

Holbrook Joins Math Department

by Laura Poole

Nicole Holbrook, a new math teacher, has enjoyed her first year at NCSSM. Hired in August, Miss Holbrook had not yet completed her graduate degree from UNC when she was interviewed for the position of teaching ICM and Calculus to Science and Math students.

Miss Holbrook finds that teaching ICM to be a challenge, and says she has learned a lot about it as she goes along in the course. She also adds that the students are her favorite part of teaching. She was a bit intimidated at joining the faculty at NCSSM, but immediately felt welcome.

A self-proclaimed "people person," Miss Holbrook chose to teach math because she says: "I have an analytical mind, but I like people, so I chose to teach. Math is a tool for solving problems, and I like to teach that."

Born in North Carolina, Miss Holbrook grew up in South Carolina and received her undergraduate degree from Clemson University. She went

on to get her graduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. This is her first teaching job.

On a personal note, Miss Holbrook enjoys sports as her main hobby. She likes water-skiing, snow skiing, basketball, aerobics, and is interested in sports psychology. In fact, she adds that if she ever changed careers, she would probably go into sports psychology. Miss Holbrook also enjoys talking with her friends, all kinds of music, and movies like The Scarlet Letter, and Rain Man, adding that she is a big Tom Cruise fan. She likes pizza and ice cream and her favorite colors are pink and blue. She is a big UNC fan, mostly because her brother is a student there.

Miss Holbrook, when asked if she would leave NCSSM, replied that she didn't want to leave North Carolina and didn't want to give up teaching. "I don't want a 9 to 5 job, I want to be around people!" she commented.



Nicole Holbrook is happy with her new job at NCSSM.

Student Visits USSR

by Dana Bius

Bored with the same old summer trip to the beach? How about spending three weeks in the Soviet Union? Nia Banks, an NCSSM junior from Greensboro, got the chance to do exactly that last summer.

Nia went to Russia through a program called the People to People Youth Science Exchange. Her field was marine biology. Along with a group of thirty American Students, she left New York for Moscow on July 17. After two days in Moscow, her group went to Surgut, Siberia, where she spent the next two weeks.

Although the group stayed in a hotel for most of the time, Nia said that they each spent one night at the home of the Russian student who had been their "buddy."

Most of the people there, she said, live in apartments rather than private homes. She describes the town as sandy, as if it was near a beach, and under construction in many parts.

One "American" activity Nia engaged in while in Surgut was shopping. She said that shopping is somewhat different in the Soviet Union. For example, the stores are on the bottom floors of the apartment

buildings. She also spent a day at a lake near the town. Surprisingly, Siberia is not always cold!

After two weeks working in Surgut, the group left for Leningrad, where they spent three days. From there, they flew to Finland and on to the United States.

Each year this program sends students from all over the country to various cities, usually in groups of about thirty according to what field interests them. If you are interested in a new experience this summer, come to the guidance office for more information.

Students Dance

by Jo Peterson

NCSSM students danced for fun and for charity on the 9th and 10th of February. The Dance-a-thon and the Valentine's Dance were popular on-campus entertainment the first weekend back from extended.

On Friday night, the SGA sponsored a dance-a-thon in the cafeteria. To enter, all one had to do was get pledges from sponsors around campus or give a small donation. All proceeds from the dance-a-thon went to the Duke Children's Medical Center. The eight-hour dance lasted from 10 p.m. Friday until 6 a.m. Saturday.

Several people stayed up to dance the entire night away while others opted to sleep or play cards. Refreshments were provided compliments of SGA. Some slow songs were played, but dance music was the emphasis. Fast-paced rap songs as well as comical ones such as "You Got What I Need" highlighted the evening.

SGA representatives took turns being the D.J. At the end of the dance-a-thon those still awake pitched in to put all the tables and chairs back into place. Dance steps practiced and perfected at the dance-a-thon were shown off in

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Get a life

(the cartoon so great it has reruns)

by Eric Coker

