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New Faculty and Staff Include Alumni Back on Campus

By **CLAIRE YIN**

Alumni play a major role in NCSSM's success, as they support the school by making donations, volunteering, and contributing to the school's reputation.

But several alumni choose to give back another way: by employing their skills to improve the school's academics. This year, NCSSM welcomes four alumni as faculty and staff members.

Jason Lineberger, who graduated in the class of 1990, joins NCSSM as an instructor of 21st-Century Media Studies and Ecocriticism, two NCSSM Online courses. A veteran teacher with 22 years of experience, Lineberger is a National Board Certified educator who has been a teaching fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a digital learning coordinator for Cleveland County Schools, and a technology trainer for the North Carolina Teacher Academy. Furthermore, he has had experience teaching NCSSM Online courses in the past.

From the class of 2004, Justin Fleming is an IT analyst on campus. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill, where he received a B.A. in political science and history and provided tech support for the university. Then, he worked for Apple and for five years at MIT. After moving back to Durham in 2013, Fleming worked at the Duke School of Medicine in IT support.

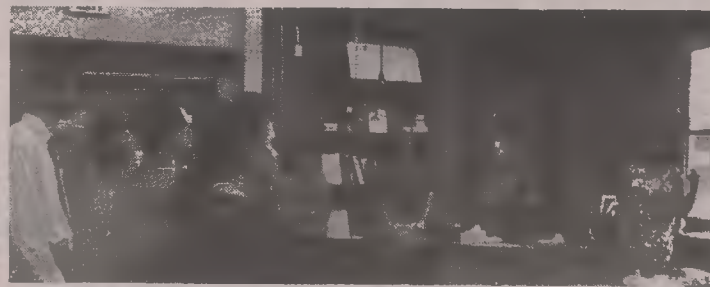
Brent Kitchen joined the physics department in February. After graduating from NCSSM in 2008, he attended North Carolina State University, where he received his master's degree in mechanical engineering, earned his bachelor's degree in physics, and is now working towards his Ph.D. Kitchen has been a physics lab manager at NCSSM since February, but he will continue to contribute as an instructor and computer programmer, algorithm developer and builder of mechanical and electrical performance-measuring devices.

Last but not least, Scott Schwartz is a 2006 NCSSM alum and received

his bachelor's degree in psychology and biology at UNC-Chapel Hill, and then his master's in professional school counseling from Appalachian State University. Before coming to NCSSM, Schwartz interned in the NCSSM counseling department, then served as a school counselor and taught numerous courses regarding students' emotional and academic challenges. Now, after having worked as a counselor with NCSSM summer programs, he will be a counselor on campus.

Three Student Life Instructors will be joining the new faculty and staff on campus. Jewel Dale will replace Vanessa Ponce as the 1C2C1D SLI, Wesley Morris will succeed Michael Newbauer as the 1st Hunt SLI, and Leah Pompey will assume the position of 2nd Beall SLI after the departure of Jonnell Carpenter. Having joined NCSSM last year as an SLI on Royall, Emerson Rhudy will now take on new responsibilities as a Residential Education Instructor.

Additionally, Laura Baker Campbell has joined NCSSM as executive assistant to



New faculty and staff visit the Fabrication Lab.

the chancellor; the NCSSM mathematics department will welcome Sandie Shoe as a program assistant and William Hall as instructor of the Pre-Calculus and BC Calculus with Advanced Topics courses; and the science department will now include Megan Aldrup-MacDonald as an instructor of biology, Amber Kendall as an instructor of physics, and Erin Quinlan as an instructor of environmental sciences.

The department of Distance Education and Extended Programs (DEEP), will welcome Kendall Hageman as its director. Hageman will be joined in her department by new instructors Rex Jeffries, Amanda Martyn, and Kathryn Wall.

New humanities teachers include Carrie Alter as an instructor of studio art; David

Hill as an instructor of American Studies, British Literature and Culture, and Film Studies; and Ormand Moore as an instructor of American Studies and Poetry Writing.

Nicole Collins-Givens and Lacey Hudspeth will assist in providing evening library services, instructor Rebecca "Bec" Conrad has joined the Fabrication Lab as a laboratory technician, Jamie Hawthorne has joined the human resources department as a consultant, John Mruk has joined Campus Security, and the housekeeping department will welcome Mike West and Ronnie Woods, both of whom have already worked at NCSSM.

Summer Research Internship Program a Success

By **CLAIRE YIN**

Every year, NCSSM takes advantage of its location in the Research Triangle by providing students with an opportunity called the Summer Research Internship Program. Spanning over five weeks during June and July, the program is available to rising seniors through an application process. This past summer has demonstrated the growth of the program: participants included over 100 NCSSM residential rising seniors, an NCSSM online student, two students from the Louisiana School of Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA), and even a student from Croatia.

Many students traveled every weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to work under mentors and as interns at various locations, including Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University (NCSU), North Carolina Central University, and Lenovo. There were also many who worked from campus alongside NCSSM research instructors.

Many other programs may

have high fees for a similarly intensive and unique experience, but boarding is completely free for all participants at NCSSM.

The program is multidisciplinary, allowing students to discover and pursue various passions through real-world experiences.

Though some students may apply to the program for a subject in which they have extensive knowledge, many venture into new fields. At NCSU, senior Sam Chen studied the synthesis of organic molecules that interact with light. Chen says that although he "walked into [his] research knowing little to nothing about organic chemistry, [he] found [himself] learning each and every day about both the fundamental principles surrounding the project and how to think like a chemist." Yet, Chen acknowledges that he still has "quite a bit more to learn." Through the NCSSM Mentorship program, he will be able to travel to NCSU during his senior year in order to continue his project.

Similarly, senior Max

Kremer applied to the program through the Mentorship program. Kremer enjoyed his experience at Duke University, learning about not just particle physics, but also the research process. He noted that he and other students "had to wrap our minds around the idea that research is not a standard course where you receive grades based on assignments, because instead of repeating an answer that is known to be correct, it is your job to pursue that answer." The opportunity allowed him to conduct his own experiment while working with high-tech equipment. Kremer attended talks by many post-doctoral researchers and graduate students gave talks, giving him "exposure to many unique areas of physics" that he otherwise may never have discovered.

Though all students gained knowledge through their research and internships, some were awarded even more for their work. Senior Christa Parrish studied psychiatric neuroengineering at Duke University. Parrish recalls her last day of research, during which her mentor "tried to be chill and tell [her] that... [she] was going to be missed



116 students participated in the 2016 NCSSM Summer Research Internship Program.

nonchalant, obligatory comments like that. But right as he was walking out of the room he said [to her], 'Oh by the way, your name is getting put on the publication.'"

Senior Alexis Cambridge was one of the two students from LSMSA. After Cambridge tried to find a mentor at Duke University, an LSMSA alumnus and current Duke employee recommended the summer program. Though she had to travel nearly a thousand miles, Cambridge "really enjoyed meeting the students from NCSSM and talking about the similarities between [their] schools, as well as the differences. At first [she] was a bit nervous as [she] didn't know anyone, but everyone was so inviting that [she] quickly

made friends. Of course, [she] enjoyed gaining the lab experience and doing research of [her] own at Duke. Overall it was a great experience, made even better by the welcoming students at NCSSM."

Sarah Shoemaker, the research and mentorship coordinator, played a large role in helping students find these opportunities. Though the program has been going on for years, it has grown significantly, and may continue to do so in coming years. The application for the summer of 2017 program will be available to the class of 2018 around late winter.