



David Rigsbee: A Life in Poetry, Academia and Beyond

By HANNAH WALRATH

To David Rigsbee, the North Carolina School of Science and Math isn't just a place he teaches, but also happens to be where he was born, when NCSSM was the former Watts Hospital, of course.

This 2013-2014 year, Rigsbee found himself in the place where it all began and has been a member of the NCSSM Humanities department.

Rigsbee grew up in Durham and attended Durham High School, where the Durham School of the Arts now is.

He went on to attend UNC

Chapel Hill as a Morehead-Cain Scholar, getting a degree in Russian and English. He then earned his graduate degrees in philosophy and English, while also publishing poetry.

Rigsbee has earned various awards for his poetry, including a 2012 Pushcart Prize for his poem "Russians."

At NCSSM, Rigsbee has taught courses in Creative Writing- Poetry, Creative Writing- Fiction, Southern Literature, and WECS I-III.

When asked why he is a poet, he responded, "Because I

like making life difficult."

His thoughtful poetry includes a poem in his book School of the Americas titled "Shum."

The poem is about a lecture he attended with his poetry teacher at UNC. He says he was simultaneously admiring and shocked at what he learned from her.

"The poem is mostly about the double nature of poetry," says Rigsbee.

Rigsbee's intelligence is apparent through simple conversation, though most

conversations with Dr. Rigsbee are never truly simple. Rather, one does not step in and out of the open door of the poet's well-suited office without having spent a good bit of time together pondering some aspect of life or without the name of author or poet with which to do further exploration on the matter or matters.

It is Rigsbee's ability to provide kind, eloquent and thoughtful discussion which fuels the constant stream of students who frequently stop by for a chat.

Rigsbee's interests do not end with poetry, Russian or conversation, either. Currently, in his free-time, Rigsbee is translating Dante's *Paradiso*. He also enjoys spending time with his daughter Makaiya, who Rigsbee often thinks of when writing poetry.

Makaiya is currently in Ireland attending graduate school, having seemed learned the beauty of words from her father. He also spends time in New York and might additionally spend time in Italy this summer.

Unicorns celebrate 2013-2014's athletic accomplishments at awards banquet

By STEVEN LIAO

Athletes at NCSSM attended the first annual athletic awards ceremony in the PEC on May 20, 2014.

The event started off with opening remarks from NCSSM Athletic Director Gregory Jarvis and Chancellor Todd Roberts. Chemistry Instructor Darrell Spells, a former Duke football captain, then took the floor to address the athletes.

Spells commended the athletes for their willingness to both compete at the highest level athletically and academically, as well as their willingness to tread into an unknown athletic environment.

"Because in addition to the unsurety of how you might fit in to the athletic environment here, you chose to come anyway. And in addition to that uncertainty, you came to

the most rigorous academic environment many of you will ever see."

"So not only were you competing at the highest level of high school sports, but you're also competing at the highest academic level, and you were willing to take on that challenge."

NCSSM Vice Chancellor of Student Life Joan Barber then made her presence felt with a run-through of the team accomplishments of the year.

In honor of her impending retirement, the athletic department presented Barber with a life-long pass to NCSSM athletic events, along with a plaque signed by several NCSSM athletes.

At this point, the ceremony shifted to individual rewards. Athletes named to all-conference and all-state teams

were honored, and several coaches handed out team-specific awards as well.

Among the athletic achievements this year, four athletes were named All-Conference Player of the Year in their respective sports. Nick Walker was named Runner of the Year in Men's Cross Country, Lydia Yuan was named Player of the Year in Women's Tennis, Matthew Nichols was named Wrestler of the Year, and Danny Oh was named Player of the Year in Men's Tennis. In addition, Bryon Spells was named Defensive Player of the Year in Men's Soccer.

Seven coaches were named All-Conference Coach of the Year (Richard McClenny was named twice as Coach of the Year for both Men's and Women's tennis).

Several school swimming records were broken.

For the first time since becoming an NCSSM sport three years ago, the Women's golf team finished in the top 8 in the state.

The ceremony came to a close with NCSSM Athletic Director Gregory Jarvis announcing the second annual Men's and Women's Athletes of the Year.

This year's awards went to Jacob Vosburgh, who holds five NCSSM swimming records and the NCHSAA 1A/2A state record in the 500 freestyle, and Ashleigh Cleveland, a three-sport athlete in tennis, indoor track, and outdoor track, who over the past two years has placed highly in and won several conference and state tournaments in track and field.

The Athlete of the

Year awards are decided based on a combination of factors, including multiple sports played, excellence in performance over both the junior and senior years, as well as excellent academic performance.

According to Jarvis, next year's athletes can expect increased signage in the building and possibly equipment upgrades if the budget allows.

"And if Spells is to be believed, next year's athletes can once again be glad they are not 'poor spirits.'"

Spells left the student athletes at the ceremony with the following quote from Theodore Roosevelt:

"Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live the grave twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

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Haughton Lab on way

Haughton Fabrication Lab, a space intended to be used as a student maker space for clubs and organizations from all around campus, as well as classroom space.

The lab is named after an 1989 alumnus of NCSSM who died in 2006. Alumni contributed to a fund in his name to help create such a maker space for NCSSM students.

Following the trend of diversification, this space aims to provide all students with a hands-on working environment.

The idea of it being hands-on opens the lab up to be used by a variety of student groups, ranging in interest from FIRST Robotics, NSBE, and Science Olympiad, to physics and engineering classes, to theater students working on set designs.

Student performers wow at concert

By JUNGSU HONG AND SU CHO

On May 11, the annual NCSSM concerto concert featured soloists Mallory Carnes, Daria Nonnemaker, Holly Slang, Rebecca Shen, Emily Nicholson, Michael An, and Daniel Ren accompanied by the NCSSM Orchestra. Soloists were selected in the fall of 2013 through a competitive audition process.

Senior Mallory Carnes played the 1st movement of the Handel/Casadesus Viola Concerto during the performance.

"It was an awesome experience to be able to play a movement of a concerto with an orchestra. Having the whole group playing with you and supporting you provides a whole new level of energy to the piece," said Carnes.

Daria Nonnemaker, junior, played the 1st movement of the renowned Mendelssohn Violin Concerto.

Senior Holly Slang played the Vaughan Williams Oboe Concerto.

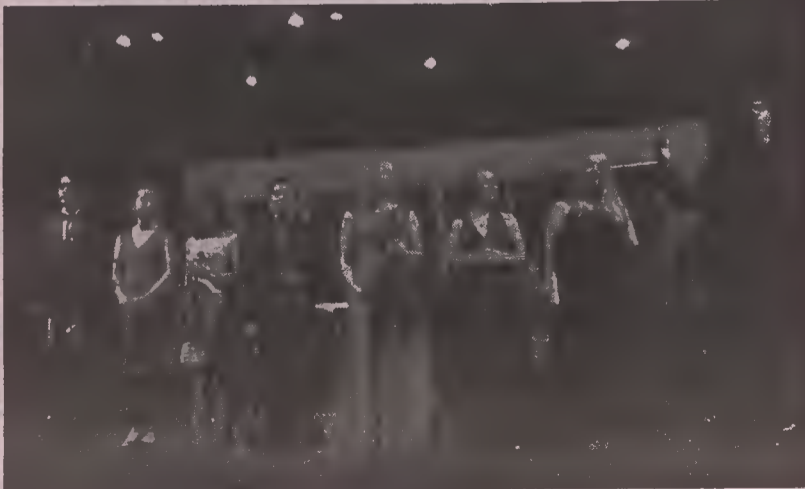
"I'm really proud of how

well the orchestra prepared for the concert. I felt like I could rely on my fellow musicians to give a good performance!" said Slang.

Rebecca Shen, junior,

nearly two straight hours of challenging pieces is a true testament to the progress we've made as an ensemble," said Shen.

Senior Emily Nicholson



Courtesy of NCSSM

played the 1st movement of the Barber Violin Concerto. Shen, along with the other soloists, has been practicing and preparing for this concert. The NCSSM orchestra began preparations for the concert at the beginning of third trimester.

"Being able to put on a fabulous show that was

was the only soloist who used her voice instead of an instrument. She performed "Per pieta, bell'idol mio" written by Bellini. This was Nicholson's second year performing as a soloist.

Michael An, junior, performed a violin solo with his performance of the first

movement of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto.

"One major challenge we faced was weaving together soloist and orchestra, making these independent parts a great-sounding whole. It certainly has not been easy, but I couldn't be more proud of these seven performances," said An.

Working closely with the soloists and having to adapt as an ensemble, the orchestra learned many lessons in ensemble playing.

"Performing in a concerto setting allowed me to gain a greater insight about the various nuances and intricacies of music from a different perspective, and explore the diverse realm of emotional expression associated with orchestral music," said junior Daniel Ren.

Ren played the 1st movement of Rimsky-Koraskov's Trombone Concerto.