

Honors math camp

SWT gives high school students taste of college life

The SWT Honors Program and Mathematics Department co-sponsored the first Honors Math Camp for four weeks in June.

Eleven high school students from Central South Texas and one exchange student from France were joined by five undergraduate minority students in courses on number theory and logic taught by Dr. Max Warshauer and Dr. Ronald Hazlewood of the math faculty.

Dr. Ronald Brown, director of the Honors Program, also taught a special orientation seminar for the high school students.

Math Camp participants maintained a busy schedule of classes, study sessions and weekend outings including Friday afternoon picnics and outings to San Antonio, New Braunfels, Enchanted Rock and the LBJ Ranch plus a canoe trip down the San Marcos River.

In their final evaluations of the Math Camp experience, participants indicated it would forever change the way they thought about mathematics, unsolved problems and proofs. One female student said she just kept turning

problems over in her mind until she found a satisfactory solution.

While planning for the initial Math Camp occupied much of the spring semester, yet another opportunity for growth confronted the Honors Program. During the 1989-90 academic year, the SWT administration adjusted the campus Master Plan to allow the Honors Program to have offices and classrooms on the first floor of the Psychology Building.

Organized in 1967, the Honors Program long remained a program without a home. Even though that situation changed for the better when space in Retama Hall was allocated to the Honors Program and the Center for International Studies. The space formerly housing Media Services in the Psychology Building is scheduled for renovation during 1990-91 academic year to give the Honors Program three seminar rooms for classes, private offices and a student/faculty lounge.

Brown said, "This move will be the realization of a dream extending back to founding director Dr. Emmie Craddock. The new facilities will provide increased visibil-

ity for the interdisciplinary, university wide program as well as matching facilities available to similar programs across the state and nation."

The new opportunities to broaden the program appeal did not detract from maintaining important traditions such as the selection of the Honors Program's outstanding professor. Honors Program students honored Dr. W. W. "Woody" Anderson as their 1989 Honors Professor of the Year. A Latin American historian, Anderson offered two courses, Central America and Latin American Revolutions in the 20th Century.

Since he began teaching honors seminars in the 1980's, Anderson has been a perennial student favorite, teaching topical courses that examined the modern history, culture and politics of the United States' southern neighbors.

Periodically a runner-up for this honor, Anderson won the balloting in what may have been his last year at SWT. He is taking a year's leave of absence to serve as historian of a religious organiza-

tion. Previous recipients of the professor of the year distinction, begun in 1984, have been Everett Swinney, Merry FitzPatrick, Daniel Farlow, Robert Walts and Charles Johnson.

In the fall of 1989, five students, Brown, Warshauer and Stephanie Goodbread, assistant to the director, attended the National Collegiate Honors Conference in New Orleans. Students attended various sessions that discussed honors programs and student involvement in honors education.

Ideas gleaned from previous sessions have resulted in development of the Honors Student Association, the distinctive Honors Program recognition pins, more attractive publications and brochures and special certificates awarded to Honors Program graduates and faculty supervisors of Honors thesis.

As a result of the conference, students and faculty are discussing a student-led special introductory seminar for new Honors Program students. At other universities, upperclassmen introduce undergraduates to their honors experiences and help coordinate special topical colloquia on issues of current interest.

As graduating seniors completed the second year of an exit interview assessing their honors experiences, they continued to affirm the importance of those experiences as being among their most stimulating during their college career. A number of them reported that the Honors Program was the most important part of their undergraduate experience. One called it the reason for staying at SWT.

The program continued to offer a variety of special topical seminars including its first course on the Orient with Dr. Joseph Yick's seminar entitled "The History and Ideology of the Chinese Communist Party."

Seven Honors Program students were recipients of Craddock Scholarships as follows: Mary Allen, Michelle Brown, Sean Harrison, Chimy Lester, Tina Smeal, Kimberlee Sneed and Travis Springfield. In addition, the Rockwell Foundation has initiated gifts to create another series of Craddock Scholarships especially for Honors Program students.

More information about these scholarships will be available from the Honors Program during the 1990-91 academic year.

The past year has brought new opportunities and challenges and continued expansion of courses, students and faculty.