

the stentorian

the north carolina school of science and mathematics 1219 broad street, durham nc 27705

vol. XXVI, issue 3

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December 2005

Julie Brown says goodbye to NCSSM

BY SARA WISE

A painting entitled "House Hopping" hangs on the wall in the office of Julie Brown, instructor of biology.

The painted frogs jumping from house to house represent the ever-changing life of Brown, who will resign her position at NCSSM in order to move to Charlotte over winter break. Brown decided to make the move when her husband was offered a job working for Habitat for Humanity in Charlotte.

Brown will be leaving her

position as a biology teacher. Over the past three and a half years, Brown has taught environmental science, evolution, anatomy and physiology, and forensics at NCSSM.

"It has been great. I have become a much better teacher. The students here always challenge me and ask good questions," Brown said.

Brown has taught community colleges in North Carolina and Connecticut, but she considers her teaching experiences at NCSSM particularly unique.

"Teaching at a residential

school has been much more demanding. It takes a lot of time. I almost feel like I live here too. I feel much more involved and invested in the lives of students," Brown said.

Although Brown will be leaving NCSSM, she will be taking handfuls of memories with her.

"I'm going to miss Air Band so much. I love it. I remember my first year here, one of the groups consisted of a bunch of guys wearing nothing but fig leaves," said Brown.

Seniors may remember her appearance as a prancing uni-

corn from last year's Air Band. However, most students will recognize her absence from the classroom, not from the year-end celebrations.

"She was so wonderful. I really loved her energy and her enthusiasm. She was always well prepared and she made learning fun. And she's a really nice person even outside of class. She was always willing to help me whenever I needed it. I'll definitely miss her a lot," senior Peggy McKay said.

Students who have Brown for second trimester will re-

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Physics floor will miss Angelina Winborne

BY BEN BOGARDUS

Physics teacher Angelina Winborne left NCSSM at the end of the first trimester to move to Huntsville, Alabama.

Winborne taught General Physics, Physics with Advanced Topics, and robotics courses at NCSSM for a total of ten years. She supervised a vast array of mini-terms, often corresponding with Mr. Liles in the art department. Her favorite course to teach is optics, and she has a large interest in Relativity and Nuclear Physics.

"Mrs. Winborne was great," said one student. "She had a good sense of humor as long as you followed her rules," said another.

Teaching came naturally to Mrs. Winborne.

"Some things just happen to you," she said. Before coming to NCSSM, she was a teacher at catechism, where she played guitar and sang to small children, in addition to arts and crafts.

She became interested in teaching Physics as an undergraduate when she applied for work study at the University of Mississippi. She wrote a lab manual that is still in use today.

Winborne has long been a fan of cooking and gardening, both of which she said she liked "before they were cool." She also likes to engineer rocks, say-

ing "I like to build stone walls with rocks that weigh at least a hundred pounds." Her numerous pets include five cats and a horse named Dancer

Of the six schools Winborne taught at, she said that NCSSM stands out as a residential campus where every person that is here wants to be here, even if, as she put it, they "moan about work you give them." She said "people here have a sense of community that you just don't find at normal public schools."

Some students said that their favorite part of her class

was the eccentric way in which she concocted problems. One student said that, with reference to a D-V-A-T problem, she said "We're dropping (a n o n y m o u s s t u d e n t) off a

"I like to build stone walls with rocks that weigh at least a hundred pounds."
-Angelina Winborne

building today."

She said that she is "not kidding" that students are the best part of teaching at NCSSM. Her teaching colleagues have been like a family to her, a professional world that still seems very close. "Part of a family is being dysfunctional," she said, with a small chuckle and a tear in her eye.

For her, there are too many memories to count at the school. She said that she has high expectations for the future of NCSSM. When asked whether she would return, she said "Oh sure, you can't get rid of me that easily."



Peggy McKay, Jessica Hanson, and Margaret Yim get in the Mardi Gras spirit at LSMISA in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Students give money, receive ideas at LSMISA

BY SARA WISE

Nine members of the NCSSM community embarked on a journey to Natchitoches, Louisiana to visit the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts for several days of sharing and learning. Students Peggy McKay, Margaret Yim, Jessica Hanson, Shelby Currier, Jake Reardon, Chris Calascione, and Max Rose left in the evening hours of Wednesday, November 30th, along with Student Life Instructors Sue Anne Lewis and Allison van den Berg.

The journey, which is depicted by the students in several online journals, got off to a rough start. When their mini-bus suffered several mechanical problems, they were required to spend the night in a Charlotte hotel until they got a new bus.

After departing early the following morning, the students and SLIs continued their journey into the Deep South,

witnessing giant peaches in South Carolina, sitting in traffic jams in Georgia, and enduring monotony in Alabama.

Finally, the students arrived at LSMISA in the early hours of Friday morning, greeted by their hospitable hosts. After a short night's sleep, the NCSSM students delved right into student life, taking classes such as genetics, microbiology, English, and theatre.

In the afternoon, they presented a check for over \$3,000 to LSMISA. That amount was raised by NCSSM students through the Mardi Gras celebration to support the students of LSMISA who were displaced by hurricane Katrina.

Shelby Currier was able to learn

LSMISA continued on page 2

Six named Siemens semi-finalists

BY VICTOR LIEU

Six NCSSM students were named semifinalists in the Siemens - Westinghouse Competition, with one advancing to the regional finals.

Suman Medda advanced to the regional finals at Georgia Tech, with his project on coordination complexes.

Medda, a Research in Chemistry student, had plenty of research experience prior to entering Siemens. He and his teammates placed first in last year's NASA NSIP Space Flight Opportunities Program.

Medda completed his Siemens project over the summer in the Escrow Program at UNC - Charlotte. He said that he spent over 400 hours working on his lab research alone.

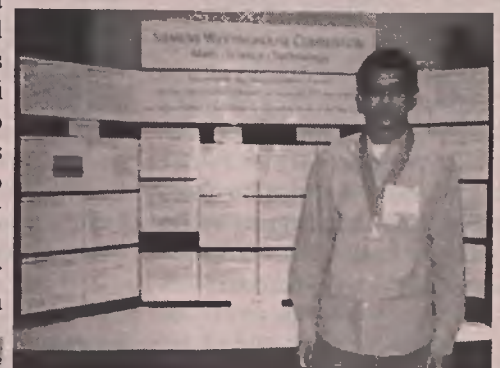
"You have to be able to stick with it," Medda said. "You have to be prepared to delve into something that's new and that you're interested in."

Seniors Katie Cheng, David Rhoden, Toan Tran-Phu, Calvin Young, and Kevin Chen were the other semifinalists chosen to participate in this national competition recognizing achievement in student research in Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

Chen did a project on Recombinant DNA. With no prior experience, he simply contacted a professor at UNC - Greensboro in order to get involved with research.

"I took embryology and I got interested in molecular genetics. I e-mailed [Dr. John Tomkiel] at UNCG and he just took me in," Chen said.

Although Medda did not advance to the national finals, these students have continued an NCSSM tradition of doing well in the Siemens-Westinghouse competition. Last year's first place winners in the national competition were NCSSM seniors Xianlin Li and Lucie Guo.



Medda with his Siemens presentation