

'Be different' is class motto

By Jim Ritz
staff writer

Oakland program challenges gifted

the university's resident experts in these fields.

An example of the program's unusual approach is the archeology class, said Shepherd. Students will dig in the backyard of one of the 19th-century farmhouses on the sprawling Avon Township campus to look for artifacts illustrative of that era's way of life.

Studying wasps will be part of the animal behavior class, which will involve observation and experimentation with small mammals, insects and birds in search of the genetic explanations for why they behave as they do.

The movie-making class will cover writing, producing and editing films.

Class participation will be stressed in all four study areas. We want to make it as interesting as possible and not just drone on and on," said Shepherd. "It will be hot and will be in the middle of the summer. We'll make it as interesting as possible and the experiments will be useful, not just Mickey Mouse stuff."

Class sizes range from 10 to 20 students and run 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. The course fee is \$125 and covers all materials.

Students are those who participated in the 1983-84 Mid-West Talent Search Program administered through Northwestern University.

Although the stress is on non-competitive learning and no formal grades will be given, students will receive certificates of completion.

How about digging up the backyard of a 19th-century farmhouse or learning how to write, shoot and edit a movie?

Maybe you'd like to learn why wasps tend to be more helpful to each other.

If that doesn't sound like your typical school program for the gifted, it's not intended to. Being untypical is just what A. Gary Shepherd had in mind in designing the three-week new Meadow Brook Young Scholars Program that started today and will run through July 27 at Oakland University.

Shepherd said registrations will still be accepted through the first three days of classes ending Wednesday. Interested persons may call 377-2420.

While most gifted programs tend to revolve around advanced changes in areas such as computers and writing, the idea for Young Scholars was "be different."

"We made a deliberate decision not to have those programs," said Shepherd. "We decided to give the students something different and the opportunity to learn new things they hadn't experienced before. They'll be doing things that you normally don't encounter until college and that emphasize independent thinking."

Shepherd, a sociology professor, said a big advantage of the program is its ability to do what OU does best in making use of the university's faculty and special resources the OU campus has to offer.

STUDENTS WILL study astrophysics, animal behavior, archeological investigation and movie making — each under one of

Nutrition plan aids moms, kids

If you're pregnant and can't afford nutritious food, or if you have young children whose diets may be deficient, Oakland County has a Women, Infants and Children Nutrition program (WIC) which may help.

At present there is no waiting list, and immediate appointments are available, according to County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

WIC is operated from three offices: the Social Services building at 108 Oakland, Pontiac; the Wixom Municipal building, 49045 W. Pontiac Trail; and at 411 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Telephone number for appointments is 558-1272.

The WIC program provides health screening, nutrition education and coupons for such foods as milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, beans, peanut butter and instant formula.

They are available to pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under age 5.

To qualify, persons must live in Oakland County, have limited incomes (such as \$18,315 for a family of four; more for larger families), and have a medical or nutritional risk.

The good old days

When President Washington decided to take a three-month tour of the South he simply climbed aboard his coach and took off — without Secret Service men or press of any kind. Because of a mix-up of mails and the unmappped roads, the government did not know for nearly two months exactly where the president was.



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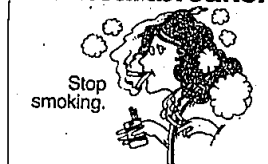
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