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## Latin America Fest to kick-off third trimester

By EVAN BROOKS

As the second trimester ended and the third trimester began, students made finishing touches for this year's Latin America Fest.

Sponsored annually by the Hispanic Cultures Club, Latin America Fest is completely student run and produced. Seniors Alexandria Thompson and Isabella Hernandez, along with Spanish instructor Rosemary Munroe, began planning the event in July and have coordinated practices since November.

Hernandez said that the theme this year is "Latin America's Got Talent" and that Junior Erick Aguilar will be hosting. She was focused on adding a modern twist to Latin America Fest this year by using more contemporary songs.

"This year, I am focusing on a surprise song by Jennifer Lopez and the Spanish version of Rack City. These two songs are supposed to add to Latin America Fest's modern twist that Alexandria and I wanted."

Hernandez said that she was thrilled about all of the acts, especially a duet by seniors Isabel Reid and Chase Hicks

and is looking forward to Hernandez's reggaeton act and the March of the Flags.

Senior Gerardo Alvarado

is a parody of the old Spanish men, who were descendants of the Conquistadors," said Alvarado.



Dancers from last year's Latin America Fest perform the March of the Flags.

He is adding a twist by mixing modern music with traditional music. "I'm pretty sure it is the first time this dance has been done in Latin America Fest, so I'm pretty excited."

Junior Mary Clarke Worthington is eager for her first cultural fest at NCSSM and will be performing in the bachata act.

"I've enjoyed learning bachata because I feel like it will be a chance to learn a new skill from a culture that I love."

I'm actually really excited for Latin America Fest and I hope it is a success so we can have something to live up to next year."

Latin America Fest is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 8th at 7pm in the ETC Auditorium.

and the bachata act, which she said was going to be killer.

When asked about hosting, Aguilar jokingly stated, "You know my hosting will be the major act of the show if I do say so myself." On a more serious note, he said that the NCSSM community should be excited for the production

is in charge of "Danza de los Viejos" or Dance of the Old Men.

"It is a traditional dance from the state of Michoacán, Mexico. It is a humorous dance where the dancers wear masks of old people along with their typical "campesino," or peasant clothing. The dance originated

## SG update

By CHRISTIAN JOSEPH

Student Government President Parth Thakker and Senators Erick Aguilar, Ebube Chuba, and Christian Joseph traveled to North Carolina State University to the Association of Student Governments Meeting that occurs every month.

During this meeting, legislation was passed that consolidated the committees in the Association of Student Governments from six to four. Also, a grant proposed and presented by Aguilar was approved. Aguilar's grant funds the purchase of ten noise-cancelling headphones for the library to loan to students.

Aguilar said his reasoning behind this purchase has to do with the fact that the noise level in the library can be very high during certain moments of the trimester.

To allow collaboration to still occur in the library, the individuals who need peace and quiet to concentrate on their work could use the noise-cancelling headphones.

The headphones are expected to arrive in the library in the next month.

Joseph is currently working on legislation to amend the bylaws of NCSSM's Student Government Association. The amendment will require every bill to be accompanied by a concise summary that will detail the bill's purpose and effects.

He believes that this amendment will help passed legislation be easily communicated to the student body through mediums like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, while helping SGA's constituents be aware of the activities of their representatives.

Lastly, Student Government hosted its second trimester/Miniterm Lock-In. According to many students, the Lock-In was a great success- a favorite aspect was the various snacks and food that were handed out.

The Lock-In also had a mixer, which was DJ-ed by Senators Isaiah Bryant and Joseph.

The Lock-In also hosted a volleyball tournament that seemed to bring out the competitive sides of many students.

The month ahead will be busy with the election of the new President and Treasurer for the 2014-2015 school year and the beginnings of Powderpuff football.

## The Debate Rages: Science vs. Religion

By SIERRA DUNNE

One of this year's most talked about events in the world of science was the debate on Creationism vs. Evolution that occurred on Feb. 4 at the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY. The debate was between the museum's president Ken Ham and television personality Bill Nye the Science Guy.

The argument between the two, which lasted over two hours, remained calm and respectful.

While Ham argued in favor of Biblical Creationism, Nye argued that evolution was much more plausible. "There are billions of stars. Mr. Ham, how could there be billions of stars more distant than 6,000 years if the world's only 6,000 years old?" Most people who

saw the debate agree that Nye was the obvious winner, but both men brought intellectual conversation and valid ideas to the event.

The same week as the debate, Dr. Neil Shenvi, a research chemist at Duke, gave a lecture at NCSSM on the relationship between science and religion. The lecture took a different approach to the subject than the debate did in that it focused on how religion and science do work together, rather than having two sides to the issue.

It was not on the topic of Creationism vs. Evolution, but instead was on how religion and its lack of worldly evidence can still work with science, which relies heavily on known truth and evidence.

"I feel that it was timed well, offering a different perspective on the interaction between science and religion that was absent in the Bill Nye debate that occurred the previous week," said Senior Mary Sims.

Dr. Shenvi included many points on why religion and

science could work together, and he backed them with intellectual reasoning and scientific facts.

However, many students felt like the lecture was one-sided and a bit narrow-minded. "I didn't enjoy the lecture because I found the speaker biased, but the idea was an interesting one," said Junior Nina Sannes.

Many other students agreed. By the end, some students commented that it seemed less like a scientific lecture and more like a church sermon, where Dr. Shenvi discussed the importance of faith in God rather than sticking to his theme of how science and religion work together.

"As an atheist, I expected the lecture to attempt to compromise the disparity of opinions between Christians and scientists; however, for me, the lecture actually furthered this divide. The lecture didn't resolve the conflicts between religion and science but rather deepened them," junior Grant Miller commented.



Bill Nye and Ken Ham debate evolution at the Creation Museum.

Photo courtesy of slate.com