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NCSSM to host TEDx SG

update

By JUNGSU HONG

The third annual TEDxNCSSM conference will occur on Saturday, Jan. 18 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Modeled after TED talks, TEDxNCSSM allows students and professionals network and exchange information.

This year's theme is Puzzles, and students are encouraged to apply. The application is due 5 pm on Thursday, Dec. 12, and forty students will be selected by Dec. 18 to participate in this special event.

NCSSM is the first high school to host TEDx. Biology instructor Amy Sheck founded this event three years ago:

"The first year they did NC Science Festival, I said we can do a TEDx, which is a great event to do during Science Festival," says Sheck. "I thought it would be easy to do which was wrong, but as I thought it is engaging. I



The stage from last year's TEDx conference.

appreciate that it is a good way to give students opportunities to have organizational skills and meet the people they meet."

Fifteen NCSSM students have been planning with Sheck for TEDxNCSSM, organizing everything from food, guests, speakers, and music. "It is

like a wedding; we have four special guests, food for the wedding, and invitations for our distinguished guests."

There is a TEDx music contest hosted by the TEDxNCSSM music committee that is selecting music that will be played at for the conference on Jan. 18. Both past years

Courtesy of Zihui Yang

TEDxNCSSM has featured theme music by an NCSSM student. The TEDx NCSSM committee has also added an art contest to use art inspired by the TEDx conference.

One hundred guests will be invited to TEDxNCSSM including 20 distinguished guests, 20 faculty and staff, 40 NCSSM students, and 2 seats for non-NCSSM Durham area students.

"It's an interesting mix of people. Speakers are the main draw but they also meet people in the audience. Students have found mentors for the summer and year I would encourage people to come," says Sheck.

This year's speakers are Dr. Cheryl Woods Giscombe, Assistant Professor and research scientist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing-an NCSSM alum; Misha

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By KIM NGO

This past month, Student Government has been working on several projects including improving food in the PFM and the Mr. Uni.

Junior Senator Daniel Ren has led the effort improving PFM food. He recently sent out a survey asking for students' opinions on PFM food, which received over 450 responses. He has compiled the results and will share your opinions with the PFM staff and the administration.

Additionally, Senator Ren and Student Government PFM Liaison Danielle DeJournett have established a PFM committee composed administration and PFM staff. Its meetings are open to the student body. Its next meeting will occur in January.

Student Government recently organized Mr. Uni, an all-male pageant show casing some of NCSSM's talented students. Senior Senator Julia Yu, head of the Programming Committee, led and directed Mr. Uni on Dec. 7, 2013. Next up from the Programming Committee will be a winter lock-in in the coming months.

For more information about all that Student Government has been doing visit www.ncssm.edu/sg.

Harris Teeter opens on Ninth St.

By BETTY LIU

To the delight of many NCSSM students, the new Harris Teeter supermarket had its grand opening on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

The Harris Teeter is part of the Shops at Erwin Mill, a newly renovated shopping complex located at the intersection between Ninth Street and Hillsborough Road. The 53,000 square-foot grocery store is the centerpiece of this square, housing a new Starbucks, an Asian food bar, a pizza kiosk, bread stand, and a hot food bar inside the store.

Many NCSSM students were excited for the grand opening. Kayla Boling, junior, says "I absolutely love the new Harris Teeter."

Kayla went the day of the grand opening and was "excited to see the pizza bar, and the Asian bar, and the Starbucks."

Jovan Baslios, senior, was also excited that there would be a new grocery store in the area. When asked why he was excited about the new Harris Teeter, he responded "The store is huge, it offers a lot more variety."

During the opening weekend, students flocked to the grocery store. It seemed that there was an NCSSM student around every corner.

Students were exploring the store, tasting the food samples, and loading up on groceries. In hindsight, the amount of people should not have been a



The new store is located at 2107 Hillsborough Road

shock. The grocery store offers goods for cheap prices and is in within reasonable walking distance from the school, making it an attractive option for NCSSM students.

With its success and popularity, Harris Teeter may have adverse effects on local businesses. Offering cheaper prices and a shorter walking distance, Harris Teeter is now favored by many students from NCSSM. Compared to other alternatives such as Kroger and Whole Foods, Harris Teeter is situated ideally for NCSSM students.

Baslios, on the cheap prices relative to the other local markets, said "Now I can afford groceries again."

Carly McKenna, junior, is also glad about the variety that the new store brings. She says "Now we don't have to rely on Whole Foods for groceries."

McKenna noted that with the variety of food choices available at Harris Teeter, she might never again order at the local restaurants in town, such as China Star.

Despite the convenience of Harris Teeter, some local shops maintain a loyal following. Many students still prefer to go to the local coffee shop, Joe Van Gogh's, rather than the new Starbucks located inside the grocery store.

"The quality of the coffee from Joe's is far superior to that of Starbucks," said Junior

Photo courtesy of The Herald Sun

Steven Weatherspoon.

Also, though Harris Teeter offers a selection of books, many students would rather browse through the Regulator Bookshop, located on Ninth Street.

"The atmosphere is different. At the Regulator, you can tell that the employees genuinely care about helping you with books. Harris Teeter is just a grocery store," says Baslios.

Whole Foods also has a substantial support base, with many students willing to go the extra steps to shop there. It seems that to some, quality still wins out over convenience and a lower price.

Only time will tell how the emergence of this market giant will affect the community. With the new retail shops and restaurants such as Panera Bread, Pure Barre, Massage Envy Spa, and The Duck Shop, the Shops at Erwin Mill shopping complex is offering a greater variety of shops to Ninth Street.

While it is possible that the new complex can be a burden to local businesses, it could also be a boon. Along with the new apartments in the area, the complex could attract new customers to Ninth Street. With the increased consumer base, perhaps both local and corporate businesses will be able to benefit from the new complex.

Networking workshop at NCSSM

Women in Bio, a RTP group, is hosting a Networking Workshop on Tue. Jan 28 and Thurs. Jan. 30 from 4:45-6:15 PM. They will teach students how to do networking and expose them to a networking event where they will apply what they learn through the Networking Workshop.

Topics covered include how to start a conversation, reading body language, and discovering common interests. Both girls and boys are invited to attend. After the two evening networking workshops, students will attend a networking event at Biogen Idec (pharmaceuticals) on Feb. 3, leaving campus at 5:30 PM.

This event is first come, first serve, with twenty-eight spots available. Sign-ups will be posted by Dean of Science Amy Sheck via signupgenius.com on the NCSSM science webpage.