

## Boy bands increasing in popularity

BY: ROSALIA PREISS

We all know the popular boy bands of the 90s- N\*SYNC, the Backstreet Boys, Hanson, Boyz II Men, New Kids On The Block. Throughout this period, boy bands were dominating the charts of popular music.

However, for the past few years, all male teen groups have not been as plentiful as they used to be. But don't worry boy band fans- 2012 has brought a promising crop of new groups.

In the past year, many new boy bands have risen to stardom. Bands like TV's Big Time Rush, The Wanted, and the X-Factor darlings One

monogrammed caps and red and black outfits. One Direction members Zayn Malik and Harry Styles are well known for their memorable hairdos. The Wanted, also a product of Britain, target a somewhat more mature audience with both their edgy style and music.

While boy bands are often thought of as targeted towards teenage girls, the new generation is working towards branching out to other groups as well.

Though Big Time Rush is a product of kid's TV network Nickelodeon, a fan at their Durham show expressed

While boy bands may not be popular with everyone, their impact on popular music is astounding. One Direction was the first British group to ever to go straight to the top of US music charts with their debut album, a record not even held by internationally popular group, the Beatles, spurring many comparisons of the two groups.

While it isn't likely that most of these groups will leave a legacy as great as the Beatles, it is impossible to deny their talent. Every member of One Direction, The Wanted, and Big Time Rush had extensive



Courtesy of One Direction

Direction have hopped up the popular charts and blown up Top 40 radio all across America.

Style is a huge part of boy bands. Back in the 90s, groups like the Backstreet Boys defined fashion with color-coordinated outfits and bleached, spiked, highly styled hair.

The boy bands of today are no different. During their concert, Big Time Rush wowed the crowd with their

happiness that she "wasn't the only 21 year old there!" Through their more adult themes in their music, The Wanted started out with an older age group of fans.

And while One Direction's first album, *Up All Night*, was a perfect example of pure pop, a recent interview with *Rolling Stone* magazine stated that the boys were going for "more of a rock n' roll vibe" on their upcoming album.

training in vocal music before being placed together in various competitions.

Most of all, the boys are just excited to be liked. "The fans are a dream come true" said Styles. Band mate Niall Horan says he's "over the moon" about the band's rising success in America. And while the trend of boy bands may not last forever, their influence on modern pop music certainly will.



The class of 2012, NCSSM's 30th graduating class, will proudly walk across Watts Lawn on June 2, about a month away. Not only does NCSSM commencement feature a student speaker, but a keynote speaker is chosen as well. Robert A. Ingram is this year's commencement keynote speaker. As the former CEO of GlaxoSmithKline and a member of the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina, he can draw many parallels between his career and accomplishments with our experiences at NCSSM. Ingram is also a member of the Boards for the James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy and the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center. We look forward to welcoming Ingram onto campus in the near future.

Student body president Krupal Amin remarked, "I think his demonstrated passion for both science and service to humanity makes him an ideal speaker for our commencement. With the generosity of him and GlaxoSmithKline, our school has been able to offer lots of great opportunities: from the Glaxo lab we have in the biology department to various summer programs made possible with Glaxo's support. For an institution that prides itself in producing students who become state, national, and global leaders in STEM fields and innovators for the betterment of humankind; he serves as an exemplary role model because of all his accomplishments."

## TEDxNCSSM brings 'ideas worth sharing' to campus

BY: CARL YIN

A hundred people gathered at the Lecture Hall to attend TEDxNCSSM on Saturday, April 21. Four speakers from a wide array of specialties discussed their current research and ideas worth sharing.

The audience was selected to create a diverse atmosphere, and present were NCSSM students, students from local Durham high schools, local figures, NCSSM faculty and administration, and alumni.

The event was run by Dean of Science Amy Sheek and a committee consisting of NCSSM students.

The four speakers present are all current professors at Duke University, and have very different areas of expertise.

The first speaker, Dr.

William "Billy" Pizer, is an associate professor at the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy, specializing in environmental policy.

Pizer has worked with the U.S. Treasury as well as Resources for the Future (RFFF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to researching environmental and energy issues.

During his time at the RFFF, he drafted reports for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was a co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Pizer is also an NCSSM alumnus from the Class of 1986.

Pizer's TEDx talk focused on combating climate change in the future with environmental policy, dubbed "Climate

Change: What Do We Do Now?"

The next speaker was Dr. Robert Jackson, who is a professor of biology at Duke University. His research focuses on humankind's impact on the world, in regard to land and energy use.

Jackson currently is the Director of Duke's Stable Isotope Mass Spectrometry Laboratory and National Institute for Climate Change Research for the southeastern U.S. He gave a talk at TEDx about "Fracking and the Future of Gas".

Afterwards spoke Dr. Amy Schmid from the Duke Biology department. She is currently an assistant professor specializing in genomics and cell biology.

Schmid's research

centers on archaeobacteria and their ability to survive in extreme conditions. Schmid is a past Fulbright scholar, and was a senior scientist at the Institute, before becoming an assistant professor at Duke University.

Schmid presented the talk "Surviving the Outer Limits: Life in Saturated Salt."

The last speaker was Dr. Arlie O. Petters, a professor of mathematics, physics, and business administration at Duke University. Petters was born from a poor town in coastal Belize, and emigrated to the U.S. in his early teenage years.

Petters is a symbol of educational success in Belize, and is extremely involved in the Belizean community.

A few years ago, he built

the Petters Research Institute to help train young Belizeans in science, mathematics, and technology.

Petters' research has focused on the mathematical theory of gravitational lensing, and has won many awards for his pioneering work in this field.

Petters gave the talk "Is there a fifth dimension?", which explained the brane-world theory which suggests a fifth dimension.

Overall, the TEDx event was a great success. The event was the first TEDx event hosted by a high school in North Carolina. There is discussion about these TEDx events becoming an annual event for the school, and it is widely hoped that TEDxNCSSM will continue on next year.