



Students from Jennifer Wilson's Creative Writing class share their poems and short story excerpts that earned them awards and public recognition.

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the high LIFE

“Acquiring too much freedom at one time may result in catastrophic consequences. Statistics show that young adults are more likely to smoke and drink within the first few months of moving out on their own.”



Madison Campbell

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News

Thousands of GCS employees confirm that they are generally satisfied but feel pay increases are long overdue.

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Opinion

New finds suggest that organically grown foods may not be nearly as beneficial or healthy as advertised.

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Features

Susan Collins gains more attention for her book “The Hunger Games” once its March film release in March.

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Sports

Men's golf team anticipates successful season, once again with the help of senior Bryan Griffin.

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ACT becomes more significant, less costly

BY CAROLINE GRANDIS
Reporter

Once considered more important for college admission, the SAT no longer stands dominant in the state of North Carolina. As in many other states, the ACT is now a required examination, not a voluntary one. All juniors in the state of North Carolina completed the ACT for free on March 6. While the school does not give the SAT as a school practice, the building is a testing site for Collegeboard.

“Recently, the state has adopted the ACT test as part of

its schools' accountability to insure that high school students are college and career ready,” said curriculum facilitator Ashly Morrison.

While both standardized tests have characteristics in common, there are differences as well. The ACT is a content-based test, unlike the SAT, which is a reasoning test. The test format is also quite different. The ACT includes five test sections with 215 questions, an optional essay, and a test time of about two hours and 55 minutes. On the contrary, the SAT has nine sections, although they are much shorter than

those on the ACT, with 170 questions, a required essay, and a test time of approximately three hours and 45 minutes. The curriculum-based ACT includes science questions, but the SAT test does not.

Constructed in such a way for students to succeed, the ACT offers straightforward questions, while the SAT questions are often tricky and set students up for error if they do not pay close enough attention to the individual questions. Another advantage of the ACT is its affordability; the SAT costs \$49 to take, and the ACT costs only \$34.

Taking the ACT “will be free to juniors for the one statewide administration,” said Morrison, “but I don't know if the district will continue to fund the PSAT for students in grades ten and eleven.”

North Carolina Virtual Public Schools, known as NCVPS, now offer preparatory courses for the SAT and will probably offer similar instruction for the ACT in the near future. Counselors and teachers suggest students take both examinations to see how well they do, especially if the colleges of their choice will accept either score.

Whirlie grad, naval officer takes full command of ship

BY CLAY MILLSAPS
Reporter

Grimsley graduate from the Class of 1990, Monika Washington Stoker officially became Commander of the USS Mitscher, a guided missile destroyer, on February 24. She is the first African-American woman ever to hold that title. Stokes took charge of the 300 crew members in Norfolk, Virginia to lead them for 20 months as an executive officer.

So far, the 39-year-old has no regrets. During her senior year of high school, Stoker was accepted into the United States Naval Academy with a nomination from U.S. Rep. Howard Coble. She graduated from the Naval Academy in 1995, at which time she was appointed a Division Officer. Her first assignment was aboard the USS Kearsarge, and later served aboard both the USS Cole and USS Arleigh Burke.

Stoker continued with extensive training that set her on a course that caused her to raise her rank fairly quickly. She progressed to Department Head, then Executive Officer, and now Commanding Officer. She believes all of the training has paid off.

“It's a lot of school. I have a lot of sea duty. The Navy definitely prepares you to do this,” said Stoker, as posted at www.carolinapeacemaker.com.

Additionally, she is the mother of two children; consequently, Stoker admits that she has trouble fitting her family into her busy schedule. She does not have much time off from heading the crew of the ship and completing other commander duties.

“It is hard work, but you're not at sea the whole time. You do shore tours in between your different jobs, so you fit your family in where you can,” said Stoker on digtriad.com.

As the first African American woman in her role, she holds a worthy role in American history. The military was a sore subject for many African Americans just a few generations ago since segregation in this country existed until the 1960s.

Stokes intends to remain in the Navy for as long as she can. She wants to continue serving her country to the best of her ability. The next time she leaves American shores, she will pilot a US Navy ship.

While a Whirlie, Stoker was very active. She played JV Volleyball and served on both Student Council and the Student Affairs Committee. She also sang with the Madrigals, performed with the orchestra, participated in the International Club, and was a member of L'Academie Francais'.



An exceptional student, Monika Washington Stoker, sets a good example for her children. Her promotion from the US navy was well deserved. 1990 Whirligig photo.

Congratulations to Anna Bearnse, who placed second out of 15 worthy competitors at the English Speaking Union's Guilford County Branch Level Competition on Saturday, March 3.