

# the stentorian

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John Kirk

The new SLIs are ready to take their positions: Mike Fliss, Tammy Parks, Gail Morgan, Jennifer Ashe, Zoey LeTendre, Keisha King, and Ben Wright.

## New SLIs storm NCSSM with ideas, enthusiasm

BY ROBERT DAVIS

Last year, Jeremy Tuchmayer, the former Student Life Instructor of 1st Hill, announced that he would be abdicating the position of SLI in order to pursue graduate work at Vanderbilt University.

This wasn't really news, though, or at least it wasn't news to us. Rumors had been floating around campus for months about different SLI's who were planning to leave Science and Math for various reasons.

There were seven men and women in total to leave the ranks of the NCSSM residential life elite last year. They are Kasey Ashton, Jackson Brown, Sabrina Calato, Kyleene Dibble, Stephanie Mooring, Jeremy Tuchmayer, and Quanda Williams.

For those of you who don't

know, the SLI's are an extremely important component of the NCSSM community. This eclectic group of twenty individuals serve as the surrogate mothers and fathers that keep the Science and Math wunderkinder from going completely insane in the absence of our own parents' watchful eyes.

At the end of the school year, many students felt that an unusually large portion of the SLI staff were leaving, and they were right. According to Kevin Cromwell, Director of Student Services, "We have been fortunate the last few years to have a small turnover in staff. Four staff members at the end of 2004 and 2003."

Indeed, with nearly half of the SLI staff leaving, the administration had quite a task ahead of them when it came to finding replacements. Cromwell said, "All applicants that receive an interview must have a back-

ground in education, counseling, student life, or residence life. Once the group to be interviewed is selected, the applicant goes through a half-day interview process."

The interview process itself isn't a walk in the park. "They meet individually with the VP of Student Life, the Director of Student Services, and the Director of Residence Life. In addition, they interview with a panel of current SLI's and finally they are interviewed by a group of current and rising RLA's while they do a tour of campus."

After this extensive selection process, who did they finally choose? They are Jennifer Ashe (3rd Bryan), Mike Fliss (2nd Hill), Keisha King (Reynolds 1C, 2C, 1D), Zoey LeTendre (Ground Royall), Gail Morgan (1st Royall), Tammy Parks (4th Bryan), and Ben Wright (2nd Hill).

One of the chosen, Mike Fliss, is a former construction worker, social studies teacher, Service Learning Coordinator at the Durham Nativity School, and sculpture model. Currently, Fliss is a martial arts teacher, Zen Buddhist, and the official new SLI of...well, me and the rest of 1st Hill. Fliss graduated from Duke in 2003, and has lived in Durham for about eight years.

Talking to Fliss, though, you wouldn't easily guess at the details of his past. Instead you're more likely to hear about his eminently original plans for his hall in this coming year. These plans include field trips with half-hour stops at some of the more obscure attractions to be found around Durham, and housekeeping blitzes with all of the hall working while dressed in black and completely silent.

Zoey LeTendre, another new SLI, graduated from UNC-Chap-

el Hill just last year, and is an NCSSM alumnus from the class of 2001. When asked if she felt the same sort of foreboding about the approaching year that occurs to rising seniors faced with incoming juniors she said, "it's not really the fear so much as the anticipation."

LeTendre went on to say, "I had a really positive experience [at NCSSM] and I want this to be a place where they feel they can come back to and want to come back to rather than a place where they graduate from and just close the book."

There may have been a large turnover in the SLI staff this year, but as Kevin Cromwell put it, "I am excited by the enthusiasm and energy that the new staff will bring to our community. I don't believe a noticeable shift will be perceived, but I expect SLI's to continue to be supportive, and conduits of building a positive community."

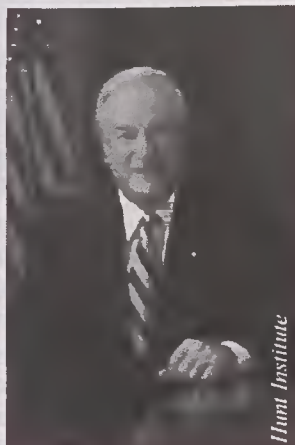
## Former Governor Hunt to be Convocation speaker

BY SARA WISE

On Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, NCSSM will celebrate its 25th anniversary during the 2005 Convocation ceremony. Former North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. will be the guest speaker of the evening. The appearance of the man largely responsible for the founding of NCSSM will be warmly appreciated by students and staff.

Governor Hunt envisioned a school where students could specialize in Science and Mathematics in an intense and interesting academic environment. And so, with the help of former Governor and Duke University President Terry Sanford, and John Ehle, a distinguished area academician, NCSSM was founded in 1980.

The establishment of NCSSM is just one of the many ways in which Governor Hunt has worked to improve public education in North Carolina. As governor from 1977 to 1985 and again from 1993 to 2001, he served four historic terms filled with education initiatives. His will to focus on new technologies resulted in the creation of the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. During his third



Former Governor Hunt

term, he helped to launch Smart Start, a non-profit partnership that focuses on early childhood development. He has also worked to raise the standards in public schools as well as improve the quality and experience of teachers. Governor Hunt's efforts contributed to his goal of making North Carolina schools the best in America by 2010.

The Convocation ceremony will be held in the ETC Auditorium at 6:30 pm, followed by a reception on the Bryan Lawn at 8:00 pm. All members of the NCSSM community are invited to initiate the school year alongside Former Governor Hunt.

## NCSSM Tuition grant bill amended, passed

BY CONNIE CHU

A bill amending the NCSSM Tuition Grant was passed by the North Carolina State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Mike Easley on August 13th, 2005.

In section 9.14(a) of the newly approved budget, the tuition grant was changed from only covering the cost of tuition to covering the cost of attendance.

The bill states that "... no tuition grant awarded to a student under this section shall exceed the cost of attendance at the constituent institution at which the student is enrolled. If a student, who is eligible for a tuition grant under this subsection, also receives a scholarship or other grant covering the cost of attendance at the

constituent institution for which the tuition grant is awarded, then the amount of the tuition grant shall be reduced by an appropriate amount determined by the State Education Assistance Authority. ... This section applies to any eligible student who is enrolled full-time in The University of North Carolina after July 1, 2005."

This decision benefits students planning on attending any college that is part of the University of North Carolina system, which includes NC State, Chapel Hill, and Appalachian State, among others. Now that the tuition grant is based on the cost of attendance, rather than just tuition, the Classes of 2005, 2006, and 2007 may be receiving more money for college. Future grad-

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