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AN INTRODUCTION TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NCSSM AND UNC-CHAPEL HILL COOPERATE TO PRESENT STUDENTS WITH NEW OPPORTUNITY

BY LAURA CHAO

An exciting new opportunity is available for NCSSM students entering the fall trimester. Through the cooperation of UNC-Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School and NCSSM's Academic Programs, a new course "Introduction to Entrepreneurship" (ECON 325) is available for juniors and seniors interested in tapping into their own entrepreneurial ability.

The introductory course is designed to replicate the activities of real-life entrepreneurs in the launch stage of a new endeavor. Randy Myer, an entrepreneurial professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, will come one night per week to instruct NCSSM students on the entrepreneurship process, and promote innovative applications through simulated activities based upon successful precedents.

"There is a mandate from Erskine Bowles to expand this idea of entrepreneurship within the university system and to all North Carolina schools," said Tom Clayton, Director of Aca-

dem Programs, "I do believe that we are the first connection between the university system and North Carolina secondary schools. We are definitely part of the first wave."

NCSSM students enrolled in the night course will be placed in teams to evaluate a new idea and determine the demand their product, or service, generates. The course aims to provide students a general understanding of innovation and how to acquire funding for launching a new venture as well as cultivate the ability to recognize competitive opportunity. NCSSM students in the course will learn to evaluate their own entrepreneurial traits and skills through the creation their own commercial venture. Students who generate an innovative, feasible concept may even have the opportunity to bring their idea to realization through Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative's Launching the Venture Program.

"The Launch program [and the new course] is aimed to encourage more activity, like the pursuits of the founders of Motricity [from NCSSM], among students and young

entrepreneurs," said Clayton.

The Launch program is a joint initiative within UNC which consists of lectures, workshops, lab sessions, and professional coaching that aim to help aspiring teams of entrepreneurs develop business plans and launch tactic. The program has already helped launch more than 20 successful, real ventures and will be open to all NCSSM faculty, staff, and students this fall.

"I think [Introduction to Entrepreneurship] will be an incredible class and I'm really looking forward to it," said senior Morgan Skiperdene, "This presents a lot of possibilities and I'm excited to be a part of it."

This new connection between NCSSM and UNC-Chapel Hill has much to offer and will remain a continuing venture for succeeding classes of students. Perhaps, one day, this program will beget a Fortune 500 concept. The possibilities are endless, and NCSSM students are the innovators - leading the way and accepting the greater challenge.

Ongoing School Security Changes

BY EDINA WANG

Many students have noticed the intercoms and paging system around campus or have heard it being tested on Friday of the recent extended. These new developments were installed this summer and are part of a currently two-phase plan for security updates.

The security changes seen at school this year are a continuation of an earlier project of upgrading to electronic access doors that occurred six years ago. Before the electronic access system, students used ID cards that had a computer chip in the card. "The problem was that they easily cracked or broke," said Harry Tucker, Director of Campus Resources and Security. "To replace, it cost \$8.00 a piece while the fob is \$4.00 a piece."

As a continuation of an earlier project, part of the present plans include combining the currently two-part electronic access system to just one system. "It is a matter of the older security system, basically like computers, can become outdated," Chancellor Gerald Boarman said.

Events that may have raised security questions on NCSSM campus and other school campuses only proved to be an additional impetus for increased security. "Out of every tragedy, something good happens. Virginia Tech wasn't the reason, but it didn't hurt our cause," Tucker said. "Ever since I've been here, I've wanted a paging system."

The new intercom and paging system is only the first phase of the security changes and will be finished by mid-November. Tucker said that there is no intention to use intercoms and the paging system for anything other than emergencies such as weather-related or neighborhood-related emergencies.

The new public address system is also an extension to the siren, which is located on the top of the ETC. According to Tucker, the siren is loud enough to be heard as far as Northgate Mall. However, the siren cannot notify the school exactly what is occurring, so people may not understand what is going on. "Currently, we don't have a way for you to immediately contact security," Boarman said. "Right now it is a one-way system."

Intercoms are going to be in all classrooms and the paging system in all hallways. The intercom and paging system will allow for two-way communication between security and people in the classrooms. "Let's say we have a tornado come through. Even though

we may have a siren, you need to know it is an emergency. We will be able to give you directions on what to do," Boarman said.

For the second phase of the project, the main installment will be cameras. Cameras will be placed at every entrance leading to the exterior. A Pan Tilt Zoom Camera will be able to cover the entire parking lot. These cameras will serve as an investigative tool. "Cameras will show who did what, when they did it and what door they went through," Tucker said.

Also part of the second phase, a minimum of six and a maximum of 10 blue light emergency telephones will be placed strategically all over campus, so that students may call at any given time. The second phase will begin in mid-December to early January and should be finished by the end of school year.

Additionally, Hunt dormitory will have sprinklers, as it is the only dorm that currently does not have sprinklers. This installment will be completed by end of summer. "All of our dorms will be rated well in terms of fire safety," Boarman said.

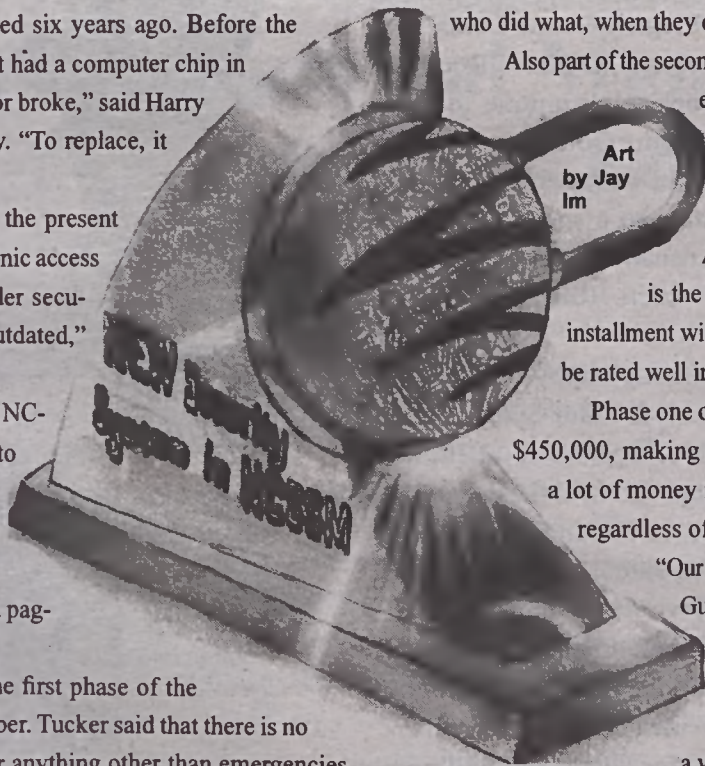
Phase one of the project will cost \$500,000 and phase two will cost \$450,000, making the entire project nearly one million dollars. "It is not a lot of money if one person is lost or hurt. My position is safety first, regardless of the cost," Boarman said.

"Our system is designed to add things to it," Tucker added. Lobby Guard, a visitor tracking system, may be a future addition to Bryan Desk. Costing about \$4,000-\$5,000, this addition will complement what the school already has. Visitors will have their driver's license scanned, their pictures taken and a visitor's pass printed out that will track the visitor.

"I look forward to seeing these safety measures implemented and insuring that the students will have a safe place to attain an education," said senior Nicole Negbenebor, a member of the Personal Safety Branch of the Safety Task Force, which proposes ways of providing the optimal safe environment for the NCSSM community.

"We are on the cutting edge for technology on the system. Hopefully others will use us as a model," Tucker said.

Tucker suggested that perhaps one day, to eliminate the need of a key and decrease theft, students at NCSSM can even fob into their rooms like people can swipe cards into hotel rooms.



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