

the stentorian

vol. XXXV, issue 2

north carolina school of science and mathematics

september 2015

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Twelve students win senatorial elections and join Student Government

BY MAX SCHLENKER

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In the month of September, nearly 50 students campaigned for coveted positions in Student Government, leading to some controversy and hope for a productive year for SG.

After a record-breaking 82% voter participation, BT Babatunde, Avra Janz, Jordyn Jones, Raymond Gao, Amruth Sriperumbudur, and Tia Valakuzhy were chosen as Junior Senators for the 2015 – 2016 school year.

The political buzz began early with the announcement of the Junior Senator race. Petitions circulated through the student body as 35 ambitious juniors officially entered the race, competing for one of only six spots on the Student Senate.

After the petition signing came the storm of posters hanging from the walls of every building on campus. Slogans and catchphrases covered the PFM, ETC, library, elevators,

Hill classrooms, and main hallway doors.

The primary election was held on Sept. 11, and only a dozen candidates moved on to the final round of voting the following Tuesday. Students were invited to hear each of the potential senators speak about their ideas for Student Government in the auditorium, after which the final voting would take place online.

As always, the Junior Senator speeches proved to be a roller coaster of emotions for all. Not every candidate played fair, and more than a few sly remarks were exchanged even during the speeches themselves.

Despite the foul play and occasional aerial from Raymond Gao, every speaker did an excellent job, and at the very least provided a night of entertainment for their fellow classmates.

The student body had a short rest of only a few days after the Sept. 11 election



photo courtesy of Amruth Sriperumbudur

Junior Senator candidates pose after delivering speeches.

before the announcement of following week. These races the Dorm Senator elections the are often less flashy because

students can only campaign for and vote in the election for their own dorm building.

After a week of petition signing students gathered last week once more to listen to their Dorm Senators deliver their own speeches.

The results of the Dorm Senator election were published just last week. Michelle Roh, Kimberly Andreassen, Lauren Emer, Nishma Vias, Caleb Caton, Trey Duvall, and Wyatt Jernigan were chosen to represent Bryan, Reynolds, Royall, Beall, Hunt East, Hunt West, and Hill respectively.

With the induction of Junior Senators and Dorm Senators, the SG body is almost complete for the 2015 – 2016 school year.

The last opportunity for students to be directly involved with Student Government is to be selected as a Senator-at-Large by President Vikram Aikat. Applications for this position will be open in the coming weeks.

Unicorns show pride at LGBTQ+ festival

BY AJ GOREN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Where there's rain, there's a rainbow – or, in the case of the North Carolina Pride Festival, hundreds of rainbows. The LGBTQ+ community celebrated North Carolina's 31st annual Pride on Saturday, Sept. 28, despite wet and gloomy weather.

Neither the weather nor the handful of evangelical protestors were able to put a damper on the festivities, where many NCSSM students were in attendance.

The school's LGBTQ+ alliance, Spectrum, had a float in the parade, which began at 1 p.m.. Many students also marched with the organizations Planned Parenthood and InsideOut.

Spectrum's float, fashioned by Joe McTaggart and Roger Ehrlich with assistance from volunteer NCSSM students, was in the shape of a large wedding cake reading "Marriage and More!" to celebrate the recent national achievement of marriage equality, and to acknowledge the many fronts on which LGBTQ+ rights still need improvement.

Several students rode on the back of the trailer behind the cake, while up to four students

were on top of the cake and three more sat at the base of the cake ringing a large bell.

Senior Raven Rusk, who rode on top of the cake, expressed joy at seeing the sheer size of the crowds from atop her perch: "You were able to see so many people that supported the cause from the top of the float. It made me very happy to know that so many people want change and social acceptance for the LGBTQ+ community."

Junior Anthony Bishop rode on the back of the float: "the best part... was realizing that I didn't have to just watch the parade, I was part of the parade if I wanted to be," Bishop commented.

Many students chose to march with Planned Parenthood of the South Atlantic, a branch of the national women's health organization which has been embroiled in controversy recently due to conservative opposition to its abortion services.

Supporters of Planned Parenthood point out that the 97% of the organization's work centers around making women's reproductive healthcare and other basic healthcare, including cancer screening and STI testing,

photo courtesy of Wendy Brackett on Facebook



NCSSM students ride on the Spectrum float on Main Street. The parade came within 2 blocks of NCSSM's campus.

accessible to all.

Senior Maggie O'Daniel said she marched with Planned Parenthood because she believes that "reproductive health is a vital component of overall health and every woman should have a right to her own body."

Students marching with the organization also distributed free condoms among the crowd. "I felt like I was helping people prevent potential problems and live healthy and happy lives," O'Daniel said.

Several NCSSM students also marched with local youth-led organization InsideOut, which brings together gay-

straight alliances and queer-straight alliances from around the Triangle region.

For the second year in a row, InsideOut was the very first group in the parade, marching just in front of the Spectrum float.

Junior Meredith Tobin said she felt "liberated" by the experience of marching with InsideOut: "Feeling celebrated and loved by such a large group of people created this sense that what we want and who we are really does make a difference. It was especially empowering knowing that this time, the law is on our side."

EU in refugee crisis

BY CHERYL WANG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

59 men, eight women, three children, and one infant were found dead inside a truck trailer by a highway in Austria on August 27. Austrian police found the bodies packed inside the truck like cattle after noticing fluids from the decaying corpses seep out of the truck doors.

These 71 people were found ten miles from Austria's border with Slovakia and Hungary, where thousands of refugees have recently made similar suicidal attempts to enter Western Europe from Syria, Afghanistan, and parts of Africa. Austrian authorities believe that the refugees have been locked inside the truck until they suffocated to death under the 90 degree weather.

Europe is facing its biggest migration crisis since World War II. With incidents of fleeing refugees dying in a truck by the Austria-Hungary border immediately followed by 54 deaths on the Mediterranean reported by

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