

Career Day gave 8th-graders a taste of life after school

By Robin DeMerell

If an eighth-grader at Farragut Middle School in Hastings is asked the age-old question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" he or she may have a quick and serious answer.

At Career Day last Thursday, the entire 85-member class had the opportunity to listen to guest speakers talk about all aspects of their professions.

Students were required to attend three of 15 presentations and were urged to ask questions of the speakers before the end of each 40-minute session.

Principal Jennifer Dolan started the day by telling students that career decisions should be based on a group of elements. She urged them to consider their interests, special talents, value systems, personality types and future goals.

"A career choice is a marriage of all those elements I just told you," Dolan said.

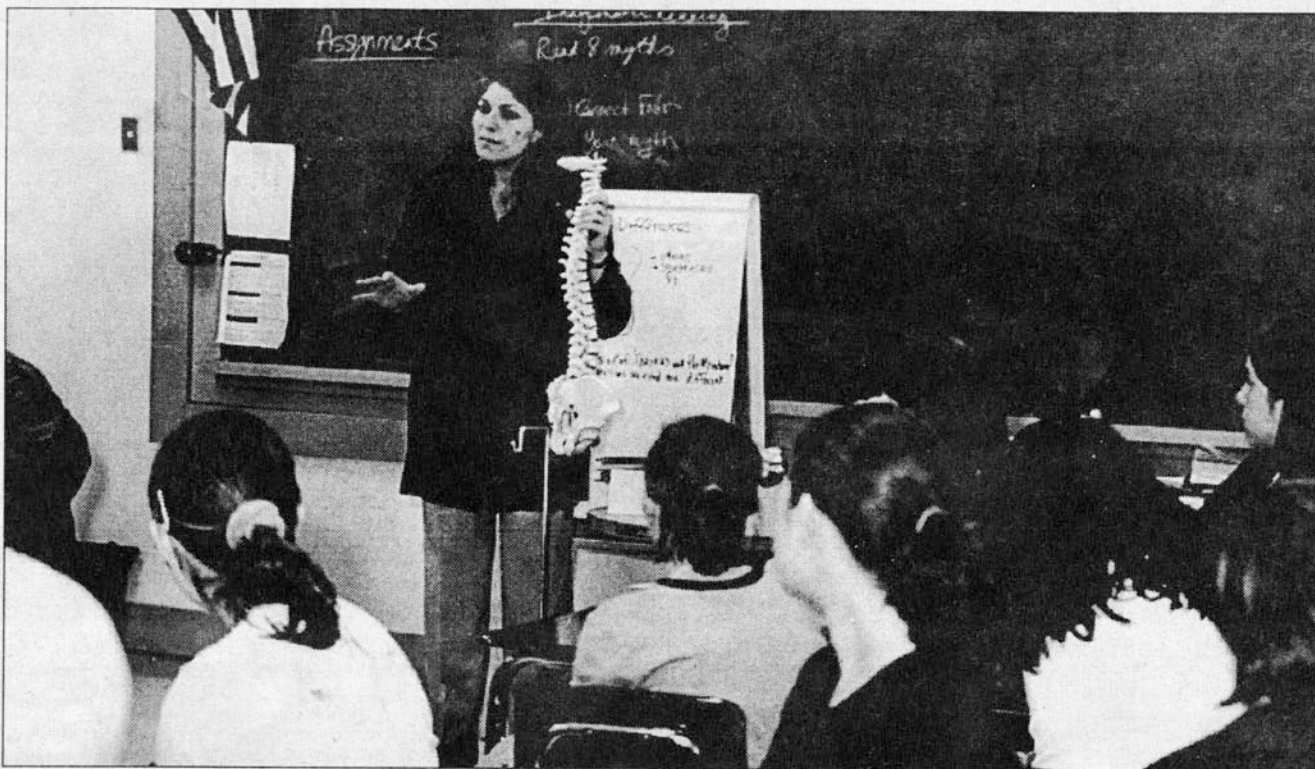
State Sen. Nicholas Spano (R, C-Yonkers) was to have been the event's keynote speaker, but budget meetings kept him in Albany.

According to teachers and administrators, the Career Day program has been successful in guiding students toward taking appropriate courses in high school.

"It shows them the diversity that's out there," language arts teacher Michael Eckelman said. "We get a diverse population as far as presenters go."

Roger Reid, whose son, Kelly, is an eighth-grader at the school, spoke about his job as a computer programmer at a Manhattan law firm.

Urging students to find an occupa-



CHIN PARK/RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

Chiropractor Anita Morgenstern discusses alignment of the spine with Hastings eighth-graders during Career Day last Thursday.

tion that involves something they really love, Reid said he enjoys his job "because it's something that holds my attention. The day goes by (quickly) and I feel mentally stimulated."

Dr. Lisa Saiman, who specializes in pediatric infectious disease at Manhattan's Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, discussed the many aspects of medicine and how satisfying it is to have an occupation that helps other people.

Saiman also told students that going to medical school, if it's a true interest, is no harder than anything else and the rewards are worth the hard work.

"Don't look at the years of school as daunting . . . at the end you have something to show for it," she said.

Students listened intently as chiropractor Anita Morgenstern explained that being healthy means that every part of the body is working together 100 per-

cent. Morgenstern also explained her role in helping patients maintain that balance. Using a plastic model, Morgenstern showed what a spine looks like and, when it's out of alignment, how it affects an individual's total health.

After being asked the typical questions of what his day is like and how he got into business, insurance agent Robert Schnibbe, whose son, Brian, is in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

School hosts Career Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

eighth grade, was asked about the rewards of his job.

"The satisfaction of helping people who are in trouble," Schnibbe responded.

In addition to listening to guest speakers, students were required to present information about an occupation that interested them using a Power Point computer program and graphics.

Nicole Lucas, 13, who hopes to be an interior designer, said she was pleased to

discover that there are many areas of design in which to specialize.

"It gives you an idea of what type of career you want," Nicole Lucas, 13, said about Career Day.

Another student, Tom Fitzgerald, 13, said he wants to go into the military and Career Day has not changed his mind. He said, however, that he found the program helpful for shaping his future plans.

"I feel it gives a lot of experience in jobs you want to enter," he said.