

the  stentorian

vol. XXXII, issue 5

north carolina school of science and mathematics

february 2013

stentorian@ncssm.edu

# Students culturally enriched on MLK Day

By JUNGSU HONG

NCSSM students commemorated the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan. 21, 2013, through a myriad of activities on and off campus, such as learning about diversity and giving back to the community.

Each American chooses to celebrate and commemorate this day in myriad ways, but at NCSSM, students had a schedule filled with events in honor of MLK.

These events included movies, volunteer opportunities, yoga, discussions, performances, and a guest speech in the afternoon to end the day's events.

Some students enjoyed watching and gaining cultural awareness through movies such as *Crash*, *Changeling*, and *Red Tails*.

"I watched *Crash*," said senior Rosalia Preiss, "and I had never seen it before so I decided to watch it and it was really a lot more powerful than I thought it would be.... It brought up a lot of racial tensions that people don't usually like to bring up, and it showed how dangerous racial stereotyping can end up being."

"It showed the bigger ends of racialism and the smaller assumptions based on race. Everyone faces discrimination, and people will often bend things to fill stereotypes that they think will fit people."

Others went on volunteer excursions off-campus.

Some volunteering opportunities included helping out at the MLK Birthday Celebration at Northgate Mall, working on a clean-up project at the Eno River,

making baked goods and cleaning at the Caring House of Durham, and helping out at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC or the United Way Durham County Signature Project.

The remaining students stayed on campus and had engaging discussions on topics such as diversity and music, diversity in social media, the life and impact of Martin Luther King Jr., yoga, and the Presidential Inauguration, which occurred on this special day.

"I thought MLK Day was good. I liked how they had various activities to choose from to either give back to the community or learn more about racism in the world," said junior Brittany Ledford.

In the afternoon, students came together in the auditorium to watch performances and listen to the guest speaker, Dr. Genna Rae McNeil, professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Gospel Choir sang spirited, soulful music and the NCSSM Orchestra played the fourth movement of Mendelssohn's "Reformation" Symphony.

Senior Jefferson Ridgeway also shared a special poem in

honor of MLK Day.

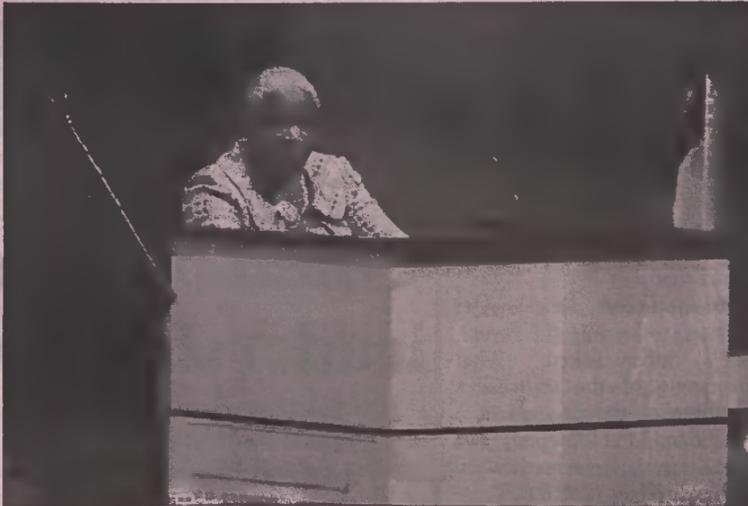
McNeil presented her speech in an engaging and unique way most students had never seen before. McNeil shared King's legacy through her engaging speech.

"I enjoyed how the speech was broken up into her talking and into students reading lines from what Martin Luther King said because it was interesting and related back to what she was saying," said junior Meredith Dorminey.

After the speech, the student body enjoyed performances from Latin America Fest and upcoming fests such as Africa and Asia Fest. Chancellor Todd Roberts concluded the day with a closing speech.

Martin Luther King Jr., well known for his "I have a Dream" speech, was an advocate of non-violent protest and leader in the movement to end racial segregation in the United States in the Civil Rights Movement from the mid-1900s until his assassination in 1968.

King became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The third Monday of January is set aside each year as a holiday to honor King. This holiday was first observed in 1986 and has been a tradition ever since.



Genna Rae McNeil speaks at MLK Day assembly Courtesy of NCSSM Livestream

# Common application to simplify senior leadership selections

By JAY BUCHANAN

Leadership coordinators at NCSSM decided at the start of the 2012-2013 school year that all departments would use a common application to make preliminary application decisions.

The leadership position selection season is one of the most heavily anticipated times of the year on the NCSSM campus, and the coordinators hope the new system will alleviate stress.

"We heard from students and even families saying that the collective amount of time students spent on multiple applications and the spread of the notification dates were both unpleasant," said Kevin Cromwell, Director of Student Services.

There will now be a common timeline and a common application.

The leadership positions using the new application system will be Student Ambassador, Residential Life Assistant, Multicultural Peer Counselor, Peer College Counselor, Institutional Advancement Attaché, LitCom Liaison, and Smart Bar staff.

All selection decisions will be released on April 23, making it easier for selected students to choose a position and for coordinators to finalize their work service lists.

"Being able to fill out one

common application for all of the positions a student is interested in will allow the student to minimize repetition and time spent on multiple applications so they can focus on the answers to each question," says Anna Shepherd, the Attaché coordinator in the Institutional Advancement office.

Each department with a position on the common application will provide supplements of their own and interviews for each position will still be unique to each program, but the

unified main application is expected to make things easier for applicants as well as those responsible for filing application documents. There will be no ranking of the positions available on the

new application, so students will hypothetically have the ability to apply for all seven positions available.

The leadership coordinators agree, though, that dedication will be as valuable in each process as ever.

"I would advise juniors not to just apply to each position because it is now easier to do so," said Admissions Counselor Robert Andrews, the coordinator of the Student Ambassador Application process. "Find a few positions that fit you and your skills, and put your heart and effort into

(Continued on page 2)

"I would advise juniors not to just apply to each position because it is now easier to do so," said Admissions Counselor Robert Andrews.

In this issue...



Ox and Rabbit beginnings p. 3



How to Succeed in Business p. 7