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YOUNGBLOOD BEGINS NEW EXPERIMENT

By Jeff Cherry

Dr. William Youngblood has worked in a laboratory for most of his career, so it is hardly surprising that he regards his job as NCSSM's principal as his newest experiment.

Like his predecessor, Youngblood does not fit most students' conceptions of a high school principal because he is not one by training. Before coming here over the summer, he was a research associate in the Biological Sciences Research Center at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and it is his extensive experience in research that he regards as his main qualification for the job. "I think I have the background and perspective to satisfy the board's desire to see 'research' conducted here."

Youngblood does not see his position as a desk job. "I don't see myself as being out of academics," he claims, and explains that his contract with the Board of Trustees calls for at least 25 percent of his time to be devoted to working with students.



Not surprisingly, most of this time will be devoted to involving students and faculty in "in-house" mentorships. "I survived in research by getting grant money for the past 10 years--these have provided my experience." Youngblood wants to use that experience to take "a leadership role in applying for grants and money to

fund research in-house." He says, "I don't really want to see myself as a principal."

Youngblood is a familiar face to veteran faculty members, serving as a chemistry tutor and part-time Organic Chemistry instructor during NCSSM's first three years. He calls that first class he

taught, "The finest chemistry students I've ever had." He also remained in contact with the school by serving as a mentor for several students, and decided to apply for the position after learning of the difficulties the school was having in finding an appropriate candidate. He says, "I didn't want to see the school get hurt," by going another year without a permanent principal.

As for the future? Youngblood foresees no major changes: "I hope that we can . . . become even more effective than in the past in assessing individual skills, potentials, needs of students--and prescribing for them a course of studies which will most effectively help them realize their potential and be prepared to use it."

How does Professor Youngblood view Principal Youngblood? "We don't know yet that I am effective. That experiment is still underway." That experiment will hopefully be a very productive one for Youngblood and NCSSM.

MATROS TAKES P.R. POST



The public relations position at NCSSM has been assumed this year by Michael Matros.

Matros most recently worked for the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research in Raleigh, as the associate editor of North Carolina Insight, a magazine

published by the research center.

Matros said he came here because he considers NCSSM to be a previous opportunity. "It's a neat place," says Matros.

The image of the school is not yet defined, according to Matros. He plans to "chart the direction of the perception" of NCSSM.

"It is owed to North Carolina taxpayers to know more about the school," he stated.

Matros plans to communicate to the public through television, reporters, and publications such as catalogues and brochures and pamphlets.

"The school is an important resource for the state," he said.