

Distance Education teacher wins national award

BY ASHLEY JERNIGAN

Cristine Clarke, a NCSSM Distance Education psychology teacher, won the individual gold level award for her work from the United States Distance Learning Association. Last spring Clarke won this award in a division of over one hundred entries. The plaque that Clarke received is on dis-

was really amazed because their content was so complex and their programming is so cutting edge, and of course NCSSM's is too."

Clarke credited winning this award to the great team effort from her department and Fred Hurteau, the graphic artist of the department, because of his work on the website and the

year, and it was an honor to be nominated. I totally did not expect to win. When the letter came I thought it was a Dear John letter. It really is wonderful recognition for me and the school." NCSSM's Distance Education program also received recognition from the USDLA in 2006.

"One of Cris's most admirable qualities is her desire to connect with her students as one human being to another", Kirk related.

A former student of Clarke's stated, "Connecting through video conferencing on a personal level can be challenging, but Dr. Clarke is very successful with it."

"The best part of the whole process was the testimonials. I actually had two former student testimonials that were so moving – that a student would remember the thinking processes that I was trying to teach them", Clarke recalled.

NCSSM's Distance Education program plays a large role in the Residential Program and throughout the state. It is the biggest provider of video conferencing for kindergarten through twelfth grade, possessing about 52 percent of the traffic.

"Distance Education is important to NCSSM's mission to bring STEM programming (science technology, engineering, and math) to high level students across the state," said Clarke



Photo courtesy of Cristine Clarke

John G Flores, Board of Directors USDLA, Cristine Clarke, Distance Education Psychology Instructor, and Reggie Smith, President of USDLA

play on the ETC third floor

Peg Kirk, Instructional Technology Specialist from DEEP commented, "We are absolutely thrilled that she won the award, she even beat NASA."

NASA took the silver level award this year. Clarke stated about her win over NASA, "I

"nice presentation with video animation and multimedia." As a part of the celebration the USDLA has invited NCSSM to take part in Distance Learning Week this November.

Clarke commented on the win, "It was really terrific to get to go to the conference since the budget was tight last

NCSSM nominates students for prestigious scholarships

BY KEXIN YIN

As the college application deadlines close in and frustrate most seniors, the troubling thought of how to actually pay for college when the acceptance letters arrive arises. Some are already looking into scholarships and getting a head start.

The Morehead-Cain and the Park scholarships are two of the most prestigious scholarships in North Carolina. The Morehead-Cain offers a full ride to UNC-Chapel Hill (tuition, room/board, fees, food, books), four full-paid summer ventures to anywhere in the world, and an \$8,000 Discovery Fund to spend on personal interests.

"With the Morehead-Cain you get all the resources you need to cultivate personal interests and to seek out new, untapped passion and potential," said Morehead-Cain nominee, Sagar Shukla.

Along with Shukla, Jenifer Brown, Radhika Ghodasara, Adeolu Ilesanmi, Matt Jordan, Molly Kuo, Maili Lim, Nicholas Liu, Isaac Loh, and Lydia Thurman also received the Morehead nomination from NCSSM. Nominees are hopeful for the opportunities that receiving this scholarship would afford them.

"If I get into and choose to go to UNC, and if I happen to

get the Morehead, too, I would definitely take full advantage of the research and study abroad opportunities," said Ilesanmi.

For the Park Scholarship, which also includes the full cost of education, related expenses, and enrichment activities, NCSSM nominated Karsyn Bailey, Katy Carter, Ryan Lee, Alex Li, Catherine McVey, Enioluwafe Ojo, Patrick Panuski, Valencia Quiett, Catherine Thriveni, and Natalie Williams. The nominees look forward to the different possibilities they foresee if they are to receive the scholarship.

"It definitely means a lot especially since NC State feels like home to me. With the scholarship, I am eying the opportunity for research funding because I want to major in biomedical engineering," said Lee.

He is not the only one to be thankful for the chance to be worrisome about money for four years of college.

"I'm excited for the nomination because it means a lot to be chosen by a school where everybody's talented. I'm excited about the Park because it would be a chance to go to a good engineering school basically for free," said Carter. All of the nominees are immensely grateful for the chance to have been nominated by the school and hope to move up to the next stage of the selection to represent themselves as well as the school.

Recently, the school nominated Karsyn Bailey for the John Montgomery Belk Scholarship at Davidson, a prestigious scholarship awarded based on academics, commitment to service and extracurriculars, and personal characteristics. Davidson invites schools to nominate just one student for the Belk Scholarship.

The school nominated Ademide Adekun, Nicholas Liu, Joseph Moo-Young, Lilly Park, and Sagar Shukla for the Emory Scholars Program.

Annie Hall and Joseph Moo-Young were nominated by the school for the Centennial Scholars Program at NCSU.

Lori Hackney, a counselor at NCSSM explained that students can self-nominate for scholarships such as the Morehead-Cain, Park, and Centennial Scholars and said that several self-nominated students have received these scholarships in the past.

For all juniors, it is never too early to start searching for scholarships. There are a variety of them out there just waiting to be given to someone who fit the qualifications. One resource that one can take advantage of is the new scholarship page that the NCSSM Peer College Counselors have just recently developed - <http://scholarshipsatncssm.wikispaces.com/message/list/home>.

Exam schedule conflict resolved

BY MOLLY KUO

When the original exam schedule for trimester one was released, many students were outraged with the idea of exams on a Saturday, especially one during the morning period without a reading period following Friday's classes. Physics was scheduled during the morning block, and American Studies was scheduled during the afternoon block. Many were concerned with the short amount of time in between the last day of classes and the first exam, affecting how much time is available for studying.

"We are so busy during the week, and that doesn't give us enough time to prepare for an exam on Saturday. Some juniors could have two exams back to back on a Saturday. We would have to do all of our studying on a Friday night after a full day of classes," said RLA Valencia Quiett.

"Our weekends are 'sacred' because we have so much schoolwork during the week, and it's not fair to take away our weekend," said senior Jennifer Iwerks.

Close to the beginning of the year, Joan Barber, Vice Chancellor of Student Life met with the Residential Life Assistants to hear concerns

and ideas from the student perspective. the administration to find a compromise.



Photo by Jaehee Yoo

Bailey Ogle, Bronwyn Fadem, and Annie Venable with study materials for Physics and American Studies

"It was good to be able to voice our opinions about the Saturday exams," said RLA Whitney Watson. During the meeting multiple students brought up issues against Saturday exams including previous engagements, the need for a break from the school week, and the lack of an appropriate amount of studying time.

Noting the discontent of many of the students, Student Government along with a few other students became involved and worked with

"Students started to ask about the Saturday exams and approached the Vice Chancellor, the Director of Academic Programs, and me to ask for an exam schedule change which would benefit students and teachers," explained Barber. Student Body President Sagar Shukla was heavily involved and learned more about the scheduling conflict.

"When we spoke with administration, namely Dr. Barber, Dr. Warshaw, and Mr. Clayton, we got the other side of the story: because of

scheduling conflicts, they had to place exams on Saturday without sacrificing days for trimester break, or taking one of the planned school days," explained Shukla.

Student government proposed a solution that would eliminate Saturday exams, but it was unattractive to administrators because they worried that two science finals on the last day of exams would overburden students.

Eventually a compromise was reached in which the Physics exam was moved to Saturday afternoon, and American Studies switched to the same period as Senior English. Shukla is happy with the revised schedule and even happier with the method through which it was changed.

According to Barber, the controversy and eventual compromise show "an excellent example of how we can all work together to find an agreeable solution to a problem."

"[This] wasn't just SG trying to change things. SG was simply a facilitator for students who wanted to voice their opinions and change things. Students initiated it. Students deserve the credit. We were just glad to help," said Violette Zhu, Student Senate President.