

The



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North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

stentorian123@gmail.com

## Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Steve Warshaw retires after 30 years

By SIERRA DUNNE  
Editor-in-Chief

After 30 years of service at NCSSM, Steve Warshaw will be retiring from his position as Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs.

Warshaw first discovered NCSSM while he and his wife were moving to North Carolina from Texas in order to be closer to family. While looking for a teaching job, his sister, who lived in Durham at the time, mentioned a new school with students who were focused on science. Warshaw was a Biology teacher at the time, having received a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Austin College in 1967 and a Ph.D in Biology from Yale University in 1972.

He visited the school over the summer when there were only a few students and staff members on campus. He only talked to two people, but the visit made him feel like he belonged here.

"What impressed me most was that everyone understood what the mission of the school was: To provide potential and opportunities to students who couldn't get them from their home school districts."

Warshaw was hired thanks to his background and expertise in aquatic ecology. The school needed someone to help kickstart one of the first research classes, Research in Limnology at Jordan Lake. He also taught Genetics and Ecology, but it was this research class that really propelled his career at Science and Math.

In 1986, he started the first Research Symposium at Science and Math. At first, it was only the Research in Limnology class presenting, as there were no other research courses at the time. They set up their presentations in the small dining room in the PFM, what is now the bookroom.

The next year, Warshaw became head of the Science

Department, and more teachers were hired to teach more research classes. Two of these teachers were former Vice Chancellor of Student Life Joan Barber, who taught Research in Biology, and Instructor Myra Halpin, who still teaches Research in Chemistry. These teachers brought their classes together to create what is now the NCSSM Research Symposium.

Besides initiating the Research Symposium, Warshaw has a wide variety of other projects and accomplishments he helped with over his 30 years here.

He worked hard to create articulation agreements with universities throughout the state, so NCSSM graduates would receive credit for the advanced courses they take

here.

When he became a director of the North Carolina Student Academy of Science, he helped the program grow and regain its vision. When he became Executive Director, it had shrunk down to only ten students participating, but through his work it now showcases over 100 students each year.

Not only has Warshaw helped students succeed, but he also had a role in creating the Faculty Emeritus Program. This program is designed to help honor retiring faculty members by giving them special rewards, such as networking privileges, access passes, and free admission to school events.

The school project Warshaw is perhaps most known for is

the schoolwide sustainability project. The project is only three years old, but in its short existence it has already made huge impacts on the attitude toward sustainability at NCSSM. Through the Sustainability Project Leaders, clubs like Accept the Greener Challenge, and other groups and initiatives, the school has seen a huge advancement toward a greener campus.

Composting was initiated this year, rain gardens have been built, block parties have been planned, the recycling program has grown, and solar panels are being discussed, all thanks to Warshaw's vision for a more sustainable campus.

Warshaw will officially retire on June 30. When asked if he still sees himself being involved with the school after

retirement, he responded, "I can't imagine anything else."

He first plans to go back to Texas, however, since you can't volunteer or work for a state agency until six months after retirement. He will travel to Texas in August and stay there for three months to visit family, including his three grandchildren.

He plans to come back to NCSSM on Jan. 1 to volunteer at the school. In the spring, he will go back to teaching Environmental Ethics. I

n his newfound free time, he plans to continue and improve on his hobbies: playing guitar, working outside, bike riding, and juggling. He and his wife also plan to do more with their church and get involved with voter registration.

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## Jon Miller retires with distinction from Humanities Department

By RICHARD ONG  
Editor-in-Chief

There comes a time in the history of every organization when the old guard must pass down the mantle to the next generation. Just such a time is coming this year with the retirement of Jon Miller.

Miller has been with NCSSM since the beginning, teaching English to students since the founding of the school in 1980. In many ways he is a powerful symbol of this institution and a pillar supporting it.

Miller originally came from Hillside High School in Durham and was mainly drawn to the school because of money and the location. Originally he arrived at the school to consult on the English curriculum for the school, which was similar to the North Carolina curriculum and he ended up being hired. Since then he has been through this school through its entire life.

"A lot of obvious things have changed. The facilities changed. I remember this place used to be a dump. Everything from Reynolds to Watts was derelict and off

out nightly," said Miller. But he stayed because "Once you do something once, you tend to do it again and again and again."

"But what's really

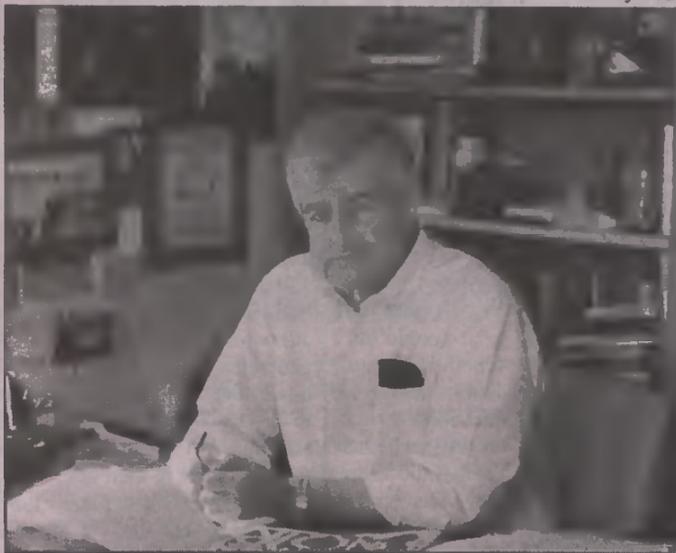
excited to be here, and eager and shy and proud all at the same time." The true revelation Miller had about teaching here was not to teach the students, but let the students teach.

He found when students are presented with knowledge in such away they will consume it themselves and this is far more potent than any teacher led instruction.

Miller had always been destined for teaching, although he did not always know it. It was not until his sophomore year of college when he was meeting the registrar of UNC and they forced him to declare a major that he finally wrote "English", even though it was his worst subject. "I wasn't very adventuresome because most of my time was in educational

institutions so I just continued to be institutionalized in

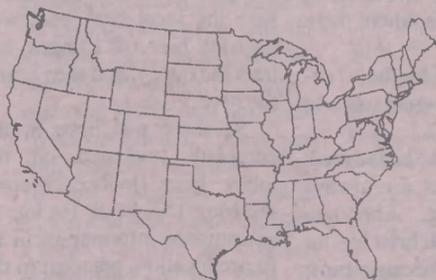
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limits, there was standing water everywhere and we used to have to run homeless people

important," Miller said, "is what's not changed. Every year we see students who are

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