Jamaican education group visits SU

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For the next three weeks, Southern University will host 46 members of a special Jamaican delegation visiting here to learn about improving education.

The project is sponsored by the Jamaican and U.S. governments and Southern University, and is in the second year of its three-year run, said Sue Creary, spokesman for the project.

Included among those visiting the Southern campus are government officials, primary school teachers, retired teachers, school board members, police officers and businessmen, Creary said.

He said the Jamaicans are seeking assistance primarily in two areas - textbook distribution and vandalism prevention.

The textbooks now used in Jamaica do not withstand the rigors of the classroom and Jamaican officials want to look at the type of book used in the United States, Creary said.

Vandalism has hit three school areas on the outskirts of urban areas in Jamaica, Creary said. Officials there have found that poor families are raiding the schools to improve their own living conditions, he said.

Southern, at one time had a severe vandalism problem, Creary said, and Jamaican officials want to see how the university solved it.

They want to better the public relations in the community and get more of the community involved with the schools, Creary said.

Jamaica emphasizes primary education to age 14, Creary said. "You either go to school or to jail."

Video use for archaeological data is topic of Schwing talk

An expert on the use of video to store and retrieve archaeological and historical information will present this year's 57th LSU Ella V. Schwing Library Lecture.

Ching-chih Chen, professor and associate dean of the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College in Boston, Mass., will talk at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in Hill Memorial Library on "Interactive Videodisc Technology and the First Emperor of China."

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Chen will discuss her "Project Emperor-1," an internationally known, multidisciplined project that employs the latest in videodisc technology to present and interpret a major period of China's past.

The new technology uses numbers to copy and store images in a computer. The images can then be retrieved on command and shown on screen.

The first emperor of China reigned from 220 to 211 B.C. During the 15-year period, he completed the Great Wall, instituted use of a written alphabet, unified China's numerous warring states and built a great tomb near Xian.

The latter project is the major focus of the lecture, and numerous life-sized pottery figures from the tomb will be shown.