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# NCSSM welcomes over a dozen new faculty and staff members

By MAX SCHLENKER  
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Along with approximately 320 smiling faces of new juniors, the NCSSM community is also welcoming over a dozen new faculty and staff members to campus.

After Steve Warshaw, Jon Miller, Virginia Wilson and other esteemed faculty members retired in June of this year, NCSSM gained some incredible individuals to take their place.

In administration, Katie O'Connor will be serving as NCSSM's newest Vice Chancellor of Academic Programs after working at East Carolina University as a professor in the College of Education and Associate Dean of the ECU Honors College.

Despite NCSSM being a school dedicated to science and mathematics, the Humanities Department continues to improve and show off the incredible diversity of the NCSSM faculty. This year, five new teachers will assist students in their studies of literature, history, and language.

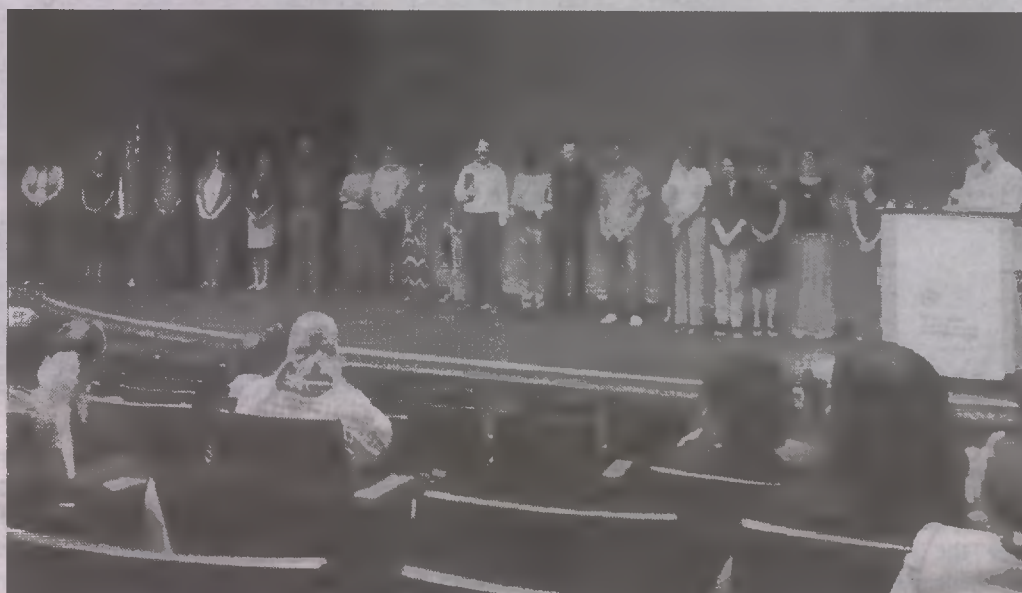


photo courtesy of @NCSSM Twitter

Michael Brandon has recently completed a PhD in American History from the University of Florida. David Buyze will be arriving later in the fall to teach online courses including Ecocriticism, and Nicole Sarrocco will be rejoining the NCSSM faculty after a five-year hiatus to continue teaching American Studies and other literature classes.

Youssef Carter will be teaching African Studies

while completing his PhD at the University of California at Berkeley, and Nai-i Finney will be teaching courses in Introductory and Advanced Chinese.

NCSSM also gained a handful of STEM faculty, including Asli Mutlu and Forrest Hinton in the residential Math Department, and Hector Rosario in the online math program. In science, Tim Anglin will be teaching Chemistry and Julia Kohn is joining the Physics faculty.

Letitia Hubbard (residential) and Garrett Love (DEEP) are joining NCSSM's expanding Engineering Department. Hubbard will be also working as an instructor in the Mentorship Program.

Apart from academia, the staff of NCSSM will also feature fresh faces such as Carissa Trotter and Tina Evans in the counseling department and clinic, respectively.

Two Student Life Instructors and two Resident

Graduate Assistants will be joining students on residence halls to oversee student life and offer emotional and moral support.

Mary Lassiter will replace Marlene Blakney as SLI on 3rd Beall and Taylor Parsons will be living on 1st Hill following Ellis Johnson's departure. Randy Timmerman and Justine Tsao will be assisting current SLIs on 2nd Hill and Royall, respectively.

All of us, students, parents, teachers, etc. know what it feels like to arrive at NCSSM for the first time, and all of us have felt or will soon feel the constant support that the NCSSM community offers. We at the Stentorian extend a warm welcome to NCSSM's new faculty and staff and plan for an amazing school year in 2015 and 2016.

## 2016 election heats up

By AJ GOREN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

No doubt, you've heard at least snippets from the news about the 2016 presidential election. From heated arguments about the Democratic candidates' donors to the massive crowd of Republican would-be nominees, the upcoming contest has been dominating every news cycle.

To make sense of the information and learn how to get involved and vote responsibly, one must dig through a lot of various sources and media. For a basic rundown of the field, continue to page 3.

On the Democratic side, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is the clear early frontrunner. Popular for her ambitious economic goals and support of commerce, the wife of former president Bill Clinton also faces opposition from those who feel her support for big business comes at the expense of individual rights.

Many have hailed her as the clear choice for the nation's first female president, but others have expressed skepticism over candidates *continued on page 3 »*

## RLAs move in early for week of training

By CHERYL WANG  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 2015-2016 RLA Training week began on Monday, August 10 at 9 a.m. sharp with a half hour of "Icebreakers/Energizers/Teambuilders."

Following this activity, the schedule was packed to the hour with meetings, lectures, and planning sessions until 10:30 pm. With only one hour for lunch and one for dinner, the RLAs were continuously moving around campus.

RLAs, or Residential Life Assistants, are seniors selected at the end of their junior year to be the student leaders and helpers on each residential hall. There are usually 3 or 4 RLAs on each hall, and they work closely with their Student Life Instructors (SLIs).

During the school year, RLAs take check every day, organize intramural sports events and make hall decorations. Although their tasks seem simple, being an RLA requires a lot of work and training. As a result, to train and begin planning, all RLAs are required to move in a week early during RLA Week.

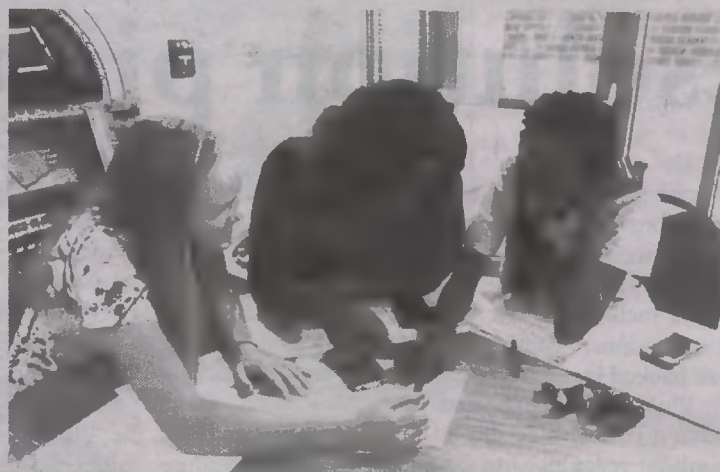
Besides having two sessions of "Icebreakers/Energizers/Teambuilders" a day, a typical day for the RLAs during RLA week also includes other exciting activities such as bulletin board planning, hall decoration making, and even bowling with the SLIs.

During these activities, the RLAs of each hall gather together to plan and make door and hallway decorations to go with each hall's unique theme.

"RLA week has been nothing but exciting. Awaiting the juniors to arrive is anxious but setting up the hall has been a great experience," said Vishal Naik, an RLA on Hunt Third East.

On the other hand, training also entails many less exciting activities; RLAs also attended meetings and lectures held by SLIs on campus security, community development, peer mediation, and programming.

Usually held in the Lecture Hall or the Woolworth room, these meetings helped to explain the many school rules, safety precautions,



RLAs Emma Railey, Rhatanna Holeman and Grace Dodoo plan hall bulletin boards.

and hall procedures that are fundamental to maintaining a safe residential environment for students.

"Getting accepted [to] the RLA position, people said I would have a lot of work. I didn't think they were serious. Now I appreciate my old RLAs even more!" said Seth Yook, an RLA on Hunt Fourth West.

While there is much work, RLA week more importantly creates a sense of camaraderie among the RLAs and their SLIs. Students not only learn more about their peers and how residential life works at NCSSM, but also bond with each other,

creating a sense of family that is so essential to hall dynamics on campus.

"I love getting everything together to see our new juniors while getting to see the closest friends I've made," said Jackie Warren, an RLA on Third Bryan.

One of the most exciting and unique aspects of NCSSM is no doubt its residential life. Although moving away from home to live with your teachers and classmates can also seem like a formidable challenge, it is both reassuring and exciting to know that there are peers to guide students on the way.