

THE OBSERVER

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Dr. Gualtieri Builds Administrative Team

By Mary Taylor

Since Dr. Raymond D. Gualtieri came on board as Superintendent, he has rounded out a team of five new administrators to help him lead the school district.

Dr. Gualtieri said it was a "major opportunity with five vacancies" to select a team to work with him. The sixth administrative position still has to be filled. That position is Director of Guidance and Assessment.

Four of the new administrators are new to the district, though not unfamiliar to him, but the Superintendent quickly acknowledges the advantages of having one administrator, among others, in the district with years of experience that helped make this year's school opening a success.

Michael Burns, who most recently was the dean and interim assistant principal at EHHS and formerly was a physical education teacher and coach at the high school, now is one of two permanent assistant principals.

"We could never have had a successful high school opening without Mike," Dr. Gualtieri said. "With his years of experience here, he brings a history of the district; we needed that. He plays a very important role in the high school administration."

Charles Soriano is the new Assistant Superintendent. He and Dr. Gualtieri worked together in Somerset Hills Regional School District, Bernardsville, NJ, before coming to East Hampton School District.

Mr. Soriano has brought with him a vast amount of educational leadership experience, particularly in staff and curriculum development, publishing, and library and media services management. (See story on page 3.)

Dr. Scott Farina is the new high school Principal. In 1997, he received his doctorate in biological physical chemistry from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. He also earned his bachelor and master's degrees in chemistry at Drexel.

The paths of the Superintendent and Principal have crossed on several occasions in the past.

In the 90's, Dr. Gualtieri recruited Dr. Farina to join the high school science department in the Owen J. Roberts School District in Pottstown, PA. Dr. Gualtieri was director of personnel and curriculum there from 1993 to 1997.

Before coming to East Hampton, Dr. Farina was Director of Educational Research and Information at Wissahickon School District in Ambler, PA, where he also was the K-12 District Supervisor of Science and Technology Education from 1999-2000.

Dr. Gualtieri was Superintendent from January 1997 to August 2000 at the Wissahickon School District in Ambler, PA, prior to being Superintendent of Somerset Hills School District from 2000 to 2003.

While at Wissahickon, Dr. Farina, who has had several papers published in scientific journals, implemented a four-year plan to move elementary science instruction from a text-

book-based curriculum to a hands-on, inquiry-based model of instruction. He outfitted all high school science labs with scientific probes for computerized data collection and secured a \$100,000 partnership with a business to sponsor a US FIRST Robotics team for national competition.

Phillip Pratt, who has 18 years of experience in public education, also is Assistant Principal at EHHS. He arrived from Albuquerque, NM, where he had worked since 1997 for the Albuquerque Public Schools. Most recently he was a student success advocate at the Rio Grande High School, a multilingual high school where he was a member of the principal's special administrative team charged with implementing the Casa Program.

The goal of the Casa Program was to integrate a multifaceted approach to decrease an excessive dropout rate and ensure student success through personalized education.

Previously, Mr. Pratt, who is bilingual, was an English teacher at the Rio Grande High School and Assistant Principal at the middle school in the same school district.

He has a master's degree in education administration from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and a bachelor's degree in English from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ.

Anael Alston is the new Assistant Principal at East Hampton Middle School. His years of experience in education have been spent in various schools on Long Island.

Before coming to East Hampton, he was Assistant Principal of Memorial Junior High School in Valley Stream Central School District. Prior to that, he was Assistant Principal at Baldwin Middle School from 2000-2001 and district coordinator of teacher recruitment in East Patchogue from 1997-2000. From 1999 to 2000, he ran the Tutorial Assistance Program (TAP) at Bellport Middle School.



EHHS student filmmakers prepare for the premier of their seven films selected for the International Film Festival. Story on Page 6

EHHS Students' Bonactin Research Paper Published

By Mary Taylor

When EHHS students identified a new molecule that turned out to be an antibiotic, they named it "bonactin" to give it Bonac roots. Now their discovery has been announced in a scientific magazine, and they have gone on to college.

The scientific research paper based on the students' research identifying the new molecule has been published in a "very prestigious" science journal, according to Principal Dr. Scott Farina.

The paper appears in the *Journal of Natural Products*, published by The American Chemical Society and American Society of Pharmacognosy.

Patricia Hope, chairperson of the Science Department at EHHS, said, "This is a wonderful thing for us. It is important that high school students' work has been published in a scientific journal. The school has purchased 200 copies of the paper to distribute."

The students who conducted the research and solved the structure of bonactin graduated in June 2000. Now they are seniors in college. They are Stephanie Talmage, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Talmage; Sara Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Miller, and Katie Sarris, daughter of East Hampton Town Police Chief and Mrs. Todd Sarris.

Stephanie and Sara attend Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, and Katie is at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY.

Mr. Talmage is a School Board member. He said, "We are very proud of Stephanie and very proud of the school district, which offers programs like this. The research program is one reason why East Hampton High School is rated in the top one hundred schools in America by *Newsweek* Magazine. It's also an example of how dedicated our teachers are. Now we have a Principal who is strong in science and also has science papers published."

At the time the students discovered bonactin, the three were students of Dr. Robert Schumacher who taught their class in scientific research. Now Lisa Benincasa teaches the class.

The discovery of bonactin resulted from research done on sand samples taken during a science research trip to Hawaii, led by Dr. Schumacher. Talmage, Miller and Sarris were on the trip and returned with a sand sample obtained at Kailua Beach, Oahu; it was in that sample that they discovered the new molecule.

The story of bonactin's discovery was first reported in local newspapers in February 1999.

Hope also was chairperson of the department at that time. "She is the one who spearheaded the drive to have the research class," Dr. Schumacher said.

The paper the students wrote with the help of their teacher describes the "isolation, structure determination and biological activity of bonactin," Dr. Schumacher said.

Though the paper was submitted for publication three years ago, the editor and referees of the *Journal of Natural Products* wanted "stereochemistry data included in the paper to assist in explaining the biological activity (of the molecule)," Dr. Schumacher said.

In other words, more tests had to be conducted, especially since a similar molecule already existed. However, it was determined that bonactin is different from the other molecule to which it was compared in that bonactin is active against certain organisms. "It kills certain bacteria; it's an antibiotic," Dr. Schumacher explained.

Now that all studies have been done on bonactin, it is clear that it

is a unique molecule though it is not potent enough to be a major antibiotic. "It is not efficacious, but it is important when it is related to other molecules already known," he added.

Not only did the discovery of a new molecule result from the research process the students learned, but also Stephanie Talmage emerged as the first Intel semi-finalist in the history of EHHS. While completing her research for the national Intel contest, she conducted a totally different research project applying the techniques she learned from the bonactin research.



Linda Reiser, EHMS computer teacher, has launched the middle school Web site with the help of her Computer Club. To start the process of building the Web site, the EHMS Site-Based Committee formed an ad-hoc committee and gave the plan its approval in March 2003. (Photo by Mary Taylor)

EHMS Teacher, Students Build School Website

By Linda Reiser

"What we need is a Web site that is easy to navigate and gives important information and convenience to our parents."

Those words from EHMS Principal Gail Parker began the middle school Web site project, and her three-year "dream" finally has come to fruition.

Although the Web site still is a work in progress, essential elements have been posted and are now being used by the community. To access the Web site, visitors should go to <http://www.ehufsd.org> and click on EHMS.

To start the process of building the Web site, the EHMS Site-Based Committee formed an ad-hoc committee and gave the plan its approval in March 2003. Through a series of surveys to parents, students, and teachers, content was determined, and the preliminary pages were designed.

Linda Reiser, EHMS computer teacher, is in charge of the

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Assistant Superintendent Brings Management, Staff-Development Strengths

By Mary Taylor

Assistant Superintendent Charles Soriano brings to the district a vast amount of educational leadership experience, particularly in staff and curriculum development, publishing, and library and media services management.

As Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Soriano's focus will be linked to the Superintendent's priorities for the district. "Most of my time will be spent supporting and advancing the goals and objectives of the Superintendent's office, which overall seeks to make East Hampton a better place each and every day for students," Mr. Soriano said.

However, now that the department chairpersons have been reinstated in the district, the Assistant Superintendent will have connections with them. "I am happy to say that the district has reinstated department chairs this year," he said. "The new structure places the department chairs under the supervision of Dr. Scott Farina, the high school principal. I will obviously continue to have some involvement with them, but they are primarily part of his building-level team."

Mr. Soriano and Superintendent Dr. Raymond D. Gualtieri, both new to the district this year, worked together in Somerset Hills Regional School District, Bernardsville, NJ, before coming as an administrative team to East Hampton School District.

"Dr. Gualtieri convinced me that it was time to move on to another challenge, and I knew that I would continue to grow professionally under his leadership. I have no regrets," Mr. Soriano said. "East Hampton is a place with truly dedicated professionals who want the best for students."

Presently, Mr. Soriano is a candidate at Rutgers University in New Jersey for a Ph.D. with a concentration in literacy and education. He already has two master's degrees – one in English literature from Middlebury College and one in educational leadership from Rutgers. He holds a bachelor's degree from Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA, where he majored in English and minored in medieval studies.

As director of curriculum and instruction from July 2002 to June of 2003 in the Somerset Hills School District, Mr. Soriano managed the district's academic program operations. Primarily, he was responsible for teacher evaluations, staff development programs, recruiting and hiring, and supervision of new teacher induction programs and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program.

"IB is a challenging liberal arts based curriculum that inspires students to chase academic experiences that they may not normally experience at a secondary school," he explained. "It's an exciting program that at least deserves some exploration here, whether or not our school community ultimately decides that it's a good fit for them."

From July 2001 to June 2002 in the Somerset schools, his duties included district-wide leadership in curricula for English, social studies, world languages, music, visual and theater arts, and professional development programs and management of induction programs for



Assistant Superintendent
Charles Soriano

new teachers.

Supervision of high school subject-area supervisors, curriculum development, pupil performance, scheduling, hiring and public relations, along with the day-to-day operations of the school's main office and attendance were among his duties as Assistant Principal and Dean of Studies from July 1999 to June 2001 at Bernards High School in the Somerset Hills School District.

In Mr. Soriano's first year, 1998-1999, in the Somerset Hills School District, he was the English Department Supervisor at the high school. Previously, he had taught English and journalism for eight years and was the adviser for the yearbook and weekly student newspaper at Westfield High School in Westfield, NJ.

"The student newspaper was a great experience for me," he said. "I developed so many close relationships with students, many of whom still keep in touch after all this time. We were featured in an article in *The New York Times* and in *The Washington Post* after we took first place in the top three

Scholastic Press Associations – National, Columbia and American. It was exciting."

Mr. Soriano's awards and honors include a Fulbright Memorial Award in Matsumoto and Tokyo, Japan, in 1998; Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award in 1997; a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Grant in 1991; the Strain Gold Medal for Excellence in Philosophy and the Kavanaugh Medal for Best Paper in Art History in 1990; and the New Jersey Governor's Teaching Scholars Grant from 1986-1990.

Within a long list of professional growth activities, Mr. Soriano includes his service as faculty consultant for English AP (Advanced Placement) examinations and as a member of the Distinguished Panel of Judges for the annual Columbia University Scholastic Press Association Award Competition. He has had a long association with Columbia University, where he also studied school law in 1993 while pursuing his master's degree in education at Rutgers.

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EHHS Students Revive Amnesty International Club

By Mary Taylor

East Hampton High School students have revived the Amnesty International (AI) Club that first cropped up in the eighties.

Club members have embraced the cause of a woman who is in prison in Turkey, and they are exchanging postcards with the prisoner.

EHHS social studies teacher Priscilla Campbell is the adviser of the AI Student Chapter. She and the club members attended the Northeastern Regional AI Conference at Boston University on Nov. 8 and 9.

Mrs. Campbell became adviser, she said, "When a couple of students came to me and asked if I would be interested." The two students are Gillian Lizars, a senior, and Rachael Blatt, a junior.

Gillian, who is in Mrs. Campbell's AP Human Geography class, is president of the club. When asked why she was interested in reviving the club, she said, "I had heard about the organization before, but after hearing about many cultures in Mrs. Campbell's class, I checked online about Amnesty International. There was a student chapter at East Hampton High School in the eighties, and I decided I wanted to revive it."

Rachael said, "In my journalism class, I am getting involved in social issues and studying people. Amnesty International is a great way to get involved in the world. East Hampton is small, but through Amnesty International, we can become involved in human rights everywhere."

Mrs. Campbell identified the three main goals for the club: getting involved in a national cause; taking up an international cause; and attending the AI Northeast Regional Conference at Boston University.

"The international cause so far is the prisoner of conscience in Turkey. She is in prison for

sedition. We have written postcards to her, and she has written postcards to us," the adviser said.

On their postcards, students have written such things as: "I admire your courage"; I hope you keep up your spirits."

The prisoner's husband spoke at the Boston conference. Amnesty International gave the name of the woman, which Mrs. Campbell would not release, to the EHHS AI Student Chapter.

The EHHS AI club members also attended the National Freedom Ride in Flushing Meadows for the Organization of Latin America (OLA, Organisation des

Latinos Americanos). The students are involved "only in so far as their (OLA) initiatives support Amnesty International. For example, people should get paid and should have health care. I don't want our students to have to take a political position. I want to keep the club so it doesn't push a political position." Mrs. Campbell said.

According to the official AI Web site, at hundreds of schools across the country, student AI groups meet regularly to write letters and organize activities on behalf of victims of human rights violations. AI encourages stu-

dents to start an AI group. Current total membership of AI is 1.7 million.

AI supports human rights education in schools. "Amnesty International believes that learning about human rights is the first step toward respecting, promoting and defending those rights," AI officials said on the Web site.

AI provides a teaching guide as a resource for teachers who want to incorporate human rights issues in the classroom. The guide offers materials that make connections between events in the world and the students' lives.

Companion Program Helping Build Student Self-Esteem



*School Psychologist
Diane Scully*

Building students' self-esteem is the goal of the EHMS Companion Program initiated by School Psychologist Diane Scully.

The program pairs a teacher with a student who needs some help improving specific areas affecting the student's school life.

Mrs. Scully selects students for the program and carefully pairs them with teachers who have chosen to participate. Students first require parental consent forms and with those in hand, she works with the teacher companions to build strategies based on student needs.

Mrs. Scully said, "The program has been successful. Hopefully it will go on forever. This year students returned to school excitedly seeking it and asking, 'Who is going to be my companion.'

They like it."

Initially, Mrs. Scully offered teachers an in-service course on the objectives of the Companion Program and methods of mentoring students.

Teachers who elect to become mentors either select a particular student or allow Mrs. Scully to do the pairing.

After the teacher gets to know the student recommended for mentoring, a decision is made about what area needs the most attention in order to improve the student's self-esteem, Mrs. Scully explained.

"Maybe it's a matter of improving math skills by the end of the quarter, so the teacher will create steps to achieve that goal. It's easy to get to the goal once it's established with strategies to meet specific objectives."

Students who have major emotional problems, for example, are not involved in the Companion Program, she added.

The mentor completes documentation of each meeting with the student in a mentoring tracking form that is returned to Mrs. Scully. The teacher then meets with the school psychologist to determine the overall successes.

When the goals are met with one student, Mrs. Scully said, the teacher may go on to another who needs one-on-one attention and support to improve.

Visit the **EHSD Website** at: <http://www.ehufsd.org>

EHMS Teachers Present Best Practices for State

By Mary Taylor

Accompanied by EHMS Principal Gail Parker, a team of middle school teachers demonstrated their best teaching practices at a State conference in Binghamton Oct. 21.

Those teaching practices “have consistently given the middle school the highest percentages statewide in reading and writing,” Mrs. Parker said.

Because of the eighth grade’s consistently high scores on the State ELA Exam from 1999 to 2002, the team of EHMS teachers of English Language Arts (ELA) presented their best teaching practices to 400 school districts at the State conference.

Broome-Tioga BOCES presented the State ELA Best Practices Conference at the Binghamton Regency Hotel and Conference Center and invited urban and suburban schools with high scores on the State exam.

The team of EHMS teachers included: Linda Fuller, eighth-grade language arts; Margaret Ryan, reading and language arts for special education; Meredith Cortes, seventh-grade language arts; and Krystal Kost, sixth-grade language arts.

The high scores on the ELA Exam also include those of special education students. Since those students have been so successful on the exam, the special education teacher also addressed and demonstrated teaching practices at the conference. EHMS eighth graders also have had high scores on the State math exam.

“Across the board, we were commended for writing on the state exams,” Mrs. Parker said. “Our writing on the State exam was exceptional in all cases,” including the social studies exam, for which students had to do essay-type writing on the document-based portion of the exam.

The teachers prepared a one-hour and 15-minute PowerPoint presentation, which uses projected computer imaging.

After an introduction by Mrs. Parker at the conference, Mrs. Fuller presented the benchmarking and test preparation process, which has been used for grades five through eight since 1997.

The basic idea behind benchmarking is that by analyzing and comparing several papers, teachers can establish a typical low, average, and excellent paper. Furthermore, they can prepare students for State exams, establish outcomes for students, and raise the level of their performance.

Catherine Gagliotti, recently retired from the East Hampton School District and trained in the writing process at Syracuse University, formerly led the teachers in the process, which involved a step-by-step procedure with student papers in front of them in preparation for the State ELA Exam.

Miss Ryan demonstrated study skills and successful strategies for



Broome-Tioga County BOCES invited the EHMS English language arts (ELA) teachers to make a presentation at the New York State ELA Best Practices Conference in Binghamton on Oct. 21. Preparing for their presentation are: (front) EHMS Principal Gail Parker and Linda Fuller; (back) Meredith Cortes, Margaret Ryan, and Krystal Kost. (Photo by Mary Taylor)

special education students, focusing on note taking. “We look at this as a team effort,” she said.

Mrs. Cortes made her presentation on her seventh-grade literary circles, which she said produces “improved writing and reading” as students participate with much discussion about reading materials, which often are searched for further answers to questions that develop in their discussions.

Ms. Kost discussed her sixth-grade reading and writing menus, which help students make selections for specific types of writing by offering suggestions from a list that contains such things as a variety of literary elements, vocabulary, and figurative language. “It offers a systematic approach to writing,” she said.

“We’ve made the effort to design a presentation and we are ready to share our best practices with other districts beyond the conference,” Mrs. Parker said. “This was a spectacular presentation.”

Fuller added, “The entire State could benefit from our expertise and success. We are ready to take this presentation on the road.”

Now the Principal is planning a consortium on the East End for sharing successful teaching strategies with other districts.

EHHS Student Filmmakers Premier at Film Festival

By Mary Taylor

East Hampton High School students of broadcasting and filmmaking saw their winning films on the big screen during the International Film Festival.

Seven short productions, including silent films, created by the students were featured at the East Hampton Cinema Thursday, Oct. 23. For their premier, the student producers walked with their teacher from the high school to the theater.

The students produced the winning videos in classes taught by Mary Miller, teacher of broadcasting, theater arts, and TV production and director of Bonac Broadcasting System (BBS) at EHHS.

The student producers, their grade, and the titles of their winning videos are: Cody Theuret (12), "Dock of the Bay"; Biana Massi (11) and Lucas Miller (11), "Take the Girl and Run" and "Pluralism Defeated"; Daniel Stern (11), Daniel Asselin (12), and Scott Bluedorn (12), "Ruppert's Journey" and "A Road Rage Story"; Asselin, "Joe and Mikey"; Bluedorn, Tyler Armstrong (12), and Stern, "Dreamwake";

Theuret said "Dock of the Bay" is about the bays around East Hampton. The music of the same title is in the background and relates to the scenes of the bays.

When asked about his reaction to his video being chosen, Theuret said, "I feel wonderful. I can't believe it still. I plan to do this as a career."

"Take The Girl and Run" is a silent film. Massi explained that it is "a spoof on the old silent movies. The plot involves two men who break out of jail and try to win over a girl while still handcuffed."

In a quite different vein, "Pluralism Defeated" is based on the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center and on the disintegration of the Columbia Space Shuttle in space last year.

"These are such defining moments in teenagers' lives," Massi said. "We want to show how teenagers reacted to those moments. What we have created is a montage with music, images, including shots of front-page stories on the events, and some documentary footage."

When she heard her videos had been selected, she said, "I was very surprised and very happy. The Film Festival is becoming more and more of a big deal in the Hamptons. It's also a time when we can meet famous filmmakers."

The videos produced through the collaboration of Stern, Asselin, and Bluedorn are very different. "Ruppert's Journey" is a music video about the transformation of a robot into a real person, age 14. Asselin said, "It is abstract, and there is dancing around some of the nice areas of town."

On the other hand, "Road Rage Story" is a public service announcement presenting two scenarios involving a driving situation. In one, the driver follows the rules and in the other, the driver doesn't follow the rules and goes into road rage. It is done to music and uses humor to get an important message across, the teacher said.

Asselin, who also is planning a career around TV and film production, said "Joe and Mikey," which he created by himself, is a 10-minute silent film about a boy and a dog. "I was trying to work with the most basic script and storyboard. The dog is kidnapped and the film presents clues to solving the mystery."

Though he found it easier to work by himself, he said, "Collaboration involves a lot of ideas," which he appreciated while working on the group video.

"Dreamwake" also is a silent film, written by Bluedorn, who also wrote some of the music. The main character is a man who is a

narcotic, and the story includes dream sequences. Armstrong is the actor. Stern was involved with shooting footage and editing.

The "weather impacted" the production and made it difficult, Bluedorn said. "Ruppert had to walk about a mile down the beach, trudging through the snow in about 20-degree weather." At times Ruppert was wearing a T-shirt and was very cold.

The students are not only "proud and excited," they said, but they also realize that being chosen for the International Film Festival "will help so much with college and will look good on a resume."

Miller said, "This is the first time in BBS history that we have reached this level. Our success is due to the incredible creativity of the students and the upgraded BBS equipment, which now is digital."

She added, "More and more students are taking this course because they are seriously considering careers in communications."

During the summer, the students left the beach and came into school to edit their videos in order for them to be entered into the competition for the Film Festival, the teacher said.

EHMS Teacher, Students Build School Website

Continued from page 2

project. Under her supervision, the Computer Club assisted in the creation of several pages and was further supported by former English teacher, Melissa Mitchell.

In September, the Web site was unveiled to the Site-Based Committee. Response was very favorable, Mrs. Reiser said, as committee members clicked through the Middle School Handbook and Code of Conduct pages on the Web site; also included on the site are monthly calendars dotted with important school events, testing information, school schedules indicating delayed openings, and faculty contact pages, to name a few of the selections.

The library page includes not only book suggestions by grade level but also the middle school card catalogue and a link for the online version of the World Book Encyclopedia, to which the district subscribes.

The forms page is a convenience feature. Field trip permission slips as well as PTA-sponsored permission slips can be found among the printable forms. By simply uploading the free Acrobat Reader from the site, parents can easily print the forms from home and send them to school with their children. Spanish translations of the forms are in the works.

Mrs. Reiser is in charge of the computer room at the middle school, and she teaches computer courses, including Web page design, to fifth and sixth graders. This year is her second year at the middle school. She received her master's degree in educational technology from SUNY at Stony Brook.

Three EHHS Teachers Receive NEH Awards

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) selected three EHHS social studies teachers from hundreds of applicants and awarded each of them a fellowship for a month of studies last summer.

According to NEH officials, it is “rare” that one school would have three teachers chosen, let alone have three chosen from one department in such a comparatively small school.

Dr. David Swickard, Priscilla Campbell, and Timothy Rood, all members of the EHHS Social Studies Department, won the highly competitive awards in different areas of study.

Dr. Swickard received a foreign fellowship, “the most prestigious given by NEH,” for participation in an institute, entitled “Mozart’s German Operas in Context,” in Vienna, Austria. This institute offered only 30 high school teachers nationwide the opportunity to study the world of the eighteenth-century Hapsburg Empire and the music of Mozart; Dr. Swickard writes music criticism and has had a lifelong interest in classical music.

He said he has used his fellowship to develop lesson plans for the Global History and Geography and Advanced Placement (AP) European History courses he teaches at the high school.

“Summer work is directly transferable to what we do in the classroom, so students can benefit as much as the teachers from this,” Dr. Swickard said. Upon his return to school, he began developing an interdisciplinary integration of the material from the institute in a variety of subjects, including history, literature, music and theater.

Mrs. Campbell’s NEH Fellowship was for her to study “Everyday Maps: Teaching and Historical Perspectives” at the Newberry Library in Chicago, IL. Her first choice would have been an institute in Kenya, Africa, but she decided against going there because of the ongoing turmoil in that country, she said.

Currently teaching Global History and Geography and AP Human Geography, Mrs. Campbell is one of 24 teachers nationwide selected from more than 200 applicants for the fellowship. “Both courses benefited tremendously from the scholarly research that conducted in Chicago,” she said. The Newberry Library will publish her research.

The map institute involved a series of presentations on the his-



The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) chose Dr. David Swickard, Priscilla Campbell, and Timothy Rood, all members of the EHHS Social Studies Department, for highly competitive awards in different areas of study. They attended their individual institutes last summer. (Photo by Mary Taylor)

tory of popular cartography and its place in modern society, bi-weekly workshops that guided teachers through the process of researching and writing lesson plans based on popular cartography, and informal discussions designed to share information about teaching techniques using map resources.

Mr. Rood attended an NEH Lewis and Clark seminar at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. Participation not only required learning skills but also physical stamina and endurance as the teachers followed institute team leaders along the trails forged by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who were nineteenth century American explorers.

From Spokane, the participants traveled down the Bitterroot Valley and crossed or followed the Lolo Pass into Idaho, depending on the snow pack. They proceeded to the Salmon River Experience to ride the river, hike and camp along the river.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rood and the other teachers were expected to keep up with reading assignments, including several journals of Lewis and Clark. In their letter from the institute, the teachers were advised “not to neglect your school work and teaching preparation.”

Learning on the Bridgehampton Golf Course

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teen years ago he released tadpoles into it. Since that time, the frog population has grown by leaps and bounds.

Standing at the edge of the pond, the students gathered some plant samples, took notes, and eagerly watched for anything moving. On the shore, they observed muskrat, raccoon and deer footprints. “Every morning there are deer getting a drink of water from this pond,” Mr. Bertrand said.

A difficult question flew through the air. “Why are the cattails broken in the pond?” He had to explain saying that the cattails died last winter because the pond froze to the bottom.”

He did not leave the first pond without pointing out his “second favorite tree,” the black gum tree that was used to make hammers in colonial times.

Along the way to another pond he made, he stopped again to point out his “favorite tree,” the “dinosaur tree,” also known as the dawn redwood that lived at the time of dinosaurs and was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in China near a monastery.

After observing 8 small pieces they picked from the tree, the

students eagerly took notes even before their teachers called out, “Write that down.”

Sitting down on the green at the third hole, Mr. Bertrand conducted another question-and-answer session.

“Why do you think we have no mosquitoes here?” he asked the children, who were prepared for the answer because they knew what frogs eat – insects, especially mosquitoes.

Before leaving the green, the students inspected the sand trap, where they saw deer tracks. They had learned from Mr. Bertrand that snapping turtles living on the golf course bury their eggs in the sand traps.

At the second pond he recently finished by the ninth hole, Mr. Bertrand explained that he made that pond 16 feet deep so it would not freeze to the bottom, where fish can survive the winter. He designed it as a kettle-hole pond, to imitate the glacier-made ponds.

Did the students know what a glacier is? Of course they did, and Mr. Bertrand praised them for their knowledge as he did continually along the way.

Learning on the Bridgehampton Golf Course



JMMES fourth-grade students learned many lessons about ponds and wildlife on the golf course from Scott Bertrand, superintendent of the Bridgehampton Golf Course. Here Mr. Bertrand shows the students the different kinds of animal footprints in the sand trap.

Fourth graders from John M. Marshall Elementary School went to Bridgehampton Golf Course in October for lessons, but not in golf.

The purpose of the trip to the golf course was to study ponds, which club superintendent Scott Bertrand has constructed, the pond habitats, and the wildlife that has come to the ponds.

"The golf course is an educational tool. This fall we have had the entire fourth grade; in the spring, we had the entire first grade. I love doing this," Mr. Bertrand said. His daughter, Addie, is a fourth grader.

The children with clipboards, pencils, and worksheets in hand followed excitedly behind Mr. Bertrand with their teachers, Lisa McKee and Catherine Cafiso, and assistant teachers.

Mr. Bertrand has been superintendent at the golf club for 20 years. During that time he has changed the ecology of the golf course by constructing ponds and introducing new plants that draw various species of wildlife. "New plants bring new wildlife," he said.

First stop on the tour was the pond next to the clubhouse. Soon after being hired as superintendent, he built the first pond, and fif-

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