

Enrichment classes for the child who wants to expand an interest



New computers purchased by Oakland Community College are ready for use by youngsters who sign up for classes on Orchard Ridge campus this summer. Learning the ways of the computer has

always been one of the most popular of the enrichment classes developed for young students by admissions officer Sylvia Burtrum.

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Enrichment courses for young people, offered during the past few school seasons at Oakland Community College, are offered for the first time during the summer months beginning July 5.

All of the offerings are given under

the program called "Enrichment Short Courses for K-12 and the Academically Gifted and Talented."

The unwieldy name hasn't stopped the program from growing, both in number of courses offered and in the number of students enrolled since its inception.

But Sylvia Burtrum, who coordinates the classes for Orchard Ridge Campus,

wants it known that one does not have to be labeled as an exceptional student to join the sessions this summer.

"The classes were started for those who have been classified by their school systems as being gifted and talented; there is no question about that. But these classes are open to everyone."

"They are for any child who

expresses an interest in what we have to offer. They are for any child who wants to expand his or her interests by growing through an enrichment class," she said.

The summer line-up is spelled out in a booklet that is available for the asking in the campus admissions office, on the second floor of M Building. One will be mailed on request by calling that office, 471-7587, or 471-7595.

BURTRUM selects the enrichment classes, which run the gamut from tumbling to the principles of air dynamics, on the same basis she has chosen them since the program started four years ago.

"We offer what the local schools aren't able to offer," she said. "We are not in competition with any one. We put together classes that we know children have expressed an interest in that they might not be able to get anywhere else. And the kids have been very selective."

Long before registration started Burtrum correctly predicted the foreign language classes and the computer classes were going to be the most heavily populated this summer.

"There is a new thrust for foreign languages now, but the children growing up in our high-tech society let us know long ago about their interests in space, computers or building their own radios," Burtrum said.

"Speed reading has always been on the list and so has mime and clowning; both old favorites."

"We boosted the language classes up because of the feedback we got during the last school term. The ever-popular computer classes got a boost because the college has just purchased 80 Apple II's. Some of their classes are new because of our new Performing Arts Theatre (on campus)."

THE ONLY restriction Burtrum could think of that is put on any student entering any class is that she expects the computer student to be able to read.

"Other than that motivation is enough," she said.

"You don't need an IQ of 160 to be highly creative and we've had some highly creative kids pass through our cartooning classes who may or may not have been classified as academically gifted."

"We don't want to turn our back on an Einstein or Rockwell who may be out there."

"The entire thrust is to keep the stimulation going, because there is no limit to what their minds can absorb," she said.

Local school systems within the area the Orchard Ridge campus serves, most of them depending on a budget, schedule enrichment programs "that

come and go," Burtrum said.

"They do what they can do to help the highly gifted or creative, but so much money is spent in remedial programs, we keep track to make sure what we offer is a complement or a supplement to any program they have developed and are offering," she said.

SPEAKING OF the academically gifted child who takes enrichment courses after school, on Saturdays and through the summer, Burtrum says, "This is much healthier than seeing a child enter college at 11."

She told of a few colleges who had accepted 11- or 12-year-olds, but only after all else had been exhausted.

Some colleges and universities offer a summer camp for the extremely brilliant to keep them occupied because most educators today think it is much better for the individual to enter college at the traditional age.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jeff Wexler, a resident of West Bloomfield, winds up his studies with teacher Bob Huss in the spring sessions which close this week. Huss re-

turns to the campus Tuesday, July 5, for the summer computer classes developed for the young set.

100th birthday is celebrated

Rae Thomas, a resident of Farmington Nursing Home and described by the home's activities director as "a joy to have with us," celebrated her 100th birthday this week.

She has been a resident here since 1981 after moving from Federation Apartments for Senior Citizens.

Thomas was born in Mozier, Russia on June 21, 1883.

After her marriage and her first child was born, her husband left for the United States to make a new life here. She joined him in 1913 where three more children were born in New York City. She now has 11 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

"I danced across the ocean, played cards and always worked," she said.

She is proud of her ability as a seamstress, the work she pursued as a widow, and tells that she could look at an expensive dress, buy the material and make a duplicate.

"SHE ALWAYS has a deck of cards. 'So at the drop of a hat I could have a game going,'" she said.

She thinks of herself as "a liberated lady" as early as 1943. She was 60 then, wearing slacks for everyday wear and thumbing rides for wherever she wanted to go.

In 1980 she was selected by the residents of Federation Apartments to represent them for a television interview. Still serving as much as her eyesight would permit, she was asked by the interviewer if she didn't think it was time to retire at age 97.

Her answer was "Definitely No."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Rae Thomas' three children were among the guests who came to celebrate her 100th birthday. Above are her son and daughter Harry Thomas and Minnie Broner; at right, Max Thomas.

Film series addresses women's problems

A new film series featuring author Joyce Landorf will be shown in Farmington Hills Christian Center, 23253 Drake Road beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, and each Wednesday through July 27. There is no admission charge.

The new series, "His Stubborn Love," addresses the problems common to many women who are trying to balance marriage, career, children, work, and are suffering from the conflicting demands on their time and their identities.

Author of 14 best-selling books, Landorf has drawn thousands all across the United States to her seminars. "His Stubborn Love" shows her unique blend of humor, insight and compassion to churches and groups who would otherwise be unable to see her in person.

Filmed at one of her seminars near Dallas, "His Stubborn Love" is a six-part series. The films are entitled "Change Points," "You Irregular Person," "Morning Song," "God's Waiting Room," "His Stubborn Love," and "Tough and Tender."

THE STately HOMES COLLECTION BY BAKER. FURNITURE TO TREASURE AS TOMORROW'S HEIRLOOMS

Artistry in furniture...authentic reproductions of actual pieces from manors and castles in England. Baker has created this magnificent collection of dining, bedroom and occasional furniture with an extraordinary attention to detail. All pieces have been expertly hand-crafted...with the finest woods and most realistic ornamentation. Visit our Furniture Gallery soon to see the Stately Homes Collection, inspirations from the past for today.

Jacobson's
BIRMINGHAM

Open Thursdays and Fridays until 8:00 p.m.
We will validate your parking ticket.