

Self-Taught Study Tests GW Alumni

A group of George Washington High School alumni have returned to college after a summer of cooperative self-taught study seminars in their favorite field—mathematics.

All are former students in the advanced placement classes of GW teacher Irwin Hoffman whose success in preparing gifted youngsters for AP testing prompted a Zone 2 five-part series on the program last January and February.

In 1965, eight of 11 GW students who took the AP math test scored a 5, the highest mark possible.

Last June, Hoffman's students achieved an even more impressive record when 11 of 14 students taking the test scored 5's.

COLLEGE CREDIT

Most of the students received at least a full year's college credit for their achievement. One 1965 graduate, Jay Rothman, was granted two full years credit at Reed College in

Oregon and is now a teaching assistant.

Rothman was one of the lecturers for this summer's seminars in which both 1965 and 1966 graduates participated. He explained Godel's Theorem for two full evenings.

Said Hoffman, who was invited to attend and who frequently asserts his students know more than he: "I don't even know what it is!"

Another lecturer from the 1965 class was Jim Rosenberg, now a student at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif. He titled his two-evening talk on the Polya - Burnside Theorem, "Group Theory A-Go-Go," which he described in advance as "some math applications of symmetry and their applications to molecular structure."

Lecturers from the 1966 class and their topics were Mike Fleischman, partial derivatives; Bill Dorsey, vectors; and Tom Davis, Introduction to Group Theory.

Meetings were scheduled weekly in members' homes. Hosts in addition to Brown, Davis and Dorsey included George Banks, Gary Martin, Bruce Hanson, Valerie Budig and group secretary Joyce Kobayashi.

The students expect to continue their stimulating "for fun" programs next summer.