

# THE STENTORIAN

The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

VOLUME XXVIII | ISSUE FOUR

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JUNE 2008

## New Courses Added for 2008-2009 School Year

By KAVYA SEKAR

NCSSM is adding seven new academic courses to the registry next year: Modeling with Matrices, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Classical Mythology, British Literature after 1900, World Religions, Advanced Topics in Academic Writing and a year long AB Calculus course.

Teachers who observe students' interest in a subject area are usually the ones to initiate new classes. Mythology has been added to the registry because Latin teachers observed students' interest in Roman mythology while British Literature after 1900 was added because of current students' interest in modern literature. Math teachers recommended a year-long AB Calculus course to replace the current third trimester only AB Calculus course. They also initiated the Modeling with Matrices course to resurrect a linear algebra course previously taught at NCSSM.

Other groups like student government, the curriculum review committee and sometimes students, may also propose an additional course. "Often times students teach a seminar that turns into a course," said Steve Warshaw, the Vice Chancellor of Academic Programs. "Our current program in medical and environmental ethics was started from an ethics course taught by a student a couple years ago."

One added class based on a seminar course this

year is World Religions, which was a popular seminar taught by Cecile Tougas and Pat Gann during second trimester of this year. There was so much interest in the subject that the school wanted to open it up as a full-credit class.

Some classes are added to the curriculum to fulfill NCSSM's goals for academic programs in the future. Civil Engineering and Architecture is a continuation of NCSSM's expansion of its applied sciences department. This course will focus on solving real world problems involving building design and community planning. According to Warshaw, each year the applied science department adds a new engineering course modified by Project Lead the Way, an organization that promotes the use of real world applications in science education. NCSSM's current applied sciences department includes courses in computer science, ethics, electronics and basic engineering. There will be a fabrication lab in NCSSM's future Discovery Center where applied science students can build their projects.

Along with applied science projects, there will be more students pursuing independent research projects in the future. In order to prepare students for the formal academic writing required for research papers, NCSSM will be offering an Advanced Topics in Academic Writing course next year. This course will train students to write with the rhetorical and analytical skills required

for scholarly essays and research papers. Starting in 2011, there will be a research requirement mandating that each student perform a research project either in the research classes, mentorship, research experience classes or through an outside summer program before graduation.

Academic programs seeks to expand the number of NCSSM courses offered online for off-campus students so future students could graduate with an NCSSM degree without living on campus and attending regular classes. Warshaw also seeks to increase the number of online courses students take at NCSSM. He predicts that in a few years, students will be required to take an online course sometime during their junior or senior year to prepare for future technology based education. "I read an article that said by the year 2020 most of education will take place online," said Warshaw.

With the expansion of NCSSM's programs into new areas of study, future students at NCSSM might have "concentrations" where they follow a curriculum that emphasizes their academic and career goals.

Warshaw also suggested that students would spend less time listening to lectures. "School will be different, we won't spend as much time in class," said Warshaw. "Teachers won't have four or five meeting times each week. There will be more discussion groups among students."

## Former President Clinton Visits School

By DANIEL MILLER

There was brief political history made when Bill Clinton, husband to Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton made a visit to NCSSM.

That afternoon, students, teachers, and faculty of the North Carolina School of Science and Math all gathered outside the ETC Auditorium along with many other Durham residents to see Bill Clinton, the former President of the United States, visit NCSSM's campus in order to gain support for Senator Clinton's campaign. Clinton had made many stops at different voting sites across North Carolina, and NCSSM was his last for the day.

While many people were able to obtain pictures and autographs from the former president, others used the opportunity to demonstrate their political views. Though many people who attended the event shouted support for Hilary, there was a group of people standing opposite of Clinton's fans chanting support for Senator Barack Obama, Senator Clinton's opponent.

Clinton stayed at the school for about an hour. During this time news stations were parked outside the ETC and some NCSSM students were being interviewed. Yet even with all the excitement of the news stations and cameras, some NCSSM residents viewed the proceeding with a skeptical eye. "I think this is just a chance to take pictures because he is not running for president. His wife is," said junior Courtney Graham.

Junior Hadeer Metwally said, "Just because he is here

doesn't mean it affects views on Hillary in any way."

Some students and faculty members did not feel that Clinton's visit to campus would sway their decision in any way and others were unaware of the visit until moments before or even after the arrival of Clinton himself. Many Clinton supporters had already cast their votes, but still viewed the event as worthwhile. Counselor Gail Hudson said, "I voted for Hilary the very first day the polls let me, but I do know some people who were on the fence, and his visit to the school, and display of caring about us did help them decide."

Other than the excitement of meeting a celebrity and participating in a political event of this rarity, some students and staff felt Clinton's visit was beneficial to the school in less immediately appreciable ways. "Many of the students here kind of live in a bubble," said SLI Jess Godfrey. "Something like this is really helpful for showing the students what's going on and what an election year is really like."

Not only did the campaign stop expose NCSSM students to the outside world, it may have also helped draw attention to NCSSM itself. "I feel like a lot of our students were able to express themselves intelligently on camera which would help the school look good," said senior Christopher Qin. "This may encourage more students to apply."

Regardless of any specific ramifications, events like Clinton's visit can only raise awareness about the political process for NCSSM students.



Picture by Dakota Williams

Former President Bill Clinton with Danielle Polochak, Chrissy Luettich, Cydney Swofford, Katie Kriska, and Isabella Bellon



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