ATTENTION
SOUTH DALLAS STUDENTS:

Are you having trouble in math?

Sign up to receive FREE tutoring at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch Library

Dr. Gil Sik Lee, a professor at the University of Texas at Dallas, and Dr. Kim Lee, a professor at Southern University, will offer math tutoring beginning March 5, 2005

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon

You must be pre-enrolled to participate.
Only 50 students accepted. Must live in South Dallas and be in grades K-9.

For more information, call 214-670-0344.

Fill out a registration form at the library to enroll.
Proposal for Math Tutoring

We are proposing a math tutoring program for the underprivileged children who lack the educational opportunities and resources. We believe that mathematics is one of the most important academic subjects for a young student and can best be developed at an early age. Proficiency in mathematics will also lead to a greater interest in other subjects. Math, however, requires a lot of practice.

I am teaching electrical engineering at the University of Texas at Dallas and my wife, Kim, is teaching mathematics at Southern University. We initiated a similar tutoring program in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, from 1993 to 2001. During the first three years, we taught at an elementary school with students from 2nd to 5th grade three times a week. There were four classes with a total of about 50 students. From 1996 to 2001, we taught math and science at a high school. Attached are an article about the program covered by LSU’s newspaper and a flyer. Deon Knox who was interviewed in the newspaper had a D in his algebra grade in the fall semester, and then it was improved to an A in the spring semester progress report. We would like to see similar successes from all students we help.

Currently, we are proposing to serve 50 students from K to 9 in low income neighborhoods in south Dallas. Opening hours will be from 10:00 am to noon on Saturdays. The starting date is March 5, 2005, Saturday. The place is at the Library of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center at the 2922 Martin Luther King Blvd, Dallas, TX 75215.

We are asking for your generous support to cover a part of the expense.

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Tutor helps area students

By JENNIFER COOKE
Reveille Staff Writer

From algebra to physics, a University instructor and volunteers from an engineering organization are tutoring local high school students and receiving positive results.

The Math School of Baton Rouge is a non-profit organization founded by Gil Sik Lee and his wife, Jung Soon, to help students with troubled spots in the math and sciences and to "do my part for the community," Lee said.

Lee is an associate professor in electrical and computer engineering.

With the joint efforts of volunteers from the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Lee began tutoring twice a week at McKinley High School in 1996.

Before tutoring at McKinley, Lee aided students in second through fifth grades at Buchanan Elementary three times a week.

Interested students meet in the high school's library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. to ask Lee and NSBE members for assistance.

There are typically about 10 high school students and seven or eight tutors at the math school classes, and Lee said he and the NSBE members are seeing positive results.

"I would not be here if I am not for this class to tell you the truth," said McKinley sophomore Dean Knox.

Knox, an Algebra I Honor student at McKinley, has been attending the classes for a month and said he has learned a lot from Lee and the tutors.

He is able to get his work done and concentrate because he does not have to deal with typical household distractions, Knox said.

Leonard Roberson, a senior Algebra II student at McKinley, said his grades have improved since attending the sessions.

"Every (math) test I take before was an "F," but now I've gotten an "A" and a "C,"" Roberson said.

Roberson found out about the program through his math teacher and has been attending the tutoring sessions for three weeks.

"This program was all he'd talk about," Roberson said.

"All the subjects I have, they help me with," said Lorenzo Hawkins, a freshman who attends regularly.

Because students and tutors have developed a rapport, the students feel they can ask for all kinds of help, said tutor Rakesha King, a senior majoring in chemical engineering.

"By them being comfortable with us, they are comfortable asking questions," King said. "They are learning there's no such thing as a dumb question."

"They help me with a lot of stuff," Lee said.

Roberson said that the tutors help the students beyond the two days a week, King said. Students call the tutors during the week and ask them questions.

In addition to being an NSBE member, King is the PreCollege Initiative (PCI) chair this year. PCI promotes the fields of engineer, math and sciences to minority high school students.

Cherie Fortier, a senior majoring in chemical engineering, got involved as a personal mission to "positively impact the community."

The volunteer position makes a difference when students come back with improved test grades, Fortier said.

Lee's background was his motivation for founding the organization.

Lee grew up in a poor neighborhood, so he said he knows first hand the difficulties of being a good, educated citizen coming from that background.

He chose McKinley High School and Buchanan Elementary because he felt those students may not have the best opportunities for assistance and he wanted to help.

Lee said he feels his purpose has been fulfilled if just one or two students' lives have been made better.

Having come to the United States from Korea in 1981, Lee said he has gotten a lot from this country and wanted to help his community.

Language skills and the culture were very different, but Lee knew he had skills which could help others, so he founded the Math School.

Lee tutored at the elementary level from 1993 to 1996, until NSBE offered to help.

He began at Buchanan Elementary because he said finding tutors for lower level math and sciences was easier than finding people with high-level skills.

The non-profit organization received a few initial donations which paid for "incentives" for the second through fifth graders, Lee said.

The Math School of Baton Rouge does not need much funding now, because the students who are involved want to learn without incentives, Lee said.

The organization is not in need of additional financial presently, but Lee said he knows when to go to it does need more.

"I can ask friends for donations," he said. "The money is not important, it is somewhere. The more people involved, the better."