

Food Trucks take over NCSSM

By SIERRA DUNNE

In recent years, food trucks have become a staple in the dining scene of Durham. The city is characterized by vehicles large and small, selling a variety of delicious foods at the farmer's market, Oval Park, and at lots of other places and events.

Now, these trucks are making an appearance on campus. Each Wednesday night, a different food truck is invited to come and serve students at night before check.

SLI Sue Anne Lewis and teacher Taylor Gibson are the brains behind this new operation. Gibson was the first to bring trucks to campus for his Mini-Term, Farm to Fork, which was focused on sustainable agriculture and local food around Durham.

Their final project brought three trucks to campus, all of which were very successful with the students.

Gibson was the first to bring food trucks to campus, when



The Bang Bang Banh Mi truck is one of several that have come to campus this year.

his sustainable agriculture Mini-Term, Farm to Fork, brought three trucks as a part of their final campus.

Later in the trimester, Lewis brought more food trucks to campus for the annual NCSSM food drive. These trucks were met with mutual excitement from the students, and the vendors made a lot of sales.

Gibson and Lewis both realized the success that the trucks would have if they came to Smath on a regular basis, so they met with Vice Chancellor Barber and arranged a policy so that the trucks can come every Wednesday.

The food trucks have only been coming for a few weeks, but Lewis says that so far their

endeavor has proved very successful. "The vendors have been extremely happy with the turnout so far. We usually get between 80 and 100 students each time, and the students are vocal about their enthusiasm. They often come up to me and Mr. Gibson to thank us for the new food options on campus."

Not only do these trucks give students the opportunity to have more food options than ordering out allows, but it also allows students to discover a unique and growing part of Durham.

"Since students don't have cars," said Gibson, "it allows them to eat fresh food and local ingredients, which many of the trucks use. For instance, Will and Pop's bread comes from a local Durham bakery, so by supporting these trucks

you're really supporting a lot of local places."

Beyond just supporting local farms, restaurants, and stores, buying food from these trucks can also help support NCSSM alumni.

The Dump Pho King truck is owned by two alumni from the class of 2006.

Also, First Hand Foods, a company which helps provide local pasture-raised livestock to restaurants and trucks, was also started by alumni from Science and Math.

The food trucks will continue to be a regular campus occurrence next year, and hopefully more trucks will be added to the list.

"We are planning on having them here not only during the nights, but also do them during events like Welcome Day or orientation days," said Gibson.

If you have any feedback on the trucks, both Gibson and Lewis encourage you to email or talk to them and give them your opinion.

NCSSM still active over summer

By EVAN BROOKS

On June 8, eight days after Commencement, NCSSM will begin to bustle with activity as students from across the world will arrive for a summer of scientific discovery and research.

A new summer program is the NCSSM Accelerator program. Accelerator is the first fee-based summer program offered by the school

Distance Education, Jamie Lathan, Accelerator replaces the NCSSM Online Summer Symposium.

Jen Jenkins, the new summer programs coordinator, said students from as far away as England, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii have applied. She is excited for the international exposure NCSSM will receive.

With course offerings ranging in topics from RNA

from the math, science, and humanities departments to develop and improve skills critical for success.

Junior Jenyane Robinson says that Summer Bridge really prepared her for the challenges that awaited her at NCSSM.

"We had homework and required study hours during Bridge and it really simulated the SMath experience. I learned valuable skills, such as time management, living with a roommate, and expounding on my thoughts instead of just giving a correct answer. I was glad to have the chance to work on these skills before I moved in for the school year."

Courtesy of Ebube Chuba



Ebube Chuba carefully pipettes a sample into a test tube in a biogeochemistry lab at North Carolina State University. Research is one of many options available at NCSSM during the summer.

that will allow for students from around the world to come to NCSSM to experience unique, innovative, and high-level courses.

The program will integrate both residential, hands-on learning and online education to enhance student's strengths in advanced science and math topics that promises to kick-start college readiness and career interests.

According to the Dean of

interference and genetic cloning to the math of music and forensic anthropology, Accelerator promises to increase NCSSM's global impact on educating future leaders.

Another program NCSSM offers in June is Summer Bridge. It will bring incoming juniors to the NCSSM campus to prepare them for the academic rigor of NCSSM by working closely with faculty

The curriculum will allow participants to develop a research project over the following school year and present at NCSSM's annual Research Symposium.

Senior Courtney Bell is returning to Step Up to STEM to volunteer after graduation.

"I wanted to participate in Step Up to STEM once more because I enjoy meeting the kids and watching them grow. Being an ambassador for

the school, I want to bring a positive image to them and make a mark in their lives by opening their minds to possibly attending NCSSM."

Also held in July, the Summer Leadership and Research Experience, also known as SLARE, allows for incoming juniors of minority backgrounds to be introduced to the school and complete a weeklong research experience at North Carolina State University.

Junior Ebube Chuba participated in SLARE last year and conducted research in biogeochemistry.

Chuba cites the experience in the lab at NC State initiated his interest in research and inspired him to work on multiple research projects throughout the year.

"I really liked the group that I worked with. I made great connections with the group and it was an experience unlike any other."

In addition, members of the Class of 2015 will be

staying on campus throughout the summer to either conduct research on campus with faculty or at nearby universities and agencies in a wide variety of disciplines and focuses.

However, life on campus during the summer is not all work like it is during the school year.

Senior Seraphina Wong, who stayed on campus to conduct research this past summer, would repeat her experience here if she had another chance.

"Life on campus during the summer compared to the regular school year is a lot quieter, but of course there aren't as many people around. The SLIs are really open to suggestions for activities, such as Cookout runs and movie showings in the Lecture Hall, and try to make them happen. Aside from the great experience from my research, I got really close to the small group of SMathers that stayed on campus and even met a few online students," said Wong.

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