

## Featured Fellows



West Charlotte CTI Fellows Monica Trujillo, Kurma Murrain-Collins and Ingrid Soto (left to right) enjoyed a day at the racetrack during UNC Charlotte's Motorsports Summer Camp coordinated by CTI Seminar Leader Peter Tkacik.

## CTI's West Charlotte ESL Teachers

West Charlotte High School joined the CTI ranks in 2011, and its English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers are well represented in CTI's 2012 Fellows cohort. ESL Department Chair Ingrid Soto (in *Reading Media Imagery* seminar) is returning to CTI for a second year, and Kurma Murrain-Collins (ESL Math teacher in *Entertaining with Math* seminar) and Monica Trujillo (ESL English in *All Immigration is Local* seminar) are new to CTI. They recently shared their thoughts about their CTI experience:

**Ingrid & Monica:** We have had many enriching professional development opportunities and CTI seminars are the most outstanding. In seminars, we have experienced learning, understanding and integrated professional development. Our main learning objective is to create a curriculum unit aligned to the Common Core Standards that can impact our students' learning. This is long-term professional development where quality products should be evident and we can become publishers in CTI and the Yale National Initiative. We have gained knowledge that helps make our classes more interdisciplinary, building confidence in our ability to teach in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We believe that to be good teachers we have to be good students/learners – if we are not up to date, we can become fossilized.

**Kurma:** I'm so happy to be part of CTI. The professors are experts, and they guide us through every step. It is always good to go to Davidson College, eat a good meal, and find colleagues who support you. We are professionals in a professional environment. Everything we learn can be applied to our classes immediately, and everything we put in practice can be used to write our final curriculum units. It is definitely a great program and I highly recommend teachers enroll! Thank you CTI! ☺



## Exploding Canons: Sustainability in Charlotte and Beyond

Tuesday, October 16, 5:30-9 pm  
UNC Charlotte Center City

**REGISTER NOW** at  
[www.charlotteteachers.org](http://www.charlotteteachers.org)

## A Great Thrill: *Meeting a Civil Rights Icon*



Larry Bosc, CTI Fellow and Seminar Coordinator  
Social Studies Teacher  
East Mecklenburg High School

When Joan O'Brien, executive director of the East Mecklenburg High School Foundation, came to me at the end of last year and said that civil rights icon and current U.S. Congressman John Lewis had agreed to come and speak at East Mecklenburg during the week of the Democratic National Convention I was so excited. As a student of the civil rights movement, I knew how central was the role played by Mr. Lewis in that era. As a college student he led one of the most successful sit-in movements in Nashville and participated in the Freedom Ride of 1961. As a leader of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, he gave one of the most important speeches at the March on Washington in 1963 and played an important role in the Voting Rights march of 1965.

When we finally solidified the date and time, I tried to impress upon my students the great opportunity they were going to have in hearing one of America's great heroes. I was also excited to see CTI Seminar Leader Brenda Flanagan and many of the CTI Fellows participating in the seminar "African American Literature of the Civil Rights Movement" at Mr. Lewis's talk. Introduced by another civil rights icon and former Charlotte mayor, Harvey Gantt, Mr. Lewis did not disappoint. This humble man kept the attention of over 500 high school students who had been waiting over an hour for his visit. Mr. Lewis urged students to set lofty goals, work hard to achieve them, and stand up for those things they strongly believe in.

My greatest thrill was talking to Congressman Lewis after his speech about the civil rights trip I go on with students every year in March. He even said that I should contact him and maybe he could see us at one of the stops on the trip. As he left the auditorium, patiently allowing many to take pictures with him, I was amazed at the combination of charisma and humility he personified. I knew I have been in the presence of an extraordinary individual.



CTI Fellow Larry Bosc (right) talked with civil rights leader and U.S. Congressman John Lewis at East Mecklenburg High School in September. Larry serves as Seminar Coordinator for CTI's *African American Literature of the Civil Rights Movement* seminar, led by Davidson College English Professor Brenda Flanagan.