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Changes for School Year

By Edina Wang

Continuing their work from end of the last school year, SG is planning and working on many proposals and ideas.

Positions for this year's executive cabinet and judicial branch of SG have been filled in the 2006-2007 school year. The legislative branch, which includes the nominated senators that have been appointed heads of various committees, will be joined by four junior senators and seven dormitory senators.

Through the school's new membership with UNCASG, the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments, a group of SG members attended a House session in Raleigh to show support for House Bill 893, which would provide for a student vote on the UNC Board of Governors. It had passed in the House and is now awaiting Senate approval. SG plans to send out a letter to students on what it means for the school to be an UNC constituent, the extra benefits, as well as responsibilities the school has to uphold.

SG is currently in the negotiation phase of designing a Discount Card. The idea is to include discounts for several 9th St./Broad St. restaurants and shops, encouraging students explore Durham during the first few months of school.

"So far it's looking pretty good. Next, I'll have to negotiate what the discount will be," said Andrew Ngo, Treasurer.

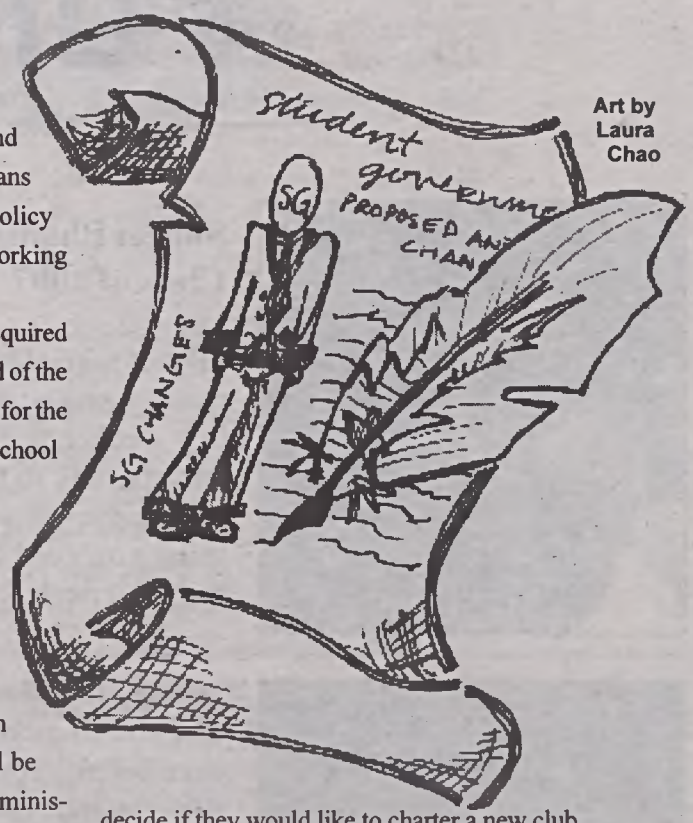
A new policy created this year of no late night invites will be addressed by Kim Vuong, Senator and head of the Student Life Committee. Vuong plans to write a proposal to negotiate around the new policy and said, "I'm definitely looking forward to working on the residential life committee."

Just as proliferate, Senator Zach DelaRosa acquired the school's budget first thing after becoming head of the Technology Committee. "I'll be looking over this for the next two weeks. Is it financially possible for the school to conserve more?" speculated DelaRosa.

DelaRosa is also on the subcommittee that will address one of the issues many students have wanted to change: getting internet access back after 12 pm. The subcommittee, Learning and Living Task Force, was created by the administration. The committee's members, which include SG Senators DelaRosa and Vuong, will be the ones deciding on this issue and not the administration. DelaRosa mentions his first shot will be for internet access until 1a.m.

DelaRosa is also working on an energy audit, looking for ways to conserve energy. For the future Discovery Center, Chancellor Jerald Boarman has approved for it to be as environmentally-friendly as possible.

Besides working on proposals, SG is sponsoring upcoming activities Club Fair and T-shirt Signing Dance, which will occur on Saturday, August 25th. Ngo mentions that students will have a couple of days after Club Fair to decide if they would like to charter a new club.



Art by Laura Chao

In a flow chart sent to juniors depicting SG branches, SG stated that its purpose is to advocate what is in the best interests of the Student Body and represent their interests.

DelaRosa mentions, "I like the transition of open communication between the administration and student government. Our school is developing more friendly terms with the administration. Most schools don't have that."

Students Leading in Science and Technology

Thirteen NCSSM students spend two weeks exploring, learning at RENCI Summer Program

By Laura Chao

This past summer, thirteen NCSSM students led the way by exploring technology and taking part in the first Renaissance Computing Institute Summer Program (RENCI). A cooperative, statewide virtual venture of North Carolina State University, UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University, the Renaissance Computing Institute is active in creating and working with cutting edge computing, networking, and data technologies. This summer was the first time RENCI accepted NCSSM students for a summer program.

The thirteen students, applied and selected, spent a week at RENCI headquarters exploring new technology and key concepts in biology, chemistry, electronics, robotics and computer science. NCSSM students attended advanced lectures led by RENCI scientists, developers, researchers and engineers. Afterwards, the skills and knowledge learned in the lectures were put to the test by focusing on real-world problems.

"The theme for RENCI this year was 'disaster management'. The first week I learned about using various computer programs for chemistry and biology. The second week, my group worked on team case studies and modeled a chemical spill," said senior Melanie Fan, "Throughout the two weeks we had many guest speakers and traveled to places like IBM, Duke, and RTI."

Students concentrated on chemistry and biology to identify chemical nerve agents, and focused on computing and technology used in disaster management.

> "I learned a lot of new things... really exposed me to what their careers consist of and the road they took to get where they are today." - **Melanie Fan**

"The focus of the program was split into two groups -- one that focused on building a robot that would seek and spray out fires, and another that worked on creating a mock bio-terror attack. We were introduced to a ton of software over the two weeks, which we incorporated into our final presentation," said senior Ray Wang.

Participants in the program gained invaluable knowledge of sophisticated technology that is beyond the scope of the normal high school curriculum. Special university and industry days were planned as an addition to the program and the NCSSM students were introduced to various career and academic opportunities.

"We were the first group, so a lot of stuff wasn't the most well-thought out," said Wang, "but I did learn a lot about random software. There was a lot of information."

Graduating NCSSM students may one day lead in the fields promoted and represented by the RENCI Summer Program.

"I would definitely recommend this summer program to NCSSM students interested in learning how technology can be applied to science and about the various careers available in a science-related field. I learned a lot of new things, especially from the guest speakers. They really exposed me to what their careers consist of and the road they took to get where they are today," said Fan.

For the time being, juniors should stay on the look out for this and many other worthwhile summer opportunities.

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