

Livin' it Up: Summer 2004

JEFF TANG

Time 'til Graduation: 29 days, 21 hours, 7 minutes, 6 seconds. For the seniors it meant 29 days until freedom from the school and the beginning of something new and exciting, the college journey. For the juniors, it meant 29 days until a peaceful rest, devoid of homework, tests, and sleepless days. And then, poof! Summer came, as if unexpected, like a little kid who sneaks up to you and pulls down your pants. And just as quickly, summer left, and so here is a glimpse of how we've spent it, this period of such high anticipation and longing.

For Kevin Tsui, Class of 2004, summer meant traveling abroad for a couple of months. He was glad to visit China and Hong Kong for a month this summer as a

break from two years of hard work at NCSSM. "We saw Huangshan, Hong Kong, and Taishan, but the majority of the time was spent in Hong Kong. There, I visited family friends, saw some historical sights, and went shopping a lot. I loved Hong Kong. It's very fast-paced and large city, suitable for everybody. If you don't like shopping, go eat. I miss Hong Kong." But after his vacation

escape to China, Kevin had to return for C-TOPS, UNC Chapel Hill's orientation program.

For senior Zach Long, summer meant fun in

the sun in Honolulu, Hawaii from June 10th to August 9th. "Waikiki is a great place, shopping open till 10 o'clock p.m. and then walking along

Though it doesn't sound very exciting to be doing community service on vacation, where would be better than in Hawaii?



Kevin Tsui's family

the beach under the moonlight. I've been doing my community service at the Hawaiian Humane Society as well. It's computer work, lots of data input and phone calls."

Nick Cook, a fellow senior, spent two weeks of his summer in Greece and Italy. "I managed to have fun; Rome was nice, but the hotel was horrible. I preferred the less-populated areas of Italy, like Capri. Rome is also steeped in history, but it's very crowded. I had the best pizza I've ever eaten in Florence. There I had a very odd tour guide, an old devoutly Catholic lady who cursed us the whole time for being late. She was quick though, an obvious veteran at the art of

darting through crowds at lightning speed. I liked the parts of Greece that weren't Athens, such as the Gulf of Corinth." To finish his summer, he made his yearly visit to Maine where he once lived. "We visit Maine for an extended period of time every summer that we don't go to the UK. We normally fly up, but as I want to use the chance to visit New England universities, we drove up and stopped along the way in Princeton and Cambridge."

There we have it, a look into three students' summers. One thing to notice is the balance of fun with work, as all three had relaxation mixed with academic work or community service. It seems like summer met its hype after all. Well, except for those of us who are toiling over summer to write Stentorian articles for you, that is.

Top Secret Summer Research: no secret anymore!

KRISTOPH KLEINER AND YING LIU

June 14th, 2004: A strange phenomenon was observed in the greater Durham area. Science and Mathers were walking, crawling, and riding short buses to various universities around the Triangle to conduct top secret research. Twelve students grew bacteria, isolated DNA, and computed complex algorithms during an intense two to three week session. Who are they and what did they do? We're letting the secret out.

Biology Folks:

Five students, funded by GlaxoSmithKline, carried out

research under the supervision of Dr. Amy Sheck. Andy AbuMoussa investigated the immune system response of mice to intense light or sound by extracting blood. Rebecca Woltz observed the response of butterflies after a change in their phenotypes. Brittney Wiggins researched the anxiety response of male mice when food or females were introduced. Kristoph Kleiner studied the correlation of termite social behavior and the genetics between termite colonies. Amanda Mason investigated speciation in *Mimulus guttatus* and *Mimulus nasutus*. Not only did students develop strong research skills, but they also gained experience in handling

mice, catching reluctant butterflies, and riding in cars with Dr. Sheck.

Chemistry Folks:

Claire Reddy and Jingjing Gao looked at the dispersion of carbon nanotubes after using different preparation methods under an scanning electron microscope. Ryan Neely investigated the effect of carbon dioxide on trees in Duke Forest. Ying Liu and Jeff Hu researched the effect on inactivation in *E. coli* K-12 after exposure to UVC and ascorbic acid. Some chemistry people conducted more research off campus at A&T and UNC-Charlotte. Not only did they also gain knowledge not necessarily related to chemistry, they also lost

weight by walking an hour to Duke to catch the bus every morning.

Physics Folks:

Nobody but Nick Cook and Lee Ricketson and maybe Nick's grandpa really understands what they did for three-weeks. We are under the impression that they spent a lot of time drawing random diagrams and funny pictures on the whiteboards of the physics department. In their free time, they simulated nuclear reactions in a supernova using a theoretical computer model. They dealt with the abundance of rare heavy elements produced in the explosion through neutron capture. Apparently they made a very significant breakthrough, but

we just can't explain what it is right now. Maybe later.

Overall, everyone had a fun three or so weeks. After an exhausting day of research, what did Science and Mathers do? They bugged their SLIs to take them off campus. So the time was spent on Franklin St. drinking coffee, on 9th st. drinking coffee, and every where else drinking coffee. We learned that research is hard work, boring at times (for some people, like Kristoph, not me, because we had to run after *E. coli*), but very rewarding. It was a memorable three weeks full of new knowledge like algorithms are for sale and mocha has chocolate in it.

TLAs

light the diversity of the school through programs, festivals, and discussions.

PCC- Peer College Counselor- These students are here to help you get into college. They collect scholarship information and arrange for college representatives to visit NCSSM.

SGA- Student Government Association- They meet weekly during Wednesday common lunch to plan festivities and lobby for your needs.

There are both officers and residence hall representatives, but anyone can attend the meetings.

SLI- Student Life Instructor- Each residence hall has one

adult who helps facilitate hall activities and meetings and in some instances act in a

PLACES:

PFM- Professional Food Management. It is the name of a previous food service provider (1999-2000).

When you run out of ramen or are in a hurry, this is your source of sustenance.

PEC- Charles R. Eilber Physical Education Center - Home to the racquetball courts, workout rooms, dance studio, and

pumping iron next to your math teacher, but you will get used to it. The rock climbing, located in the wrestling room, is usually open on Saturdays. School dances and lock-ins are also held in this building.

ETC- John Friedrich Educational Technology Center- Home of the music rooms, lecture hall, auditorium, wet lab, student center, woolworth room, dry lab, e-lab, and distance learning offices. Just like at Hogwarts, the third floor corridor is off limits to anyone who does not wish to suffer a most painful death.

BBR- Bryan, Beall, and Reynolds- Home of the aforementioned residence halls, the library, the PFM, as well as science and English classrooms.



Kristoph Kleiner gymnasium

parental role. SLIs also teach the student life course in which juniors learn about such intriguing topics as drugs, diversity, and leadership.

CAROLINE SAUL

Here at Science and Math we may be smart, but we can get a little lazy with our linguistics. Instead of using the entirety of a phrase, title, or building, we usually refer to it by its TLA, three letter acronym. To abate any confusion that may arise from the usage of TLAs, here is a glossary of frequently used TLAs.

PEOPLE:

RLA- Resident Life Assistant- Most halls have two seniors who plan hall activities, take check, check housekeeping, and help perplexed juniors.

MPC- Multi-Cultural Peer Counselors- serve a dual role on campus; they counsel individuals and groups who seek their help and strive to high-