

Competition Spring Fever

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It's second semester, and students from most other high schools are preparing for graduation, prom, and spring break. Here at Science and Math, it is a completely different story. Instead, springtime is a time of intensive academic competitions. For many second semester seniors there will be no reprieve from academic extracurricular activities. The academic competition season is just getting revved up and as usual, NCSSMers are caught in the thick of it.

"The weekend of Furman, I had a big paper due. Instead I went to Furman. It was a great experience. It gave me an opportunity to chill with fellow math geeks," said Chris Waite-Jones about his experience at the Furman Wylie math competition.

In just the months of

January through March, many competitions have already taken place, including the Science Olympiad, Duke Bowl, Mathematical Contest in Modeling, College of Charleston, and Furman.

It has been a very busy spring. This year, on a single weekend, NCSSM sent two teams per competition in three separate academic competitions to represent Science and Math. On the day of the Valentine's Day dance, many of the students from S&M were as far away as Greensboro or even South Carolina. All six teams did well in each of the competitions.

The Science Olympiad team participated at the regional competition held at Guilford College. Students who were on the team prepared for events extending across a broad range of scientific disciplines including chemistry, physics, astrono-

my, and engineering events. Thirty NCSSM students split into two teams and drove down to Greensboro to compete in half a day of science events against other high schools across North Carolina. The NCSSM team qualified for the state competition at NCSU following Spring Break, and will be sending a team of 15 students.

However, it has not been all glory. Meng Mao expressed his disappointment over his team's work in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling.

"It was pretty grueling even though I got up late every day. On the night of the next to last day, we discovered a fatal flaw in our work, so I stayed up until 3 am working to fix it. The next day, we realized we had an even bigger error. Even so, it was still a great experience," said Meng. The MCM started at 8 am on Friday February 8,

and ended at 4 pm Monday February 11. Three teams of three from Science and Math holed themselves up in Watts, not to reappear until the competition was over. NCSSM has a reputation to uphold in the Math Modeling contest; currently, NCSSM is ranked second in the nation in the number of Outstanding solutions, behind Harvey-Mudd College.

Even now it is not over, and students are getting ready for a second round of competitions. Science Olympiad members are studying hard for the coming State competition in hopes of becoming one of two teams representing North Carolina at the National Science Olympiad competition. In addition, the Quiz Bowl team held biweekly practices in the library conference rooms in preparation for the Quiz Bowl competition on March 23 in Luisburg, the day of prom.

How Did We Do

Charleston Math Competition

1st place, Physics

Brainstorming – Matt Fisher, Chris Morano, Ben Pahl, and Igor Gorodezky

3rd place, Computer

Programming – Matt Fisher, Jadrian Miles, and Chris Morano

1st place, Level III – Paul Wrayno

3rd place, Level III – Jonathan Winn

1st place, Level III team – Morgan Brown, Jadrian Miles, Jonathan Winn, and Paul Wrayno

2nd place, Chemistry sprints

Sumit Kadakia

Duke College Bowl

NCSSM A – (7-3) to consolation round finals

NCSSM B – (3-4) to second round of the consolation round playoffs

Both – (6-0) against NC teams, highest scoring NC teams

Furman Wylie Math Tournament

Overall – 4th place

Individual – 1st place, Paul Wrayno

Science Olympiad

Varsity – 5th in the varsity category

Junior Varsity – 1st in the JV category, 3rd overall

Mathematical Contest in Modeling

One Outstanding, one Honorable Mention, and one Successful Participant

Ethical Awareness

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dents in charge of judging honor violations and recommending disciplinary action.

Along with writing the Declaration of Character, EAG has been very active in raising ethical awareness among students, faculty, and administration. They sponsored the lecture by Anthony Weston, author of *A Practical Companion to Ethics*, and orchestrated the ethics themed schedule of the January 21 Alt-Day, which included an SL101 activity for juniors and a speaker for seniors.

EAG also recently spoke at the Faculty Council, and frequently meets with Dr. Warshaw, along with faculty advisors within each subcommittee.

Over the extended weekend in January, eight group members went to Boca Raton, Florida, for a conference with other schools that have or are forming honor codes. David Gould, author of an extensive book on honor codes, gave tips at the conference. While there, the group has not considered implementing a rat clause in the Declaration but rather addresses honor as defined by the individual. This clause states that any person knowing of an honor code violation must report it.

The faculty and administration seem very supportive of the idea of an honor code, while the student body is



EAG

Anthony Weston, author of *A Practical Companion to Ethics*, speaks to students at an EAG-sponsored lecture.

divided on the issue. The goal for this year is simply to raise awareness; an attempt to implement an honor system will take place next year.

So how will all of this affect daily life at NCSSM?

The answer is not much, at first. It may take years, but the Ethical Awareness Group is striving to improve our learning and living environment by confirming the student body's ethical values.

GOT BLOOD?

Participate in
NCSSM's Blood Drive!

Volunteer your blood on Wednesday,
May 1 from 2-7:30 at school. You must
be at least 17 years-old and more than
110 lbs to participate. E-mail Kristen
Drum or Dawnelle Pierce to sign up.



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Student Fee

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the school community aware of this issue before their vote.

Ultimately, the students still feel that they were led to believe that this was a Student Activity Fee meant for extracurricular activities. They have seen it turn into a general Student Fee, for all-purpose use.

In fact, Alex Baranpuria, Student Body President, thinks that SGA's recommending vote (actually 12:10 against) would have had a stronger majority if SGA members had been informed of the tentative budget for the Student Fee.

Furthermore, there have been queries regarding the legalities of a student fee. During a meeting with legal counsel Sandy Rothschild, she guided us through the convoluted legal labyrinth that legitimizes the Student Fee.

It concludes: "[The Board of Trustees] may adopt such other policies and regulations as it may consider necessary and expedient for the operation and management of the affairs of the School."

Presently, most people

agree that there is no changing the Board's decision. It seems that the only influence left for the student body is as a recommending body regarding the division of the funds.

At the most recent SGA meeting, Mr. Litle keenly observed that this budget is a direct reproduction of the Parent's Fund budget; this is only an additional source to

supplement the Fund.

Dr. Boarman has agreed to take student input into

consideration so long as it is "based on actual usage and need, not emotion." He points out that "the students don't control the budget."

Suggestions and comments about student needs were taken at the speak-out. SGA will be conducting another school-wide survey in order to discover the needs and wants of the students.

"Dr. Boarman observes that an underlying principle in this dissent is the trust, or lack thereof, in the office of the Executive Director."