

# the stentorian

north carolina school of science and mathematics

vol. XXI

1219 broad street, durham nc 27705

may 2001

## Breaking Out of the NCSSM Bubble: Seniors are Off to College

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Oxford, MIT, UNC, Cornell, or Duke? It is no wonder that the diverse seniors of NCSSM have chosen an equally diverse selection of colleges to attend next fall. They retain their unity, however, through their desire to learn, love of math and science, and excitement at not having to sign 10:30 check ever again. Featured here are a few such seniors, who discuss the decisions they made regarding their choice of college, what they will miss most about NCSSM, what they are excited about, and what their plans are for the future.

Allison Osborne and Snay Prajapati, along with what seems to be half the senior class, are going to UNC Chapel Hill. So why is the university so popular? Although accepted to many other schools, such as Emory, Florida State, and College of Charleston, Allison believes UNC to be the most prestigious. She's excited about parties and freedom, but will miss the close friendships she's formed at Science & Math. She's planning on double majoring in biology and psychol-

ogy and minoring in cognitive science.

Snay chose Carolina because "it's a really good all-around school," making it perfect for him, because he is not yet sure what he will major in. He is also confident that he can get his money's worth at UNC, and likes its location: close enough to home to be convenient, but not stiflingly so. He'll enjoy the added liberties and seeing many of the friends he has made at Science & Math, but will miss the teachers here. Snay cites NCSSM's instructors' genuine interest in teaching and their willingness to talk to students as friends and equals as special characteristics that he does not expect to find as readily at a large university.

Another common college choice is North Carolina State University, where Seth Newman is planning on majoring in com-

puter engineering. He's looking forward to, "No check," "breaking out of the bubble," and eventually creating his own computer company. He, too, will miss the special relationships fostered by the NCSSM community.

Lindsay Higgins was accepted to Duke University and Carolina, and chose the former. She hasn't decided on a major,

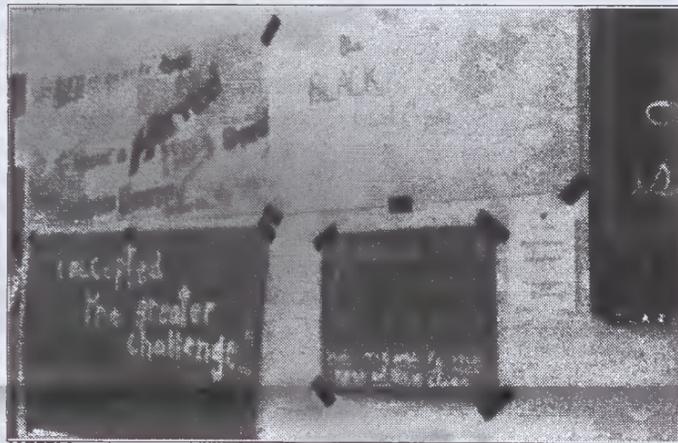
ent of the prestigious Robertson scholarship, will also be attending Duke, where he plans on majoring in environmental policy. Chris originally thought he wanted to go to a smaller school, but after his mentorship experience, he realized the benefits of being at a research institution. Chris says he'll miss "the Unix lab and small community, and being close friends with stu-

dents and teachers." Chris describes Duke as "a crazy place — just big enough that there are people of all types (academics, athletes, all sorts of mixes in between), and people with many different ideas of how the world should be." Chris recommends getting in applications as soon as possible and keeping options open, "because surprises, like my scholarship, can most definitely come up. Life's what you make of it."

Also choosing to stay in

North Carolina, Dawn Pickett will live among the beautiful NC mountains at UNC Asheville. She's looking forward to, "Being in a town with a lower crime rate than Durham, seeing more trees and less concrete, hearing more birds and fewer sirens, and being able to pursue what I want to do with the rest of my life [art], which UNC Asheville is noted for." She intends to be a designer, interior or industrial, and she plans on minoring in photography. Her advice to juniors is, "Don't slack off! Start looking for scholarships early. Do everything your senior year you didn't as a junior. And go to Elmo's at least once."

Besides Chris Paul, many other students will be able to attend the school of their dreams free of charge. Kenneth Gibbs, our SGA president, is heading off to University of Maryland at Baltimore County. He chose UMBC because he received the prestigious Meyerhoff scholarship, which pays for any graduate degrees he wishes to pursue as well as his entire undergraduate education. Kenny plans to major in either biology or chemistry, but is unsure about his



NCSSM seniors announce the colleges they plan to attend.

Jamie Shin

but she's looking forward to the continued academic stimulation of fairly small classes and Duke's distinguished reputation. Duke is another top choice among this year's seniors, and Lindsay won't be at a loss for familiar faces.

Christopher Paul, recipi-

## The Watershed Years: The New NCSSM

ALEX DADOK

When walking around this campus, most students don't think of it as anything more than a prestigious boarding school. We, the students, learn here; we, the students, sleep here. But if one ventures down to 1<sup>st</sup> floor Watts to Dr. Boarman's office, a whole new attitude towards the school makes itself felt. The wood paneling, waiting room, and ornaments give the impression of more than a school; one can feel authority, like when walking into a government building...

Or at least this is what I felt as I walked in and was asked to sit for a brief period. I knew that ultimately it is here that the decisions are made; here is the connection to the outside world. What this school is and what it will become depends very much on what opinions float around this wood-paneled office. Dr. Boarman has a pro-

gram for Science and Math that is not a rigid agenda, and it is important for the students here to know what this school is now and what it might become in the future.

Dr. Boarman explained to me his general philosophy on running NCSSM. He recognizes he is new here and is willing to try many things, ultimately to find out what is best for the students. When he finds that, he pushes for it to become a reality here. Dr. Boarman believes in an "upward-spiral" doctrine: as Science and Math gets better, more people will want to be here. When more people want to be here, the school will be able to choose more individuals who will contribute more to the school... you can see where this is going. This policy makes sense for everybody; obviously, Dr. Boarman will become successful himself if the school becomes successful. So what defines successful? That question is always the catch, but here

is the best a busy student can do to give you an idea of what the "main man" wants.

Dr. Boarman believes that his first year here has been a successful one. He has tried to improve life for the students here in both residential and non-residential areas. For example, the school made sure the halls were in good order for our year here, and added the picnic tables outside the cafeteria. The meadow in back of Hunt has been turned into another field, the internet connections are faster, and the list goes on. Everyone has seen the changes around. The preceding are not major operating changes, and it is those major changes that are the mainstay of Dr. Boarman's future plans. Changes in the assessment and broadcasting to colleges, changes in admissions, changes in the structure, and changes in the community and student life are the pillars of the new NCSSM.

One area that could

stand some major changes here, Dr. Boarman feels, commonly called "the Grade question", deals with how this school can more accurately show colleges the amount of work the students do here. Dr. Boarman believes the answer for this lies somewhere in the weighted GPA. He is at the moment working with the GRADE committee, headed by Ms. Hudson and Mr. Trocano to find the best possible solution to this. Students here are not getting into the colleges they deserve, Dr. Boarman believes, and he wants that to change soon. He is not considering class rank or any kind of honors GPA comparison.

Improving how NCSSM appears to colleges is an effective way to increase the amount of people who apply to this school, another very important goal of Dr. Boarman's. This year we had 102 more applicants than last year. In some areas the admission cutoff on the math test was a perfect score.

The school is also hiring seven new teachers next year. This goes back to the "upward spiral" idea. More applicants means Science and Math can afford to be more selective, which is definitely better for it. How can NCSSM attract more applicants? According to Dr. Boarman, the school can do this by making it a more attractive place to be.

Dr. Boarman believes that a way to make NCSSM more attractive is to try to get students more involved in it. He believes that right now, "one thing missing at school is community." By community he means community between the administration, the faculty, and the students. Next year, he says, we may have an extra period on Monday and have all Monday classes five minutes shorter. This would allow for a Monday meeting between the

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