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## SLI departures lead to changes in Student Life

BY ADE ILESANMI

Emmie Corl and Fran Peters, SLIs on 1st and Ground Royall, respectively, will be filling some new shoes on campus next year. Roughly a week after Spring Break, they were both offered the responsibilities of filling two pending vacancies on the Residential Life Department staff next academic year. While Corl waited about a week before she accepted the offer, Peters accepted almost immediately.

"I know Fran has really wanted this job for a while," said Corl.

Corl and Peters will be replacing SLIs Leah Dula (Ground Reynolds) and David Ritchie (2nd Hill North), who will be leaving NCSSM after this year. Consequently, the two Royall SLIs will be assuming more of Dula and Ritchie's responsibilities aside from instructing SL101 classes.

Along with Dula and

Ritchie, also leaving this year are SLIs David Buff (2nd East), Ariel Carpenter (1C2C1D), and Katy Greene (2nd Beall). Their positions are currently being filled through the normal SLI hiring process.

Corl, who had not planned on taking this responsibility when she initially became an SLI, will be the new MPC advisor and SL201 coordinator, two of Dula's current responsibilities. Peters will be overseeing roommate pairings and other housing-related issues. Both women will also be in charge of opening and closing all buildings. These tasks will be completed on top of all the standard SLI responsibilities,

with the exception that Residential Life SLIs are not a part of the weekly duty schedule to work at the various on-campus lobbies and SLI offices.

In the past, all SLIs used to have to fulfill the roles of Residential Life Instructors; however, several years ago, the job posts were consolidated to establish consistency.

Because of the added duties their new roles entail, Corl and Peters had to exhibit certain qualities that supplement those required of all other SLIs.

"One needs to have a passion for the students and edu-

cating them, as well as a passion for student life," said Corl.

Corl does not know if taking this job will influence her plans enough to make her pursue a teaching career. She says that she wants to approach this class as more of a discussion-oriented learning experience for both the students and the teacher. Because of the nature of the class, she understands that there are some dicey areas in the curriculum, but she's interested to see how things will unfold.

Corl believes that Peters, who began working at NCSSM in July of 2009 and who has

been interested in this job for some time, will most likely continue to pursue the teaching profession, provided her career as a Residential Life Instructor is successful.

Corl, who began working at NCSSM in September of 2009, wants to see how her first year goes before determining whether she will continue instructing Residential Life classes.

Corl will teach five SL101 classes next fall, while Peters will teach seven.

The Residential Life Department is headed by Mike Newbauer (1st Hunt). All other SLIs are part of the Student Services Department, headed by Kevin Cromwell.



Photo courtesy of NCSSM  
Emmie Corl, 1st Royall SLI, new MPC advisor, SL101 instructor and SL201 Coordinator



Photo courtesy of NCSSM  
Fran Peters, Ground Royall SLI and new SL101 instructor

## Melissa Thibault begins as DEEP vice chancellor

BY DAVID OJO

The Distance Education and Extended Programs (DEEP) Division provides statewide outreach to improve mathematics and science education for students and teachers, utilizing innovative technology and methods. Broadcasting from four NCSSM studios located in the ETC, teachers interact with distant sites utilizing learning management systems, integrated virtual seminar tools, and video streaming.

I sat down with the new Vice Chancellor of Distance Education and Extended Programs, Melissa Thibault. A Philadelphia native, Thibault attended Colby College in Waterville, Maine. She has spent the last 13 years working in the North Carolina School System before becoming the new DEEP Vice Chancellor at the start of 2011.

DO: Most students find it difficult the first few weeks at NCSSM. As a Staff Member, would you say that you it took you a while to adjust or was it a smooth transition for you?

MT: I am very challenged. I feel like the pace is tremendous. There are so many different things going on like activities, programs and initiatives; it's difficult to find how to spend your time. I guess students undergo the same thing.



Photo courtesy of North Carolina Virtual Public School  
Melissa Thibault began as Vice Chancellor of DEEP in January

It doesn't take much to be overextended and so you have to learn to understand how the place works.

DO: What is your impression of Science & Math so far?

MT: I guess my impression so far is that previously, I didn't understand the scope of the program. I didn't understand the academic rigor. The scope is much broader than I ever would have guessed. [We

have] classes like medicinal chemistry and ecocriticism that are so innovative and will help kids who we'll need to solve problems for the future. We're teaching students how to lead. A lot of place offer hard courses but there's something more systemic about this place. We teach skills not in the curriculum.

DO: Many students don't know much about the DEEP program. Could you enlighten us as to what are the typical operations carried out in DEEP?

MT: In addition to working with students through Interactive Video Conferencing and online courses, we also work with teachers and help them to better teach their subject area. Our teachers observe and critique other teachers. We have a really powerful coaching model to train teachers. We also do course enrichments by bringing NCSSM students to present lessons to younger students across the state through activities like simple circuits. It's great for the school and the kids.

DO: Should we be expecting any new changes in the DEEP Program?

MT: We are undertaking a strategic planning activity in DEEP. During that process, we will work with

external stakeholders, such as the superintendent or local business leaders. We will work with them to see what they hope NCSSM can do for them, and then we'll work with leaders at NCSSM to see what we can do to meet that need. One of the big problems, we want to address head on is that NCSSM is a bit of a well kept secret. Many people don't realize our impact and so I think that it's very important that people find out about us so they can be better involved.

DO: What is your favorite thing about NCSSM from what you've seen so far?

MT: That's easy. It's the people. My colleagues, the faculty, everybody has such a positive energy around the work they do. The students realize what an opportunity this is and that this place flows with positive energy. I came away from my interviews thinking, "That was fun!" Everyone has the same goal to improve education and to serve the students here. We all have the same agendas, which isn't always the case in many schools.

After the interview, I gave Thibault a small NCSSM trivia quiz. Thibault received a perfect 4 out of 4 on the quiz. Thibault is excited to be here and ready to serve NCSSM and the students of North Carolina.