooms, homes and school-board rooms policies that would lead to strong administrative leadership, an orderly and safe climate for learning, high expectations for students, instructional routines and operational procedures geared toward learning.

Also educational barriers should be eliminated, such as the track system and special education classes.

"We are trying to get students to understand that learning is not acting white," she said. "We want youth to understand that learning will pay off. We also want them to understand that the opposite of that is ignorance or even innocence. Both will get you nowhere. It's not marketable. It's not useful."

Beginning with early childhood education, black students should get rewards for scholastic achievements, such as having their names printed in local newspapers or getting trophies and letters, she said.

The initiative is ambitious, Jones - Wilson admitted, but said, "Black people are greatly concerned that we are losing our children. Historically, education has been the major means of our inclusion into society and our upward mobility."

With the structure of society changing, she asked, how will our young people be equipped to participate fully in the present and emerging structure, which is technological and high-level service.

"If you can't think critically about the events in your world, about the people who are in charge, then you can't participate fully in a democratic social order," said Jones - Wilson.

"A race is not judged on its W.E.B. DuBoises, or its Mary McLeod Bethunes, or its Martin Luther Kings. It's judged on the contributions of the majority of its people on a day-to-day basis . . . so that new leaders can emerge from their ranks."

But she warned, "Don't expect any overnight gains. We didn't create this mess overnight and there are no quick fixes. It is something that we will have to do systematically from now on."

Hypothermia is winter killer

More people die in winter cold waves than in hurricanes, tornadoes, or any other weather phenomena. Many of these deaths can be attributed to hypothermia — an abnormally low internal body temperature caused by exposure to cold.

At greatest risk are the elderly, who probably account for nearly half of all hypothermia victims. According to the Center for Environmental Physiology, a national nonprofit research organization which studies and reports on the effects of heat and cold stress, tens of thousands of older Americans literally "freeze to death" in their own homes each year. These deaths are a result of cool indoor temperatures, not prolonged exposure out-of-doors. Therefore, older adults in the nation's sunbelt are no less vulnerable than their northern cousins, although it is less expensive to heat their homes.

Factors such as living alone, low incomes, poor diet, other illnesses, limited physical activity, and use of alcohol or certain types of prescription drugs place many older Americans at greater risk. Hypothermia can also worsen pre-existing conditions and diseases in older people. Many deaths are initiated by hypothermia although another disease is ultimately listed as the cause of death.

How It Develops

Hypothermia is caused when the body loses heat faster than it can be replaced. Normally, the body conserves its heat by narrowing blood vessels in the skin, reducing the flow of warm blood near the surface in favor of heating vital organs in the body "core." This process is our main defense against cold.

When skin blood flow is reduced, the skin becomes cool or cold. The resulting discomfort prompts us to pull on more clothing or seek warmer surroundings. When warm clothing is used as an artificial barrier against the cold, the body is not forced to use its natural defense mechanism of skin blood flow. Clothing is the key to comfort and survival in a cold environment.

However, many older individuals have a diminished skin sensation. They are often unaware they are even cold. If left alone, they can develop hypothermia in the course of a few days.

Symptoms

It is difficult to recognize hypothermia. Some symptoms are the same as those of other illness, including diabetic coma stroke, or heart disease. Other symptoms are conditions not unusual in elderly people: for example, confusion, disorientation, or reduced mental clarity. These become progressively worse as the body temperature falls, and the victim may not be able to reliably relate, or even be aware of, what is happening.

Other signs to look for are: a change in appearance or behavior during cold weather, uncontrollable shivering, or no shivering at all, stiff muscles, particulary in the neck, arms, and legs, slow and sometimes irregular heartbeat; slurred speech; shallow, very slow breathing, weak pulse, low blood pressure, cool or cold skin, particularly on the stomach, lower back and extremities and poor coordination and problems with balance.

Hypothermia is a serious, complicated condition requiring professional medical assistance. A hypothermic should be treated in a hospital.

If you suspect hypothermia, take the person's temperature. Take the victim directly to a hospital if it is below 95 F (35 C). If you must wait for emergency medical help to arrive, you can prevent further heat loss by wrapping the person in a warm blanket, making sure you cover the head and neck. Above all, stay calm and handle the person very gently.

Do not rub or massage arms, legs, or feet; do not give the person alcohol or drugs; do not raise the legs or place a hot water bottle on the feet and do not give hot drinks or hot food.

The person must be warmed slowly. If you don't have blankets, quilts, towels, or other wrapping, lie close to the person, using your own body heat to help keep the victim warm.

Prevention

Hypothermia can be prevented. Homes should be adequately heated and insulated. Heating costs can be kept down by closing off unnecessary rooms and using only one or two. Financial help to pay heating bills is available through state and local assistance programs. Check with your local energy office or utility for information. Also, many utility companies offer home energy audits to help you reduce fuel costs.

Dress warmly, both during the day and while sleeping. Several layers of lighter weight clothing — or blankets — are better than a single, heavy layer. You can remove or add layers as needed. Don't wear tight clothing that restricts the blood flow to hands and feet. Consider wearing a hat, even indoors. Nearly half your body's heat is lost through the head.

Also, be sensible when going outdoors. Dress warmly and keep your head, hand, and feet dry. While down-filled coats and windbreakers are warm, the only material with insulating properties, even when wet, is wool. Pace your outdoor activities to avoid getting overheated.

Eat sensible. Well-balanced meals, with high energy foods, keep your body's defense up.

Most importantly, keep in touch with relatives and friends, particulary during cold weather. Many communities have phone-in or personal visiting services.

Hypothermia is an insidious killer that can be prevented with a little thought and care by each of us.

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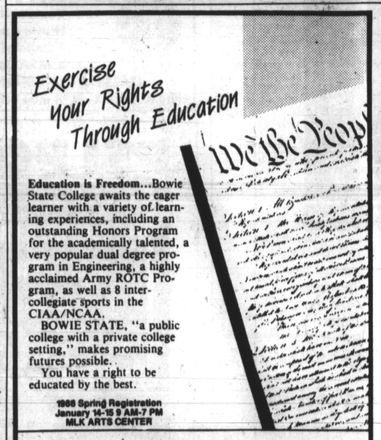

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Applicants sought for advance education grants

The National Research Council has announced the 1988 Resident, Cooperative, and Postdoctoral Research Associateship Programs for research in the sciences and engineering to be conducted in behalf of 28 federal agencies or research institutions, whose laboratories are located throughout the United States.

The program profive Ph.D. scientists and engineers of unusual promise and ability with opportunities to perform research on problems largely of their own choosing yet compatible with the research interests of the supporting laboratory.

Initiated in 1954, the Associateship Programs have contributed to the career development of over 5,000 scientists ranging from recent Ph. D. recipients to distinguished senior scientists.

Approximately 450 new full-time Associateships will be awarded on a competitive basis in 1988 for research in: chemistry, earth and atmospheric sciences; engineering and applied sciences; biological, health, behavioral sciences and biotechnology; mathematics; space and planetary sciences; and physics. Most of the programs are open to both U.S. and non-U.S. nationals and to both recent Ph. D. degree recipients and senior investigators.

Awards are made for one or two years; senior applicants who have held the doctorate at least five years may request shorter tenure. Annual stipends for recent Ph.S.'s, for the 1988 program year will vary from $27,150 to $35,000, depending upon the sponsoring laboratory, and will be appropriately higher for senior Associates.

Reimbursement is provided for allowable relocation costs and for limited professional travel during tenure. The host laboratory provides the Associate with programmatic assistance including facilities, support services, necessary equipment, and travel necessary for the conduct of the approved research program.

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