

Students and faculty reflect on success and problems of self-enrollment

By: CAROLINE DESAUSURE

The launch of self-enrollment over the summer of 2011 gave students more liberty in scheduling their classes and was considered an overall success by the Registrar, Kathleen Allen.

The self-enrollment program was designed to make the process of registering for classes more efficient and more personal to each individual student. Students are now able to choose what blocks their classes will meet and will potentially be able to give themselves an ideal schedule.

"I got to make my third trimester schedule work with the sport I'm in. I have early outs, so now I won't have to miss class for softball," says senior Kelly Bates.

Academic Programs decided that it would be too risky to open the portal for class registration to all 680 students during one time period for fear of a system crash. One hour reg-

istration periods were assigned randomly to all students, beginning at 7:00 a.m. and continuing until 11:00 a.m..

Many students felt that they had a disadvantage if they were assigned a later time period to enroll, but in reality, the process was entirely random. Most students, even in the 11:00 a.m. enrolment period, were successfully enrolled into the courses they had requested.

"I felt disadvantaged because I was in the second registration block. Although I got all the classes I wanted, I had no option but to choose undesirable blocks, such as the notorious B, because everyone had already taken the good ones," said Jeremiah Collins.

"If we had the capacity and confidence that the system would not have crashed, there still would have been students that would not have gotten everything they had wanted," Allen points out. The creation

of registration periods was considered the best decision to get all students enrolled as efficiently and painlessly as possible.

One problem that students during the first registration period at 7:00 a.m. faced was finding the link to the self-enrollment system on Focus.

"I was worried that they would open the next group at the same time and I wouldn't get the classes I wanted," said Alyssa Ferris.

When problems arose, students could email the selfenrollmenthelp@ncsm.edu address. This allowed Allen and the rest of the team to solve the problems and respond to students promptly.

Allen said, "The whole team from Academic Programs came into the office early and set up so that we would be able to handle any questions sent to us quickly and promptly."

In fact, parents and students, communicating through social

media such as Facebook and the parent journals, identified the glitch and contacted the school with their solution just as the resolution was being implemented.

Allen was amazed at the team work and cooperation present throughout the process. She stated, "It's the NCSSM community. We're all a part of this, and we're all going to get it right."

Because seniors are familiar with unusual format of the NCSSM class schedule and the graduation requirements, self-enrollment proved an easier process. Juniors had to fill out a self-registration form on Welcome Day, which "we hoped it would familiarize them with the schedule. The class of 2013 actually didn't seem to have any more problems with self-enrollment than they would have had simply filling out the form," said Allen.

Junior Trey Faddis said, "It

was easy once I got the hang of it. We did so many trial rounds that I wasn't sure which one actually counted, though."

The hope for the future of the self-enrollment process is to reduce the manual review. The Academics Programs team put over 356 staff hours into auditing every schedule to ensure that everyone had the proper prerequisites and graduation requirements.

"We still have some programmatic work to do. We'll always audit each schedule, but a better program may find more errors with schedules to make things go faster," said Allen.

Despite the small glitches in the self-enrollment, students and faculty seem to be generally happy with the results. "The thing that thrilled me the most was the 'we're all in this together' attitude. Even students who didn't get what they wanted did not get an attitude," stated Allen.

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about issues concerning the school and voice their concerns via the Let's Talk Booth," expressed Michael Robinson, the Chair of Student Affairs Committee.

There are plans to increase the communication between our campus and our sister schools throughout the country that are a part of the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science, and Technology. This may potentially lead to NCSSM hosting representatives from the other schools to come visit our campus.

SG will continue sponsor campus traditions such as Mr. Uni, Powder Puff Football, and the senior breakfast. They also plan to create fun bonding activities for students like the lock-ins and field days.

The fall spirit week this year was a new idea that SG implemented. They are also working on the art mural project, collaborating with the Future Business Leaders of America to make changes to the student store, and creating a day for seniors where they can get out of classes to work on college applications.

To find out more information about SG and its plans for this year check out their website at www.ncsm.edu/SG.

"Please put us to work. We have a lot to do, but we always want more!" stated Fowler.

Students prepare for winter sports

By: AHMED ZAEEM

Thinking about playing a varsity sport in the winter? NCSSM offers six different varsity-level sports during the winter. Because there are no intramurals second trimester, many students turn to diving, swimming, indoor track, cheerleading, basketball, or wrestling. Varsity-level sports are a time commitment and require a lot of dedication, but are rewarding and satisfying for their participants.

NCSSM's diving team is the "best kept secret," according to senior Bronwyn Fadem. The coach is Beau Bunn, who is also an assistant coach at Duke University. Last year, there were six members on the very successful team. Fadem won first place at the regional meet and second place at the state competition. Diving is for both men and women.

Swimming is offered for both men and women. The coaches are Mike Newbauer and Anna Shepherd. There is usually a good number of people who participate, and

this year they have a very large turn out. Last year, both teams sent swimmers to the regional and state finals.

Nick Lehman is the distance coach for winter track, which is often used to prepare for spring Track and Field. However, there were not many runners last year and the team only went to two meets. Regardless, the NCSSM Indoor track team still came in first at states. Sprinter Bailey Ogle says, "Indoor track was good for me. It was fun and we still got to train outdoors."

Cheerleading in the winter is for the Men's basketball team. The head coach is Emmie Corl, who kept a small squad of around ten members last year. During the 2010-2011 season, the cheerleading squad performed at the NHL All-Star Game in Raleigh.

NCSSM has both a women's and men's basketball team. The coaches for the women's team are Coach McDonald and Coach



NCSSM cheerleading team

Courtesy of Lauren Knox

Wroblewski. They had thirteen players last year, one of which made All-Conference and two made All-Conference Honorable Mention. Last year, the Lady Unicorns had a winning season, but lost in the first round of the playoffs. Many seniors are optimistic about this year's team because of new coaches and anticipation for junior talent.

The NCSSM men's basketball team is coached by Anthony Myles. They had fifteen players last year, one of which made the All-Conference team.

Although they only won three games last

year, senior Brian Iezzi thinks that this year's team looks very promising. The juniors have already begun to stand out and the team seems to have potential to make it further than in recent years.

The men's wrestling team is coached by Brian Suvick. Last year, there was around fifteen members (mainly Hill kids, but don't let that discourage Huntians). The sport is individual by weight class; NCSSM's Glen Nichols won the state title for his weight class.

Senior Whitman Groves says, "I loved wrestling because it kept him in shape during second tri." Many seniors are excited about the program because there has been a lot of junior interest.



Swimmer holding a medal after regionals

Courtesy of Garrik Gan