

the  stentorian

vol. XXVII, issue 5
the north carolina school of science and mathematics

april 2007
stentorian@ncssm.edu



Photo by Amy Bryson

UNC-CH Jackson Hall Undergraduate Admissions fills with prospective students and their parents waiting to tour the campus.

Fabrication lab to be added

By Whitney Baker

Alumni have raised \$350,000 for the construction of a fabrication lab on campus. Speculation about the location of the fabrication lab has recently focused on the Assembly Hall and Hunt Classroom.

The alumni who presented the fund specifically stated its purpose as being for the construction of a fabrication lab.

"They would like to see students have more experience with hands-on learning," Chancellor Gerald Boardman said.

This year marked the beginning of the engineering program at NCSSM. Many students have already taken advantage of the new course offering, Principles of Engineering, in addition to such older classes as robotics. The engineering class in particular emphasizes first-hand application of math and science to solve problems.

Even with the resources provided by the Ground Reynolds Lab, engineering classes are limited by a lack of space and equipment.

"We don't have the machinery we need," said senior Jennifer Peeler, who is involved with the robotics team.

The question of where the fabrication lab will be built is still on the table. Many lean away from the Assembly Hall because of student use and other limitations, but the possibility has been highlighted. Another possibility would place the fabrication lab within the yet-to-be-built Discovery Center.

The fabrication lab would essentially provide four different services, according to engineering instructor Paul Menchini: a wood shop, a metal shop, a plastic forming lab and a 3-D printer that would enable students to make certain visions a reality. For classes like engineering, in which students are given problems and must build solutions, the fabrication lab would provide a resource.

"Without such a facility, you can't do certain types of learning," Menchini said.

Many students are enthusiastic about the opportunities such a facility would present.

"A fabrication lab is a great idea, and should be incorporated into the plans of the Discovery Center," junior Austin Page said. "It would offer a place for students to go to build just about anything."

Others, however, have had mixed reactions to the news.

"I know if there had been a metalworking course this year, I would have definitely signed up for it," senior Kathleen Hébert said. "However, if it was at the cost of the Chiba [or Assembly Hall], I would have been far less enthusiastic."

Both the fabrication lab and Discovery Center are in pre-planning stages. The decision about where to put the fabrication lab will not be made until funding is finalized.



Photo by Luis Zapata

Students gather in the Assembly Hall for Koffeehaus on Friday, March 16. Koffeehaus is one of the many uses of the Assembly Hall

Rejected, waitlisted

Students, staff shocked by UNC-CH admissions' decisions, new impressions on quality of NCSSM

By Amy Bryson

While 100 percent of students from NCSSM are admitted into a University of North Carolina system school, this year many rejections and waitlists into UNC-CH caught counselors, parents and students off guard.

"At first I was really just shocked," senior Scott Ouzts said. "I could have seen myself possibly getting waitlisted but never rejected. Then I heard of all the names of the people who didn't get in either."

Gail Hudson, dean of counseling services, said this reality is being faced across the state and nation.

"There has been an increase in quantity and an increase of quality of [applicants]. This is a trend nationally, especially in North Carolina. Here we have the same problem in which students who would have been accepted to NCSSM in the past have not been."

Hudson said that UNC-CH admissions' measure of applicants is based on academic rigor, grades and standardized test scores. However, many believe that admissions overlooked the quality of an NCSSM education.

"I think that anyone who can come here for two years and make it through without any really horrible academic problems deserves to get into UNC," PCC Angela Sarnie said. "I understood that colleges everywhere were more competitive this year, but I came from a Wake County school where there are a lot of AP courses available and usually pretty good teachers, and I still feel that this school is at a much higher caliber. I don't know how heavily UNC weighed that this year."

Senior Casey Putnam, who was waitlisted, is confused by her admission decision.

"I'm not really sure why I didn't get in. I took all topics classes and made all As and Bs,"

Putnam said. "I think I'm just frustrated with Science and Math. I think when we applied here we were under the impression if we took topics and made all As and Bs we were guaranteed a spot at UNC and that was not the case this year. If I knew this was going to happen I would have gone home."

As feelings of frustration, shock and anger fill students and spread across campus, counselors' doors are open and their team is working to prepare for the future. Counseling is encouraging students who were waitlisted to write letters to UNC admissions, gain more recommendation letters, re-take the SAT and create an additional honors and activities list. Hudson also said that students who were denied "have every opportunity to appeal."

"The main thing we are focusing on is providing hope and to give students a plan," Hudson said. "In the future we want to do a better job of having students tour NC State, ECU, UNC-G and NC A&T."

Junior EJ Simpson feels that the rejections and waitlistings have sent a

message to the junior class and future applicants to NCSSM.

"Juniors have seen what has happened and they have considered this and are working harder and more efficiently to get into UNC," he said. "I think this shows that this school is overrated and it's not weighing as much as it used to competitively."

While approximately 201 students from NCSSM have currently been accepted to UNC-CH, the number of students who were not accepted has caused an ill-feeling towards NCSSM.

"If I would give any sophomore a piece of advice I would tell them not to come," Sarnie said. "You miss out on too much, you stress out too much. This school takes years off of your life and now you might not even get into UNC."

* Specific admission statistics will be released in May and reported in the next issue of The Stentorian.

“
If I knew this was going to happen, I would have gone home.
”
- senior Casey Putnam

Don't miss:

More sleep through Internet policy?
page 3

Booze control
page 4

2007 Releases
page 5