

Saying goodbye to NCSSM

EMILY WARREN

Times change and people change. Every year a couple hundred seniors don their blue robes and march across a stage to get their diplomas. Students constantly flow into and out of the NCSSM community. But even after we're gone we expect things to be somewhat the same in our absence. We want to be able to visit our favorite calculus teacher or SLI and reminisce about the good old days.

Some of the faculty and staff at the school have decided not to come back next year for various reasons. Here's a little information about those who have already announced their plans to leave NCSSM. There may be others who haven't yet decided or haven't made their plans public. Regardless of when they decide, the NCSSM community will miss them all.

Mike Beer - SLI

Years at NCSSM - 4

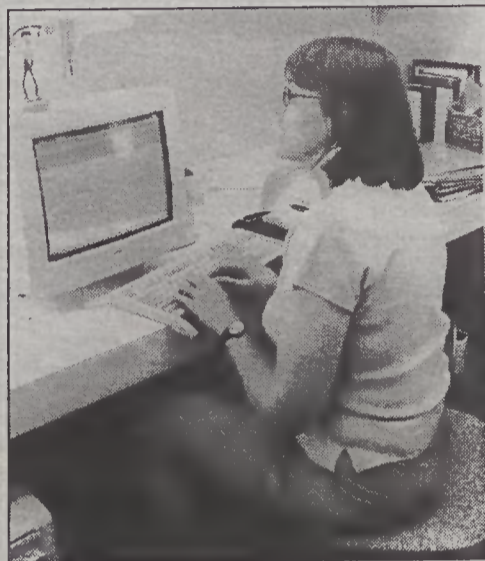
Mike is leaving NCSSM for graduate school. He's planning to attend George Washington University for the next 3 years to get a master's degree in the PA/MPA program. The things he'll miss most about the school are traveling with the students, both on long international trips and food runs to Cosmic.

Helen Compton - Math

Department

Years at NCSSM - 18

Mrs. Compton is one of the few remaining teachers that have been here since 1981



Helen Compton

when the school opened. While she has no definite plans for next year, she says "the sky's the limit." Many people will miss her friendly smile and her approachability, but even though she won't be at NCSSM, she's not going very far away. (She lives within walking distance from the school) The thing she will miss most is working with the students, and she hopes that she will get another opportunity in her life to work with teenagers.

John Goebel - Math Department

Years at NCSSM - 15

After 29 years teaching in the North Carolina school system, Mr. Goebel is ready to retire. While he says he'll miss the students, he will not miss the paperwork. He has exciting plans for the upcoming year. With his wife, he is going to spend five months in Germany, learning the language, research-

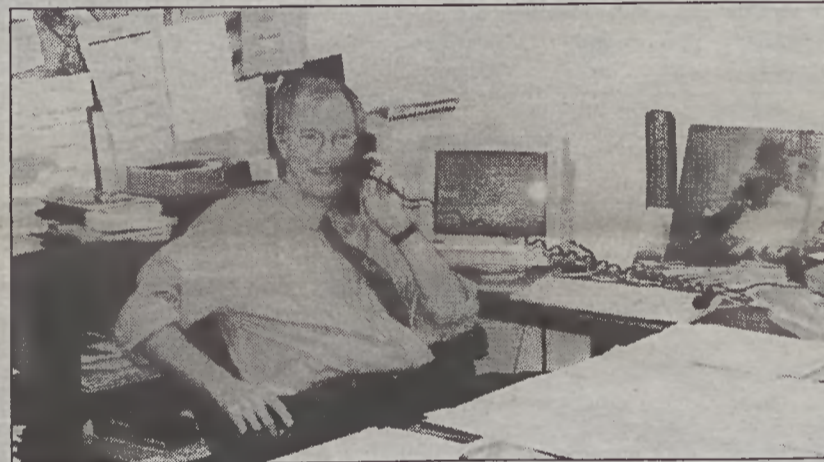
ing his family history, and sightseeing. It's going to be a big change to not see students everyday, but he'll be glad to get away from the time consuming paperwork. Looking back on his years at S+M, Mr. Goebel said,

"This is a unique place and people need to take advantage of it. We've come a long way, but we still haven't realized the full potential for the students here or those who we contact through outreach programs."

Amy Wheeler - SLI

Years at NCSSM - 5

Amy doesn't have any set plans; she's just decided to take some time off. While she'll miss the school just like everyone else, she looks forward to the privacy of not living in the close vicinity of so



John Poe

many people.

John Poe - Admissions

Years at NCSSM - 17

For many students here at NCSSM, Mr. Poe was one of the very first people they had contact with when they first decided to apply to the school. For almost two decades he has

been traveling around the state, recruiting potential students. After his retirement, he looks forward to having the freedom to do what he wants, but he will never forget the wonderful students or faculty here at NCSSM.

Misty Anderson - Chemistry

Years at NCSSM - 2

Just like many seniors, after her second year at NCSSM, Ms. Anderson is heading off to Duke. The only difference is she doesn't have to worry about the financial burden of the school; they're paying her to go. She has accepted a position as a Lab Instructor for an Advanced Freshman Chemistry class for the fall semester. For those of you headed to Duke, you may be seeing Ms. Anderson again next year!

for the Physics 105 class

Steve Goldberg - SLI

Years at NCSSM - 1.5

Steve came to the school last year in February as an SLI. He has been accepted into Georgetown Law School for next fall. He plans to focus in intellectual property and cyberspace law.

Ashley Glenn - SLI

Ashley just became an SLI this year, but she has decided not to come back for another year. During the year she completed her Master's Degree in physical therapy. Next year she is moving to Grand Rapids, Michigan where she will work in this field.

Todd Glenn - SLI

Since Ashley's moving to Michigan, obviously Todd's going too. He's enrolled in Grand Valley St. University in Grand Rapids, MI for the fall semester. He's not sure what degree he's aiming for, but his immediate plans are to get his teacher certification and become a new kind of history teacher.

Val Daniel -

SLI

As the poster outside of her door says, "Val's joining the Pack." Next year she's entering the Master's Program in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at N.C. State University. She's not giving up on her SLI tradition though; she's going to be a Resident Director while at NCSU.

Diversity at Science and Mathematics

SHAINA SCHMETZLE

As this year draws to a close, many students will reflect on the past year or two they have spent at NCSSM and ask themselves what they have gained from the experience and what they will carry away with them. Known for its diversity, Science and Math strives to encourage students to accept one another; to take advantage of their time here by learning about the many beliefs around them. Taking this into account, it was interesting to ask students how the diversity here had affected them, or if their views had changed at all.

Many students felt

that their philosophies were unchanged: "I've been exposed to more religions, but my own personal views are still the same," said Junior Lily Jeng.

"My beliefs have gotten stronger," Senior Tarik Smith said. "I've had to apply what I've learned and been taught. I've grown tolerant of other religions and beliefs. I've learned more just from talking with individuals and from different speak-outs."

Many students, like Tarik, believe that they have learned a lot about tolerance and understanding of other religions by being exposed to them. "I'm not as naive about certain things," Senior Erin Reed explained. "I like the fact

that I can hear other beliefs and be able to learn from them."

Despite the wide range of beliefs at NCSSM, most students do not feel pressured to accept anything foreign to them. As Junior Kendra Ferguson pointed out, "People don't try to force their religion on you. You're open to all views on religion. I'm not as quick to judge people now because you can't judge people on their appearance. I'm still opinionated, but I'm not as judgmental."

As Junior Anne Chesky pointed out, the environment of the school may have helped people to realize how much they depend upon one another. "I think, if anything, I've become less cynical just

because I need help more," she said.

However, some people have had almost the opposite experience. "I don't think what I've believed in has changed. I go to Quaker meetings more than I used to, probably because it's a connection to home. It's a way to see people I know at home and I think the stress here increases the need to go to church or for spiritual meditation," said Senior Rachel VanCleve.

However, some people have found that their beliefs have totally changed since attending the School of Science and Mathematics. "I went from being Agnostic to becoming Atheist," said Junior Hugh

Heidenbrand. "I think it was a combination of taking Evolution and a change in outlook. Mainly, though, I think it was just personal feelings; it didn't really have anything to do with the diversity here."

This school's influence has been very different for each person. In some cases, it has strengthened convictions, while in others it has caused a broadening of horizons and acceptance. Each case has been unique, though, and each teenager will learn something different from the overall experience. As Junior Ben Lee said, "I think this school generally attracts the type of people who understand each other better than anywhere else."