



the

stentorian

vol. XXXV, issue 3

north carolina school of science and mathematics

october 2015

stentorian123@gmail.com

Sampieri brings scripts to life

BY AJ GOREN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Drama instructor Adam Sampieri, affectionately known to most students as Sampsy, is known for his upbeat and kind nature, and for working hard to run the three drama performances held at NCSSM every year. Looking closer, Sampieri's investment in his work and love for his craft goes above and beyond.

Sampieri got his start in theater at age nine, starring as Theo in a local high school's production of *Pippin* in his northern New Jersey hometown. Sampieri saw the high school senior who starred as the lead in that show later go on to become a well-known professional actor starring in many big-name musicals. Sampieri landed the same role in *Pippin* the following summer at a community theater, and the experience had him hooked.

At age 12, with a good word put in for him by an elementary school music teacher, Sampieri took the role of Arty in Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers*, the world premiere of which took place in Winston-Salem. This was Sampieri's



photo courtesy of chapelboro.com

Sampieri with wife Cheryl Chamblee and daughter Lula. Chamblee and Sampieri worked together on the writing of "The Parent Project," a play written by a troupe of Triangle playwrights for both hands theater company. "The Parent Project" was performed at NCSSM last spring under Sampieri's direction; he called it a "highlight" among the dozens of productions he has orchestrated during his time at NCSSM.

first professional acting job, and a demanding one at that – he rehearsed and performed the show nearly every day for six months, often having to leave school at noon. The experience, he said, was both "exhausting" and "a dream come true" at the same time.

It was in this role that Sampieri first felt a connection to theater: "People would often wait at

the stage door after the show to meet and talk to us, and one day after a matinee I was in a rush to get home and see my friends when an elderly woman with a walker stopped me to talk. She had trouble speaking, but wanted to tell me that she had recently emerged from a coma. She said that seeing the play, and particularly my performance, made her feel the best she had ever felt since awakening... I

was humbled by the idea that I could have done something so significant for someone else."

Sampieri's biggest influence in becoming a performing artist was his father, who was very involved in show business. Although his father never pressured Sampieri to be a performing artist himself, his father supported him every step of the way: "He was always there to run lines, drive

me to auditions, rehearsals and calls, and watch me perform. I am so very grateful for all the time he spent with me and for his constant, gentle support. I miss him a lot, especially when studying lines or on opening nights."

Sampieri first arrived at NCSSM in a now-defunct position known as Drama Coordinator, acting as the

continued on page 8 »

General Assembly proposes second campus for NCSSM

BY MAX SCHLENKER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The North Carolina General Assembly included \$58.8 million in a bond proposal to be voted on in March to build a new STEM-focused residential high school in Morganton, NC.

The new school is expected to be a western campus of NCSSM, but very little beyond that is known of NCSSM's possible new sister school.

It has even yet to be confirmed whether this Morganton school will be a constituent of the NCSSM brand or a separate school entirely, and possibly a competitor.

As of now, the curriculum, official name, designated purpose, and structure is yet to be determined. Public or private? Semester or Trimester? 9th-12th or a different combination? Will students there be required to take American Studies?

Anything and everything is apparently on the table, and current NCSSM administrators hope to play an active part

in defining the role of the possible second campus in NCSSM's overall mission.

Even with little information available, the news of the second campus generated heated discussions among students about the future of NCSSM and whether a new school in Morganton would be the best use of our government's resources.

Some students supported the idea of NCSSM 2.0, while most believed that the state should focus more on the Durham campus instead.

Senior Reid Herrera believes that "it could be a copy of the campus in Durham, or it could be a satellite campus for the Distance Ed. program. Regardless, we have the opportunity to expand the presence of NCSSM in education in NC. This is merely another evolution of NCSSM, an exciting opportunity to be the trailblazer for other schools across the nation and around the world."



photo courtesy of ncssm.edu

Morganton, located in Burke County, is the proposed location for a satellite NCSSM campus. The location was chosen over Kannapolis as the site for the proposal.

Junior Meredith Tobin was more cautious, and stated that a campus in Morganton "wouldn't be a bad thing since it'd still be getting more education to more people, but it wouldn't have the same research opportunities as the current campus does just based on location."

Other students were more vehemently opposed to the idea of a second campus and showed little to no support at all.

Senior Yash Nalla argued that having a new school would "take away the focus from NCSSM in Durham" and senior Alisa Cui shared with us that she

thinks "a more careful decision should have been made that involved the people that know what truly makes this school successful."

Overall, the vote is not in favor for a Morganton campus among the student body, but students' say might not hold very much weight against the decisions of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Despite persistent rumors, the final verdict to actually build the campus still has yet to be made. From NCSSM news, "The proposed Morganton campus is part of \$980 million

allocated to the University of North Carolina system within a \$2 billion bond proposal.

The UNC funding package will be placed on a ballot for public vote on March 16, 2016." This means that North Carolinians will be voting to approve the entire funding package as a whole, most likely without full knowledge of what it entails.

If the March 2016 election results show favor of the funding package then NCSSM - Morganton will be expected to accept its first incoming class in 2020.