



August 26, 2008

The Community Newspaper of Evergreen Valley / Silvercreek Valley since 1982

Current Headlines in Evergreen

August 22, 2008

ISME Summer Intern Program excites local teachers and benefits students

By Donna H. Eliason

Staff Writer

Excited about the beginning of school after working most of the summer? Yes, this is the feeling from the interviewed Evergreen public elementary and high school teachers who will return to their classes eager to apply the knowledge and experience from their 8-week paid fellowship with scientists, engineers and technologists through IISME (Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education). IISME, established 24 years ago, gives "real world" experiences and knowledge to teachers for classroom enrichment.

This industry-education partnership focuses on teachers as primary change agents as they take "new skills, knowledge and experience to update their curriculum with relevant applications," says Tisha Bacigalupi, sponsor relations manager for IISME. Evergreen teachers joined the 178 teachers chosen from 300 applications for this unique opportunity.

Local teachers had a wide range of experiences. Arlynn Paulsen, 5th grade Dove Hill Elementary school teacher, worked at Applied Materials in the Corporate Strategy group developing and broadening the science/language arts curriculum, and marketing for the company's newly-launched educational environmental card game, Bright Future. (See ET, May 2, 2008). She shared teaching strategy workshops in Portland, New Orleans, the Exploratorium, Raft and the Santa Clara Office of Education. "This is one of the best things I've done as a teacher. I was paid to develop curriculum for my classroom." She learned about industry and technology needs, and the importance of team collaboration.

Evergreen Valley High school foreign language teacher, Herman Diaz says, "During the school year there's little time for curriculum development." Not only is he enthusiastic about education, but he "wants to make learning more engaging" for his students. Herman worked with Synopsys as a web designer. He's excited about classroom interactive programs for absentee students, and for classroom student participation.

Scott Lubbs teaches AP Physics to juniors and seniors, plus Conceptual Physics to Evergreen Valley High School freshmen. This summer Stanford University sponsored him as a Gratta Research Laboratory Fellow. Scott says, "I chose this project because of the physics (particle physics is cool) and they are using just about every type of laser (lasers are cool)." Before becoming a teacher, Scott built, designed and tested various lasers. He says, "I have a renewed vigor to get back to the classroom, and some great stories to supplement my teaching. I am also developing lesson plans around lasers. My favorite story this summer is when I got heckled by a Nobel Laureate." (Dr. Doug Oshernoff, Nobel Prize for Physics, 1996)

Third grade teacher at Clark Elementary School, Samantha McCracken, worked at HP as a marketing fellow, assessing training modules and making recommendations for improvement. "I learned about what's happening in the corporate and business world, and with 'green' innovations." She says, "Corporations want to understand the needs and wants of the next generation. They want the outside perspective of teachers." This school year her students will participate in a math assessment program at a protected Web site, involving original student word problems with explanations.



The IISME teacher fellows are pictured posing with Applied's president and CEO, Mike Splinter, who sat down with them and their mentors for lunch the other week to discuss the challenges and opportunities in helping develop their students to become a successful workforce for tomorrow.

Mary Clark, a 5th grade Silver Oak teacher, worked at Silicon Valley Bank. "I am a Training Curriculum Develop/ Process Analyst. This summer I was able to prepare, design and build training templates as well as refine my PowerPoint skills." She also learned about venture capital, and various software programs. Her students will benefit from her blogging project. "I was able to participate in the blogging community through IISME. Since this was my first time blogging, I learned what I can expect from it in a classroom setting." She says the students will "love the benefits of more meaningful writing (interactive with teachers and peers)."

Other Evergreen participating teachers were:

John Blair- Evergreen Valley High School

Maria Ramiso- Overfelt High School

Imani Butler- Silver Creek High School

Hong Pun- Silver Creek High School

Cheryl Wong- Millbrook Elementary High School

Many people talk about improving education and making it more relevant to present society needs, but IISME provides experiences and knowledge that impact today's teachers and students, and tomorrow's workforce.
