

North Carolinian

Volume 114

Fall 2010

Number 1



North Carolina School for the Deaf

at Morganton
Esther Brassell, Ed.D.
Interim School Director

Accredited by Conference of
Educational
Administrators Serving Schools and
Programs for the Deaf, Inc.
and Southern Association of
Colleges and Schools

Department of
Health and Human Services
Lanier Cansler, Secretary

State of North Carolina
Beverly Purdue, Governor

North Carolina School for the Deaf
(828) 432-5202 (Voice)
(828) 432-5203 (TTY)
(828) 433-4044 (Fax)

Please send address changes to
The North Carolinian
517 W. Fleming Drive
Morganton, N.C. 28655

Staff

Sion A. Moss, III - Graphic Designer
Dave Miller - Printing

Student Photography

Seth Carswell
Amanda Morris
Amelia Price
Jesús Sandoval
Ashley Osborne



North Carolina School for the Deaf

517 West Fleming Dr. • Morganton, NC 28655

Esther Brassell, Ed. D.
Interim School Director/Principal
Telephone: 828.432.5200 (Voice/TTY)
Fax: 828.433.4044
Courier 15-05-02

Dear NCS D students, parents, retirees, alumni, and staff,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year. Staff and students were excited when school began on August 23rd. Our students were eager to visit with other students and the staff.

We look forward to a successful school year for all NCS D students. Our Parents Teachers Organization (PTO) and the NCS D Foundation will be very active this year in supporting our school. We are fortunate to have parents who offer help along with many community partners.

We owe a special thanks to our Grassroots Retirees who volunteered to write and produce this edition of the **North Carolinian**. They are a dedicated group who is working in many areas to support our students and NCS D. We appreciate their willingness to volunteer and the excellent quality of their services.

NCS D will soon have a remote learning center that will allow us to connect with other groups of students around the world. We will add to our present student opportunities with distance learning for classes, workshops, and communication. We are also in the process of adding visual fire alarm systems in several buildings and getting some new roofs.

During this school year the governance of NCS D will transition from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The transition will be completed on July 1, 2011.

Many of you will be involved in making changes legislated by Senate Bill 897. We are pleased that Sunday transportation was reinstated in that bill. By October 1 an interim Superintendent for NCS D, Eastern School for the Deaf, and Governor Morehead School for the Blind will be named to oversee our program during the transition from DHHS to DPI. By December 1, 2010, the State Board of Education will submit a plan for the transition. By May 1, 2011 the search committee will submit their recommendation to the State Board of Education for the new Superintendent who is to be hired no later than June 1, 2011.

As we begin this transitional year, we appreciate your continued support. We look forward to a productive year with happy students who are learning and developing new skills in every area.

Sincerely,

Esther Brassell, Ed.D.
Interim Director/Principal

History

After a two year lapse, **The North Carolinian is back!** Welcome to our first issue.

We are delighted to be in publication again and excited about sharing news of what's happening with students and staff on our campus.

NCS D alumnus and retiree Philip Hailey, through his volunteer work with the NCS D Museum, provides the following history, which he attributes to Z.W.H. (Zacharias W. Haynes) October 26, 1895, The Kelly Messenger.

"North Carolina has the honor of publishing the first paper at a School for the Deaf in the United States. The paper started at the School for the Deaf and Blind at Raleigh, sometime in the 1850's and was called the Deaf Mute Casket. Mr. W.D. Cook, the first superintendent of the school, was the editor. During Mr. Cook's superintendency, the state printing was all done in the office of the Casket. The office was at that time well fitted out and did a great deal of work, besides the state printing. The **American Annals of the Deaf** was also printed in the office of the Casket. Connected with the office was a book bindery, where several deaf boys worked and became good book binders."

The Deaf Mute Casket - 1850's to 1894

No known publication after the opening of NCS D in 1894.

The Kelly Messenger - 1895 - 1903

The Deaf Carolinian - 1903 - 1948

The North Carolinian - 1948 - 2008, 2010

Registration

Opening day at NCS D is a mix of emotions each year as parents arrive with their children who are greeting old friends and meeting new ones. Residential students are unpacking belongings in their dorm rooms and greeting the staff who will guide them in their home away from home each week from Sunday evening to Friday afternoon. Teachers are on hand too, to welcome students and their parents. The mood is upbeat. Sunday, August 22, 2010, was the most recent school opening for NCS D and two retired staff members were on hand to take the pulse of the school. Here's what Barbara Palmento and Ann Aldridge found.

Dee Counter-Griffis is a mother of two students at NCS D, son Patric and daughter Eilish. "I like changes," she says, stating that she expects new and better things at the school this year. She wants her children to continue to learn and grow. "I know they can accomplish whatever they want."

It's a beautiful day. It's sunny but not too hot-- perfect. Parents are helping kids with their boxes, suitcases, backpacks, and duffel bags. They walk up the wide sidewalk leading to Main Building and enter beneath a large "Welcome Back" banner, emblazoned with an image of a Bear, the school's mascot.

Most of the parents interviewed have a clear picture in mind of what they want for their children. The students have their own ideas.

Brian Jessup wants his son to be happy, to learn more, to work hard on his reading, to be successful in what he does and to be nice and courteous. Travis is happy to see his friends and eager to get his driver's license.

Thomas Franklin's dad was one who stated that he was aware of concerns about NCS D over the summer. But when he asked Thomas if he were ready to go back to school, his son had a big smile on his face. Thomas has been a student at NCS D since he was three years old and his father expressed confidence in the care he receives.

"I want to go to college, have a good job, a family, a house some day." This is Jeremy Kiker, a ninth grader, new to NCS D, talking. He's making the move from Randolph Middle School in Charlotte and says he's excited. It has been harder for his parents. This will be Jeremy's first time away from home. "It's killing me," his mother says, but goes on to say she knows it will be better for him. Nancy Kiker and her husband Jeff felt their son needed more than he was receiving in the mainstreamed situation where he participated in class with the aid of an interpreter.

They did some research and decided on NCS D because they want Jeremy to develop self-esteem and self-confidence, to find direction for his life in the deaf community. At NCS D he will be in an environment where all staff can communicate with him directly and where he is among deaf peers and deaf role models.

Jeremy isn't the only one who's excited. Returning student Oscar Guevara, an upcoming ninth grader, is excited but nervous about his first time in high school. Katey Mayhue echoes his emotions, adding that as a rising eleventh grader, she wants to have good grades and more mature behavior this year. Her father agrees, saying he wants her to be prepared for the working world.

There are snacks and drinks in the cafeteria and also booths with information about the NCS D Museum, Vocational Rehabilitation services, the NCS D Foundation, Sprint Relay, Boosters Club, and Sorenson IP Relay. Athletic director Scott Skelton and volleyball coach Ren  Skelton are on hand with permission slips for parents to sign for their child's participation in fall sports.

Jennie Stout is another mom who's a bit teary at leaving her daughter Angelica at school. It's hard initially, but she wants her daughter to learn a lot and to develop good manners. Angelica enjoyed her summer off and is renewed and ready now to start seventh grade.

This will be the first year at NCS D for Armando Espinosa's daughter. As a new student, she is both nervous and excited. Her father expects growth for his daughter and is pleased that she will have the opportunity to interact with other deaf students and make new friends.

Then there are those like rising twelfth grader Christine Baity and her mother Donna Watts, who after many years at NCS D, are looking forward to graduation!

Kelly Randall, also a senior, shares her eagerness to participate in volleyball, basketball and track. She's going to take her

classes more seriously this year because she hopes to pursue further academic opportunities after high school. Her mother, Marsha, wants Kelly to find a job she likes and to be able to take care of herself. She's glad the school will stay open, saying her daughter "couldn't survive in public school."

Staff are equally positive in their dreams for this school year. Behavior Program Technicians Wendy Bass and T.J. Moses look forward to seeing the students and have clear goals in mind. Wendy wants to see school growth, improve leadership, and empower students. T.J.'s goals are to help students grow personally and to improve their independent living skills.

Encouraging students to be the best they can be and teaching them how to live healthy lives are priorities for PE teacher Kay Kilpatrick. She focuses on making students feel welcome and begins the year by teaching expectations. When all work diligently, she feels the school will have positive growth. She teaches health and PE to freshmen as a required course, but she would like to add an elective course for high school students.

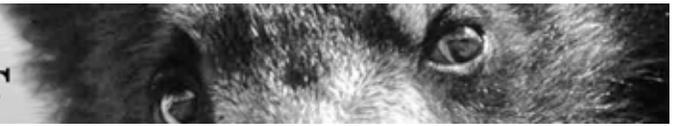
5th grader Suri De La Cruz had a good summer, is excited to be back to school, and will try her best to study hard and learn new things. Cody Hollar feels good about coming back to school as a freshman this year. He looks forward to making new friends, having a successful school year academically and in football and basketball. His mom, Pam Glidewell, says he will do well in school so he can play sports. "He's a good kid."

And finally, from assistant business manager Suzanne Levan, "I love to see the children. The school's goals and focus remain on them and their education. We expect to have a wonderful year. It's good to be back together as a family. We continue to weave the threads into the fabric of what NCS D has been and will be!"





Cubs' Corner



“Our Bear Cubs”

A new year has begun at Hoffmeyer Elementary! We are excited to see students return and learn about their exciting summer adventures! This year, we have 7 students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Two of these students are new, Tyler Rehberg, 3rd Grade, and Maxwell Curtis, 5th Grade. The first week of school, students were asked to complete a brief autobiography about a few of their favorite things. Each student completed his or her autobiography and then shared his or her information with the class, to learn about each other. We are very proud of our students and although we are a small group, we are mighty! GO BEAR CUBS!

Chris Hiers



Maxwell “Max” Curtis (Left), (Back L-R) Rebecca Carson, Tai Jensen, Suri De La Cruz, Haley Futral, (Front L-R) Tyler Rehberg, and Morgan Evans

Student Work



Mighty Bears' Cavern

Middle School Trip to the Outer Banks

Jeter Hall students and staff enjoyed an educational trip to the beautiful North Carolina Outer Banks April 12-15, 2010. On Monday, we loaded the charter bus and traveled seven hours to Kitty Hawk. We began our sightseeing on Tuesday with a visit to the Wright Brothers' Museum, followed by a tour of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. After feeding the seagulls on a 35 - minute afternoon ferry ride from Hatteras Island to Ocracoke Island, the group went on a walking tour of Ocracoke, heard island ghost stories, and listened as pirates told the story of how Blackbeard was beheaded near Teach's Hole.

The next morning began with a rough two hour ferry ride (sorry Mr. Sajben). Next we went to the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores near Morehead City. The students enjoyed watching scuba divers feeding some sharks, and touching horseshoe crabs, stingrays, and starfish in the touch tanks. With the long bus ride home coming up, students were treated to an evening of fun at Jungle Rapids Family Fun Park. They rode go-karts, climbed a rock wall, and played laser tag and arcade games.

We broke up the trip home Thursday with stops to visit the North Carolina Battleship in Wilmington and the North Carolina Museums of Natural Science and History in Raleigh. Most of the boys enjoyed the hands-on tour of the battleship. Many of the girls particularly liked walking through a live butterfly exhibit at the science museum.

It was a great trip! Thanks to everyone who helped us raise the money for our students to go on this once in a lifetime trip!

Millie King



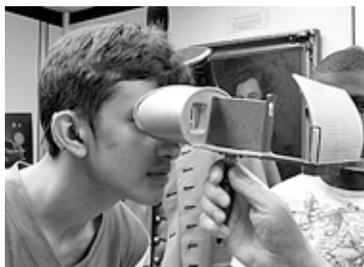
Jeter Hall's Spring Trips

Learning isn't limited to the classroom. Often, a well planned field trip gives students new experiences that extend what they're studying in school. During the second week of April, students went on four field trips related to their classes.



In connection with Health and PE, students went to the Greenway Park in Morganton. Kelly Sterling, NCSD's social worker, taught them to play disc golf with a Frisbee. This fairly new sport is an enjoyable way to promote fitness.

Students had to try to get the Frisbee into a basket, and this of course involved exercise and coordination. It took some time before students caught onto the game, but they enjoyed the challenge.



Students extended their social studies learning when they visited the History Museum of Burke County in downtown Morganton. They learned of the past lives of Morganton citizens and saw items people used in daily living years ago. They found it interesting to see things such as a hot perming machine that wound women's hair on electric rollers, and they concluded that today's methods are simpler!



Another interesting museum was the NCSD Historical Museum that is located in the former superintendent's house on the NCSD campus. Georganne Crowe, a 1963 NCSD graduate, gave students a guided tour. They learned about the history of their school and what school and dorm life was like for

students through the years.



At the Catawba Science Center in Hickory, students visited different exhibits related to forest wildlife, aquatic life, and motion and forces. They enjoyed learning new things as well as recalling facts they had learned in their science classes. Before returning to school,

they had lunch at CiCi's Pizza. The boys ate many slices! Learning can be fun, and tasty too.

Daphne Peacock

Mighty Bears' Cavern

May Day 2010

Our May Day activities for the 2009-2010 school year were as lively as ever! This year we made a change in the activities. In past years, we have had students from each building act out a skit, share information, or do dances related to the selected country. Afterward, we had the traditional May Day dance around the pole.

During this year's May Day Celebration, we were glad to welcome the Gahu Dance troupe. The young men and woman played drums and danced authentic dances from Africa. They also shared information about the culture of Africa. Several of the staff and students joined in to dance to the drums. It was a wonderful time of fun together!

After the African dance and drums, we watched the May Pole dancers from the high school. They did a great job of wrapping all of those ribbons around the pole! We ended the afternoon enjoying refreshments prepared by the cafeteria staff. It was a day to remember!

Elaine Thompson



Renaissance

It is my personal dream that the students at the North Carolina School for the Deaf are surrounded by caring and professional faculty and staff members that serve their diverse needs to prepare them for their future. To achieve this, the students of our school need enriching experiences that offer hands on learning. NCSd is steeped in rich tradition and we are always striving to uphold the history and culture of our 116 year old institution. Sometimes, traditions begin anew. Making history come to life is not an easy task and when an opportunity presents itself, we must make every attempt at capturing it. In doing so, I started a tradition of my own. Each year, I take the 6th grade class to the North Carolina Renaissance Festival to relive the medieval period of the past. We get to tie our European curriculum to the chivalry of knights, the heraldry of ancient times, and the artisans of the Renaissance. The connection that our students draw between the festival and their studies makes the trip very special. It is through this new tradition and many others already rooted in our history that we find ourselves giving our students the very best we have to offer. As the years pass, the walls are slowly covered with artifacts from the trips and experiences of our students. Great excitement and fond memories fill our building, but the fondest are memories hanging in my classroom.

Dave Sajben

Middle School Students Emphasize Cultural Heritage, Enrichment, and Creativity

On February 24, 2010, over fifty schools for the Deaf in the United States, public school programs across the country, and three international programs united for a full day of "distance sharing." NCSd's middle school students kicked off the video conference with their presentation on "Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage." The topic was particularly appropriate for NCSd. After all, NCSd's historical markers direct attention to the establishment of the school in the 1890's. And NCSd touts the title of first school for the Deaf in America to distribute a nationwide publication—The Deaf Casket. (In this historical context, a casket was a basket in the printing process.) The school has changed physically, fiscally, and academically many times over the years. This strong heritage whetted the cultural appetites of middle school students, and their creativity flowed beyond the domain of deafness.

For example, students developed PowerPoint presentations that showcased the school's value on cultural enrichment. This included a description of the school's competitive Irish dancers and its Hispanic and Latino students and families. In addition to the inclusion of cultures other than the Deaf, students focused on tools for remaining competent and competitive in classes: developing and asking questions, taking responsibility for learning, and incorporating creativity in assignments. NCSd's presentations ended with an A-B-C story about a basketball game—a story with a plot that follows the order of the manual alphabet.

Students created the content of their presentations in language arts class. They transferred the contents to a PowerPoint format in their computer technology classes. The success of the students goes beyond their creation of text. They delivered their information naturally—no script, no notes at the bottom of the slides, and no prompting from a teacher off-stage. Students showed that they have creativity to share, and they know how to deliver!

Mighty Bears' Cavern

Jeter Hall Recycling Team

Each new class of unsuspecting 6th graders learns about the benefits of reducing the amount of garbage produced. They do this through direct, hands-on instruction and actively recycling. Students learn to identify both recyclable and non-recyclable materials, to discriminate newspaper from mixed paper, cardboard from paperboard, and acceptable plastic vs. non-acceptable plastic according to the local county rules.

Initially, the students were responsible for sorting and recycling the materials generated in my classroom only. This practice quickly expanded to include all classrooms, the office, the staff lounge, school kitchen, and the resource/material/prep areas throughout the middle school. Student responsibilities include collecting all of the recycling bins within the school, sorting, and then returning the bins to the appropriate place. Finally, we transport the recyclable materials to the local recycling center. This whole process not only provides young adolescents with earth-friendly conservation skills, but also important life and work skills.

Jenita DuMond Hall



Technology

During our 2009-2010 school year, we here in Jeter Hall had a phenomenal year! We had so many accomplishments and successes it would be impossible to mention them all.

The middle school offers a variety of programs that allow the students to begin to work towards independence while having caring staff that are always there if the students need them.

Our specialized team of instructors and staff that make up Jeter Hall Middle School at the North Carolina School for the Deaf go far beyond just every day basic instruction. They pour their hearts and souls into everything that they do for the students that are served here.

In the Computer Technology Classes, the students grew tremendously. The skills in the classroom have been successfully transitioned to the dorm and home as well. The students have their own hard (H) drives. They can use this drive to save their work so that they can access it in the dorm in the afternoon or evenings in order to be able to finish work assignments they were unable to complete during class time.

The students are able to use their Gaggle.Net email accounts while in school, in the dorm, and/or while they are at home on the weekends or over holidays/vacations to communicate with staff or friends.

The students built a year-long portfolio and through an accumulation of all their work samples, met all the criteria to satisfy the state requirements to pass the Computer Technology Courses!

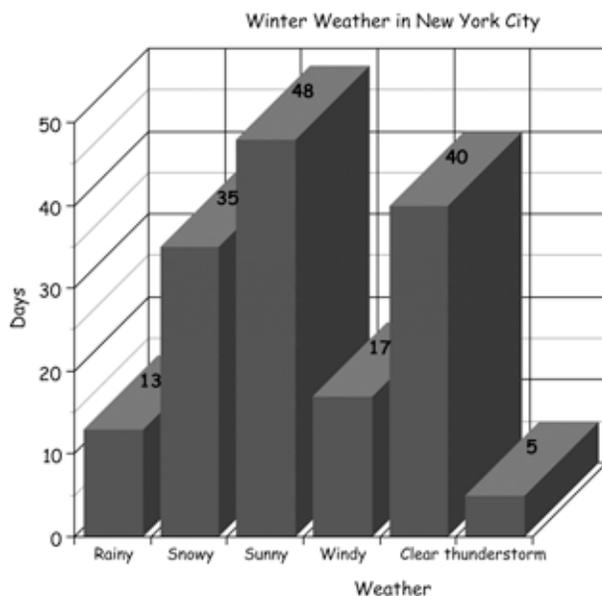
As their instructor, I am so proud of the accomplishments that all of the students have made! It is my daily pleasure to be able to come to work and be allowed to work with such a wonderful, diverse group of students and fellow staff members!

The 2010-2011 school year has begun, and I am so looking forward to working with everyone!

Go Bears!

Mark D. Patrick

Science in Middle School



Students study science following the curriculum set by the Department of Public Instruction, adapted to students' levels and specific needs. At the beginning of the school year, work is based on general science units of metric measurement, lab safety, different kinds of graphs, technology and society, and lab report writing. Then each grade level begins their yearly units. Here is an example of a student's work with a bar graph, using a computer program. With a line graph plotting average monthly temperature in different locations, students incorporated their knowledge of the location from their study in social studies. They also used math skills and practiced searching for needed information in an encyclopedia to complete this assignment.

Daphne Peacock

The Bears



The Bear Challenge

Team CARE BEARS: Creative, Artistic, Responsible, Energetic!!!

The Care Bears at NCSD get involved and creative. For the past few years, in collaboration with the Occupational Therapy Department, they have held several fundraising lunches per year for a variety of causes. It started with raising money for special events and field trips for the students themselves. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, the students saw the many animals in need of help and a new focus was discovered -- helping others. They cook, set up a restaurant-like atmosphere, seat, serve, and sell a wonderful lunch to NCSD staff and friends who are very willing to pay \$5.00 for a good meal such as homemade chili, grilled cheese, dessert, hotdogs, potato salad, and baked beans, to name a few. They raised \$350.00 for the hungry and homeless animals in New Orleans, \$250.00 for the local no-kill animal shelter, Burke County Friends for Animals, and \$1,650.00 for a beloved staff member in need of a kidney transplant.

Their next lunch will be September 30, 11:00am - 1:00pm at the high school. The students will be grilling out hamburgers / cheeseburgers with all the trimmings, and serving potato salad, baked beans, dessert, and a drink, all for \$5.00. They will be earning money to pay for a zip line and sky bridge adventure at the Beanstalk Journey located at the Catawba Meadows here in Morganton. Mark your calendar. You're all invited to help make this fundraiser a huge success. Team Care Bears would love to see you!



Occupational Therapy at NCSD

At NCSD, Occupational Therapy is concerned with the child's performance in school, the dormitory, and at home. Occupational Therapy (OT) intervention includes a wide variety of student needs. Students may have Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Sensory Integration disorders, fine motor and gross motor delays, balance and motor impairments, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), delays with self care, difficulty with social interactions, and neurological impairments.

Students who have difficulties with fine motor skills have trouble using the small muscles that enable functions such as writing or making coordinated movements using their fingers or hands. Fine motor skills are needed for holding a pencil, signing, cutting with scissors, and activities of daily living

such as eating, cooking, or dressing. Gross motor skills can also be delayed. These skills involve using the large muscles of the body that enable balance, strength, and muscle tone. They are also important for planning complex movements needed to move about the playground in a safe manner, sit upright at a desk, or fully access the school curriculum.

Another area of concern is Sensory Integration disorder. This is a neurological disorder in which the brain is unable to accurately process information from the senses. Children with this disorder may be oversensitive to some sensations, overreacting to touch or movement or losing balance. They may be under sensitive to some sensations. This shows itself in students who may need to jump, crash, bang, or

bump into things, and who seek lots of movement for the brain to register. These children have difficulty focusing.

In OT, we work with the student, parents, dorm staff, and teachers, offering strategies to assist students so they can pay better attention during class and at home. All of the activities children participate in during therapy are fun. They are provided with the "just right" challenge to become successful. Our therapy clinic is located in the basement of Rankin Hall. Therapists Jenny Taylor, Registered and Licensed Occupational Therapist, and Jennifer Triplett, Certified and Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistant, have over 40 years of combined experience working with children.



Coaching Staff – Individual Bios



Dale Dees

Position: Residential Life Trainer
Years worked at NCSd: 11 years

Coaching what: Varsity Boys Basketball Assistant

What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): JV Football and Varsity Basketball

Your coaching motto: Do the best you can and the rewards will come

Why you enjoy coaching: Watching them play, having fun, and watching them grow

Goals for the year: To have a full team and not have a player quit during the season. Win the Mason-Dixon tournament

Hobbies: Golf, camping, spending time with family

Interesting fact about myself: Like to watch Spongebob Squarepants with my children



Kay Kilpatrick

Position: Physical Education/Health Teacher K-9

Years worked at NCSd: 6 Years

Coaching what: Middle School Volleyball

What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): Basketball

Your coaching motto: "Never give up" "Always Give Your Best"

Why you enjoy coaching: I enjoy teaching the girls new skills and then watching the progress they make throughout the season.

Goals for the year: My goal for the year is to encourage all of my students to be active and learn how to live a healthy lifestyle.

Hobbies: I try to practice what I preach and stay active by playing tennis 2 to 3 times a week.



Nancy Cordova Fletcher

Position: Residential Life Trainer 21 years and Teacher Assistant 3 years
Years worked at NCSd:

24 years
Coaching what: High School Volleyball, Assistant

What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): Volleyball, Basketball and manager for Track

Your coaching motto: Positive, if they lost, but they try their best!

Why you enjoy coaching: Love to watch volleyball

Goals for the year: Sportsmanship/team-work together!

Hobbies: Volleyball and basketball
Love to help kids with their sports!



David Bird

Position: High School Social Studies Teacher
Years worked at NCSd: 4 years

Coaching what: Varsity Boys Basketball, Middle School Boys Track and Field

What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): Cross Country for a year

Why you enjoy coaching: I enjoy coaching because I am helping to instill values of hard work, perseverance and team-work in our student athletes.

Goals for the year: My goal this year is to help our students improve in the sport they play and help them give 100% all the time.

Hobbies: When I have a significant amount of free time, I enjoy traveling. I've already been to France, Spain, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. There are so many more places I'd love to visit!

Interesting fact about myself: I was born on Thanksgiving Day and my last name is Bird!



Tom Krokn

Position: High School Math teacher
Years worked at NCSd: 11 year

Coaching what: Football, Basketball, Track

What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): Football, Basketball, Tennis

Your coaching motto: Do your best, be a good sport, and have fun

Why you enjoy coaching: Enjoy challenge and keeping myself in shape; making a difference with players

Goals for the year: Win a game

Hobbies: Hiking, swimming, gardening food, reading, internet surfing

Interesting fact about yourself: I am a basketball referee and a family man



Melissa Shumate

Position: Counselor
Years worked at NCSd: 10 years

Coaching what: Basketball

What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): Volleyball and Basketball

Your coaching motto: "Play hard, have fun"

Why you enjoy coaching: I enjoy coaching because I enjoyed playing sports! I want to see the students to increase their skills and have fun at the same time.

Goals for the year: My goal for this year - to continue in teaching young girls the game of basketball and to see them develop confidence as athletes.

Hobbies: I'm a movie fanatic! I also enjoy reading and traveling.

Interesting fact about yourself: I have a deaf brother who also is an NCSd alumnus.



Millie King

Position: Middle School Math Teacher
Years worked at NCSd: 9 years

Coaching what: Volleyball

What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): Basketball

Your coaching motto: "Learn skills, try your best, and have fun!"

Why you enjoy coaching: I enjoy coaching because I have an opportunity to share my knowledge and experience of sports with my students.

Goals for the year: I hope to encourage our players to always display good sportsmanship, to develop basic volleyball skills, and to learn to work as a team.

Hobbies: Creating crafts and enjoying time on the beach

Interesting fact about yourself: My first teaching job was with one deaf student on Ocracoke Island, NC.

The Bears' Den



René Skelton

Position: Occupational Course of Study Teacher and Yearbook Editor
Years worked at

NCSD: 13 years

Coaching what: Varsity Volleyball
What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): Basketball and Softball and Basketball at East Tennessee State University

Your coaching motto: Attitude is more important than ability

Why I enjoy coaching: Sports provide “teachable moments” that carry over into a student’s life today and in the future

Why you enjoy coaching: Teaching girls to improve and to enjoy the game!

Hobbies: Enjoy traveling and then making scrapbooks of our vacations

Interesting fact about yourself: I am very proud of the fact that I coached the only NCSD volleyball team to win the Mason-Dixon tournament (2002). That year I was also honored to be chosen as the Deaf Digest National Coach of the Year.



Front L-R: Jonathan Branch, Michael Turner, Karaleigh Wensil, Raheem Jenkins, Raul Barron, Cheyenne Carranza, Juan Sánchez. Back L-R: David Bird, Assistant; Jacob Oyer, Cody Hollar, Jesús Sandoval, Oscar Guevara, Jeremy Kiker, Shawn Barlow, Jr., Tom Krohn, Coach.



Wendy Bass

Position: Behavior Plan Technician

Years worked at

NCSD: 13 years

Coaching what: Varsity Girls Basketball, Assistant

What sport(s) did you play in high school (if any): Volleyball, Basketball, and Track

Your coaching motto: Defense wins games.

Why you enjoy coaching: Enjoy seeing players grow.

Goals for the year: No player quitting the team.

Hobbies: Reading, playing/watching sports, hanging out with friends

Interesting fact about yourself: Loves University of North Carolina but hates the color light blue.

Eight-Man Football

Eight-man football is much like eleven-man football except in number of players on the field. Usually two offensive tackles and one receiver/ two defensive backs and one defensive lineman are eliminated. Formations vary from each team but usually at least five men are required at the line with a quarterback and two running backs in the backfield. Often trick plays, fake punts, direct snaps, and wildcat plays are used during the game. High scoring is common during eight-man football games which makes it more exciting. Football fields are often smaller as they’re usually about 80 yards long and 40 yards wide which is smaller than the regular sized football field. eight-man games are usually played by smaller schools like NCSD and often helps keep football alive when otherwise it wouldn’t survive.

NCSD one of Twelve Schools Statewide with Long Ejection-Free Streak

By staff reports | The News Herald

Published: September 02, 2010

CHAPEL HILL –

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association announced Thursday that the North Carolina School for the Deaf is one of 12 member schools who has put together an outstanding performance streak, although it is not based on wins and losses or championships.

Each of the dozen schools has been without an ejection in any sport for five consecutive academic years. All 12 will be recognized at the NCHSAA regional meetings held across the state later this month.

The schools include Ocracoke, Chocowinity Southside, North Duplin, Pamlico, South Lenoir, South Columbus, Kernersville Glenn, Gastonia Ashbrook, NCSD, Watauga, West Wilkes and Nantahala.

The guidelines record ejections for unsportsmanlike acts such as fighting, taunting, profanity, obscene gestures or disrespectfully addressing or contacting officials.

The Bears' Den



Front L-R: Denise Ortiz, Gloria Montáno, Kenyá Adams, Daya Espinosa, Amanda Morris, Kimberly Belton. Back L-R: Nancy Fletcher, Assistant; Madison Craig, Shenicka Harris, Yasmin Swinney, Ashley Osborne, Kelly Randall, Katey Mayhue, Tasha Gray, Amelia Price, René Skelton, Coach.



Front L-R: Haley Futral, Martha Evans, Kaya Jensen, Solimar Bonilla, Angelica Leach. Second L-R: Roxana Moreno, Anka Metcalf, Tai Jensen, Suri De La Cruz, Rebecca Carson. Back L-R: Millie King, Assistant; Kay Kilpatrick, Coach.

2010 NCS D Bears Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
9/1	South Carolina	Spartanburg	6:00
9/9	Atlanta Area	Home	5:00
9/14	Carolina Christian	Home	5:30
9/16	Atlanta Area	Duluth, GA	5:00
9/21	Haywood Christian	Waynesville	5:30
9/23	ENCSD	Wilson	5:00
9/30	ENCSD	Home	5:00
10/2	Georgia	Homecoming	10:00
10/5	Lincoln Charter	Lincolnton	4:30
10/8-10	Mason-Dixon Tournament	Wilson	TBA
10/13	South Carolina	Home	5:30
10/14	Carolina Christian	Asheville	5:30

2010 NCS D Bears Middle School Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
9/1	South Carolina (scrimmage)	Spartanburg, SC	4:00
9/14	Carolina Christian	Home	4:30
9/20	Carolina Day	Home	4:00
9/21	Haywood Christian	Waynesville	4:30
10/6	Carolina Day	Asheville	4:00
10/7	Lincoln Charter	Home	4:00
10/13	South Carolina	Home	4:30
10/14	Carolina Christian	Asheville	4:30

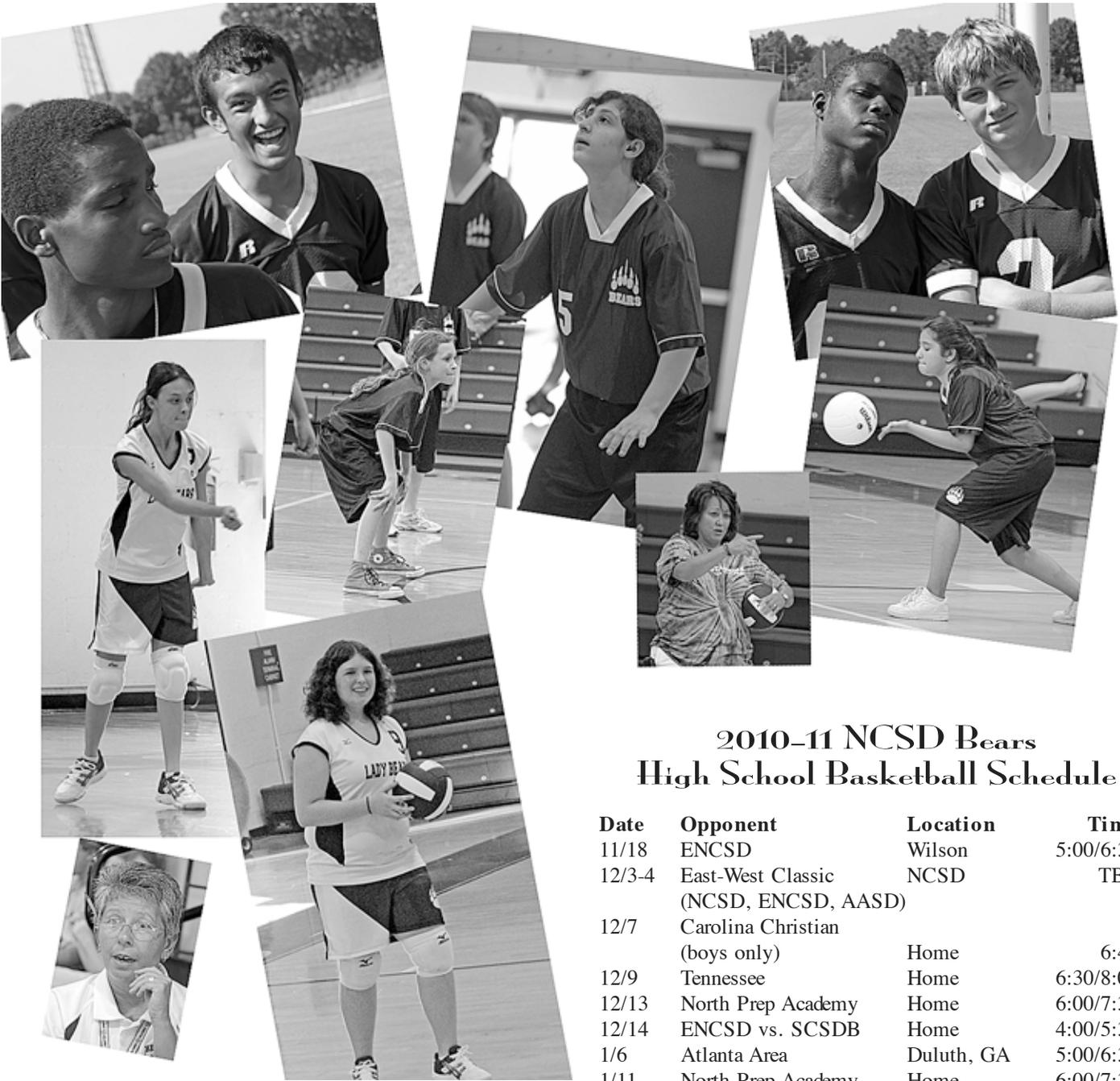
2010 NCS D Bears Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
9/9	ENCSD	Wilson	6:00
9/16	Tennessee	Knoxville, TN	6:30
9/23	South Carolina	Home	7:00
10/2	Georgia	Homecoming	2:00
10/7	Morganton	Home	7:00
10/14	Tennessee	Home	7:00
10/20	South Carolina	Spartanburg, SC	7:00



Cheyenne Carranza

The Bears' Den



2010-11 NCSD Bears High School Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
11/18	ENCSD	Wilson	5:00/6:30
12/3-4	East-West Classic (NCSD, ENCSD, AASD)	NCSD	TBA
12/7	Carolina Christian (boys only)	Home	6:45
12/9	Tennessee	Home	6:30/8:00
12/13	North Prep Academy	Home	6:00/7:30
12/14	ENCSD vs. SCSDB	Home	4:00/5:30
1/6	Atlanta Area	Duluth, GA	5:00/6:30
1/11	North Prep Academy	Home	6:00/7:30
1/13	Tennessee	Knoxville, TN	6:30/8:00
1/18	SCSDB vs. ENCSD	Home	4:00/5:30
1/18	Crossnore	Crossnore	6:00/7:30
1/19	Lincoln Charter	Home	6:00/7:30
1/20	South Carolina	Home	6:00/7:30
1/25	Carolina Christian	Asheville	5:30/7:00
1/27-29	Girls' Mason-Dixon Tournament	Cave Springs, GA	TBA
	Boys' Mason-Dixon Tournament	Spartanburg, SC	TBA
2/1	Crossnore	Home	6:00/7:30
2/3	South Carolina	Spartanburg, SC	6:00/7:30

2010-11 NCSD Bears Middle School Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
12/7	Carolina Christian	Home	4:30/5:30
12/9	Carolina Day	Home	4:00/5:00
1/4	Lincoln Charter	Lincolnton	4:00/5:00
1/13	Carolina Day	Asheville	4:00/5:00
1/19	Lincoln Charer	Home	4:00/5:00
1/25	Carolina Christian (boys only)	Asheville	4:30

PSO NEWS!

The NCSD Parent Staff Organization (PSO) is looking forward to a new and busy year! We are now taking nominations for the positions of officers, and will hold elections by email and mail the first week of September. This group of officers will hit the ground running, working on fund raising for some items for the school and dorm, the soccer team and art club as well as planning a table for Homecoming and a Family Fun Day later in October. The Family Fun Day will be held on a Sunday afternoon so that parents who are not able to take time off from work can still come and enjoy their children, admire their work, win prizes, talk with staff about their children and meet and greet other families. All family members are welcome so plan to bring a car full! Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with a specific project or for the school year in general, please contact Dee Counter-Griffis at the contact information below.

PSO has a successful Facebook group, and used that group to

pass on exciting links to news and events that affected the school and Deaf community last year. That will continue this year, as well as reminders about various upcoming events.

For this group, email is the single most effective way to notify members of upcoming events. If you DO NOT have email please make sure you have given us your postal address and phone number, but every letter that we can send as an email gives us more money to spend directly on the children instead of buying ink, paper and postage. If you did not fill out a PSO information paper this fall at registration, you are now off the current mailing lists. Use the contact information below and Dee will add you to the list!

If you have an issue/ question or project that you want to bring to the PSO's attention, or you would like to donate time or goods to a fundraiser or to the PSO in general, please contact Dee at 704-740-8288 or email at DeeSignNC@aol.com. I look forward to meeting you all at Homecoming and/or Fall Family Fun Day!



Teachers Attend Summer School

From August 2nd to the 6th, four staff members from NCS (Treva Haynes, Bill Ross, Sharon Hurley, and I), had the privilege of attending a workshop in Charlotte concerning the new ELinguaFolio Project initiative that is being tried in several schools throughout North Carolina. My first reaction to being invited to attend the workshop was, "Give up a week of my summer vacation?!" I was even more reluctant when I discovered that we had to do six hours of homework before even attending the workshop. However, as soon as I began delving into the sites for the homework assignments, I became hooked. Then I became excited. This was different. It has been a while since I have become excited about something new in education. Just what is ELinguaFolio? It is a way of empowering students to take charge of their own learning. And it is working. Not only in World (previously "foreign") Language classes, but in ESL classes as well. So why not include deaf students in this project? After all, English is not their first language, it is their second language.

According to the National Council of State Supervisors for languages,

LinguaFolio is a portfolio assessment instrument designed to support individuals in setting and achieving their goals for learning languages.

It includes these three components:

- Biography, where information about a student's language background, intercultural activities, and the self-assessment checklists are documented,
- Dossier, where samples of a student's work document progress over time, and
- Passport, where formal qualifications, certificates or diplomas, and achievements are recorded, along with a summary of self-assessments that describe competency with different languages.

This three-fold approach, based on the European Language Portfolio, enables language learners of all ages and levels to document their language learning as they move along the continuum towards greater proficiency.

"ELinguaFolio is the electronic version of this. Right now, the electronic version is only available to those involved in the pilot project, but it soon will be available to all teachers. The most exciting part to me is the self-assessment checklists which are based on "I can" statements. Students set goals for themselves in learning language and once these goals are achieved, they check off their "I can" statements. The statements must be backed up with evidence that shows they truly can do what they say. This evidence may take many forms, including videotapes. It gives the students a sense of pride in what they have accomplished in that language. Treva and I will be using it with our English classes. Bill is excited about using this tool for interpreters. Sharon will be using it to determine our students' level of knowledge of ASL. The possibilities are endless and I am grateful that I was willing to give up that week of my vacation. It was well worth it and, most importantly, I believe it will benefit our students greatly.

Phyllis Miller

The NCS Communication Access Support Service

The Communication Access Support Services (CASS) department at the North Carolina School for the Deaf (NCS) was established three years ago after the hiring of **William "Bill" F. Ross, III** to serve as the director of the department. Bill, a child



of Deaf parents, has been interpreting for more than 25 years and holds dual certification (CI/CT) from the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf. Bill received his Bachelor Degree in Deaf Ministries from Central Bible College and a Masters of Science degree in Special Education from Southwest State Missouri University. In addition to national certification Bill holds a full license with the North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board. Previously, he was employed at the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing where he served as an interpreter, evaluator/trainer for the state screening and as a mentor. In addition, he has been an instructor at multiple colleges and universities. He has presented nationwide and has several publications to his credit.

Upon Bill's arrival at NCS, he established the CASS department providing interpreting services, mentoring, and sign language instruction to the NCS students and

staff. Additionally Bill was responsible for establishing the NCS Mentorship Project which promptly began providing services to Burke County Public Schools (BCPS). Bill has a passion for mentoring evidenced by the services provided to BCPS--trainings, observations and diagnostic feedback, as well as providing support. Bill not only is a member of the local chapter of Foothills North Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, but a board member of the state North Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

Sharon J. Hurley is the Staff Development Specialist at North Carolina School for the Deaf (NCS). She coordinates and teaches ASL, Deaf Culture, Linguistics and a variety of other sign related topics at NCS. Sharon also coordinates the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) and she is a rater and trainer for the



SLPI with experience in providing training as far as Ghana and Kenya, Africa. Sharon is also an integral part of the NCS Mentorship Project. Mrs. Hurley performs evaluations for Do-It Center for Northern Colorado University. Sharon has over 25 years experience teaching ASL at numerous colleges and universities in NY and NC.

Locally she has taught at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Western Piedmont Community College and Gardner Webb University. Currently Sharon is the only person in western North Carolina that possesses Professional Level ASL certification from the American Sign Language Teacher Association (ASLTA). She holds a Masters Degree in Career Development and Human Resources.

Ramon Perez was born and raised in Miami, Florida. He graduated from Miami Day Community College with an



Associates Degree and has worked for four years at NCS as our Foreign Language Specialist. His interest in deafness was influenced by both friends and family. Ramon or "Ray" has worked in local, state and federal arenas performing Spanish language interpreting and as a document translator for more than 12 years.

Additionally he is an advocate who is accessible twenty-four hours a day for our Latino families. Ray serves as the Equal Employment Opportunity designee (EEO) at NCS; maintaining equal employment for our staff and making sure policy is followed. Ray's services have been utilized by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

and also the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Ashleigh Lassiter, our Mentorship Coordinator has been with NCSD for 2 years, joining us right after graduation from Western Piedmont Community College with an Associate in Applied



Science in Interpreter Education. Ashleigh's fascination with sign language at a young age led her to become an interpreter. Ashleigh currently holds a full license with the North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board as well as the most current national certification (NIC) from the Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf (RID).

Ashleigh maintains our mentorship program not only with educational interpreters in Burke County, but with community interpreters that need mentoring. Ashleigh develops workshops and trainings for educational interpreters and students in interpreting programs at the local community college.

Peggy Sanders, the Interpreter Coordinator has worked at NCSD for the past 29 years in a variety of settings and with the CASS department since its inception. At one time



Peggy was the only interpreter on the NCSD campus. Peggy has an associate degree from Western Piedmont Community College and is licensed to interpret by the state of North Carolina. Many times Peggy is referred to as the "keeper of the schedule" since she is responsible for scheduling all the interpreting assignments, classes, and work-

shops offered by the CASS department. Lastly, Peggy is the editor for "In the Loop" an informational bulletin available to students, staff and community via the NCSD website, www.ncsd.net.

The CASS department regularly provides workshops and trainings for educational and community interpreters. Attendees come from all over North Carolina, some as far as Halifax County; there have even been some from out of state. The workshop formats vary. Some are as brief as two hours while others are six hours in length. Frequently the NCSD campus is the host, but our staff has also gone to local LEAs to provide training. Leaders in the field of interpreters identify mentoring as one of the greatest needs in the interpreting community. We feel strongly that educational interpreters need that support and we are well prepared to provide that support. Currently, our trainings are free of charge.

Last spring NCSD was invited to Wake County to provide information about the assessment tool we use to assess the qualifications of interpreters working in the school system. Afterwards, Bill was able to observe each interpreter working and complete a form outlining their areas of strength and areas of growth which he later share with them one on one. Furthermore, he supplied the requesting school with a written report.

To date, the CASS department has provided outreach and support to over 123 individual interpreters in North Carolina. Some of those interpreters were able to attend multiple trainings as we were able to provide approximately 10 professional development opportunities in the 2009-2010 school year. In addition, we have had between 5-8 teachers of the deaf in attendance at the various trainings that we have offered.

The NCSD Communication Access Support Services

August 2009-March 2010

The NCSD Mentorship Project has had tremendous success in the area of service provision and outreach to LEAs that employ sign language interpreters.

Some of the services we have provided are:

- Training and skill development
- Observation and diagnostic feedback
- Mentoring (collective and individual)
- Sign classes
- Certification and licensure information

To date the CASS department has had the opportunity to provide outreach support to over 123 interpreters in North Carolina; this number does not reflect those interpreters who attended multiple trainings. Of the 123 interpreters, 45 of the end users of our services came from schools where the percentage of the students who receive free or reduced lunches ranges from a low of 41.0% to a high of 86.0 percent with a median range of 60.0 percent (based on 2008-2009 school year data). By providing such support we are enabling interpreters to gain valuable skills that they would not likely be able to obtain due to financial hardship. The number of interpreters served reflects services provided to approximately 27 counties.

In addition, we have had between 5-8 teachers of the deaf in attendance at the various trainings that we have offered. They need additional support concerning their sign language skills. Currently there are no services being provided/offered, hence the reason they are attending our trainings. We are planning to help meet this need by making initial offerings next school year, developing modules on a variety of topics.

Recent discussions with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf have yielded very positive feedback concerning NCSD partnering with them and offering multiple services:

1. NCSD would become a supersite which will permit us to offer the RID interpreter performance certification test
2. NCSD would also be a Certification Maintenance Program or CMP site which would permit us to grant CEUs for RID interpreter trainings/workshops

We are hoping that we will be able to offer the test and CEUs by next year at this time.

Jr. NAD

The Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr. NAD) is an organization founded by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) in Washington, D.C. It is open to 7th through 12th grade deaf and hard of hearing students at the schools for the deaf and mainstreamed schools for the deaf all over the nation. Junior NAD offers opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, learn and demonstrate citizenship, and lead meetings themselves. Every other year, two representatives from each chapter go to the national Jr. NAD Conference where they have opportunities to interact with students from all across the United States.

Jr. NAD chapters focus on advocacy, attitude, awareness, commitment, cooperation, friendship, information exchange, and involvement. Chapters hold regular meetings and participate in activities such as community events and fundraisers. Members develop skills and values that will help them become future leaders and advocates in the deaf and hard of hearing community as well as in their careers and personal lives.

The NAD also has a Youth Leadership Camp (YLC) offered to deaf and hard of hearing high school students. Campers develop scholarship, leadership, and citizenship qualities in a nature environment. They experience self-discovery, learn about self-identity, and develop confidence and self-esteem. Community members, including NAD YLC alumni, staff members, and guest speakers are actively involved, and each makes a lasting impact on the program. The camp features hands-on activities that emphasize learning by doing, adopting the old Chinese proverb: "Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I'll remember. Involve me, and I'll learn."

For years, NCSD had a strong Jr. NAD chapter and many past graduates developed skills they have used throughout their adult working careers. Staff at NCSD would like to reestablish the Jr. NAD chapter this year. Annual dues for each member are \$10. With the membership, the member will receive periodic newsletters and announcements. More information can be found at www.nad.org/jrnad.

The NCSD at Morganton Foundation, Inc.

The North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was established for the purpose of securing and distributing funds for the educational benefit of the students and graduates of the North Carolina School for the Deaf (NCSD). The Foundation enhances the educational experience of NCSD students beyond those services funded by state and federal dollars.

The Foundation works cooperatively with, but is governed independently from, NCSD. The Foundation Board includes alumni, parents of students, educators, business and community leaders, interested private citizens, and a liaison from the school administration. The Board members volunteer their time and resources to raise money in support of the Foundation's purposes. Annually, at least one scholarship is awarded to a student who is planning to pursue post-secondary education. The Foundation receives a quarterly grant check from the Albert Mehl Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Burke County which is used to buy reading materials for the dormitory. Tickets for educational programs and reward trips for student achievement are among the numerous activities which have been funded by the Foundation.

The Annual Golf Tournament is the Foundation's major fund raiser. Individuals and organizations are asked to support the tournament by donating money and items for the silent auction as well as playing in the tournament.



NCSD Booster Club

To Loyal NCSD Booster Club Members, Parents & Friends,

From NCSD Booster Club Officers,
 President Martha Bradley
 Vice President Rene Skelton
 Treasurer Debi McNally

We are beginning our 34th year as an organization; 2010 - 2011 will be one of continued success.

Last Year was a year of great sportsmanship and spirited players involved in the various sports to enrich their team experiences and memoirs.

We wish to take this time out to thank you for your loyal support this past year. It was your support and hard work that enabled the athletic program at NCSD. We are asking for your continued support this year in helping to maintain our growth.

The Booster Club membership fee is \$25 for individuals, \$40 for a family. For being a member, you are entitled to go to all NCSD Home Games and Homecoming.

All monies that are received from the Booster Club go to support sporting programs and projects that indirectly and directly benefit the students participating in the program. Here are some examples: trophies, travel, expenses, and uniforms to name a few.

Our future fundraising will be: Parents and Students Registration Day 2010 - 2011, All Home Games 2010, and Homecoming Day on October 2.

We hope that each of you will consider joining the Booster Club and supporting the athletic programs.

Thank You, NCSD Booster Club Officers

BEARS GOLF CLASSIC 2010

• OCTOBER 1, 2010 •
 12:30 PM SHOTGUN START



The Bears Classic will return to the Silver Creek Plantation Golf Course in Morganton for the 7th Year

FORMAT: 4-person team scramble
REGISTRATION: 11:00 to 12:00
FEES: \$75.00 per player
AMENITIES: Lunch and Dinner Provided
 Welcome Gifts and Silent Auction
PRIZES: Top three teams-gross and net divisions:

- Hole-In-Ones
- Longest Drives
- Closest to the Pins



The Bears Classic serves as the primary fund raising vehicle for the North Carolina School for the Deaf (NCSD) at Morganton Foundation. Tournament proceeds provide scholarships for college bound students and enhance the educational environment at NCSD through field trips, special events and life skills programs. The NCSD Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.
 For more information visit us at: www.ncsdfoundation.org or bearsclassictourney@ncsdfoundation.org

66th Annual Homecoming

North Carolina School for the Deaf
 vs
Georgia School for the Deaf



October 2, 2010
at 2:00 PM

Those We Will Miss



Susan Houck

"My classroom was the focus of my life for over thirty- five years." This is how Susan Houck, who retired from NCSD this June, summed up her career with NCSD.

"My first memory of NCSD was the May Day event of 1954. Archie Johnson was a participant in the Tom Thumb Wedding. But my real introduction to deaf culture came in 1957 when my mother, Lillian Houck, became a dietician at the school. From that day onward, NCSD became part of my everyday life."

Houck recalls eating holiday dinners at the school during a time when NCSD was closed only at Christmas. Her family would stop by Rankin Hall on opening day to see the newest children arrive. Susan did not decide to teach deaf children until after receiving her degree in English and her teacher certification from UNC Greensboro. She continued her education at Lenoir Rhyne University to become a certified teacher of the deaf. In 1975, she accepted a position teaching English in the high school at NCSD. After three years, she moved to the middle school, "and that was when I realized that I really had found my calling," Houck recalls.

Most of her students remember Susan Houck for her creativity and for taking student interests and bringing them into the classroom. "One of the first things I ever did was making a Star Trek movie with my ninth to eleventh graders. Reading and writing are difficult for deaf kids, but for those students, when the reading and writing turned into drama, the light went on."

Middle schoolers remember participating in two video shows created by Houck: Sign On and News Views. At that time, NCSD had its own closed-circuit television, and regular programs were shown within the school. Another era was Doctor Who, a classroom theme that included a cardboard spaceship console in Houck's classroom. Students also remember Instrumental Enrichment, a challenging program to develop cognitive skills. Houck was one of the first teachers of the deaf to teach I.E.

At a time when most teachers are winding down to retirement, Susan Houck decided to offer Irish stepdancing

as an extracurricular activity to her students. With support from the international Irish Dance community, her deaf dancers were invited to dance in special competitions and to perform at various functions. It meant extra hours volunteered, "but was probably the most rewarding experience of my career," Houck says.

"I always believed that our school gave deaf students a chance of participating in activities that they might be overlooked for in regular public school. Every child should have options beyond the classroom: to play sports, enter writing and speaking competitions, and be in dance recitals, talent contests, and all the kinds of activities that hearing children take for granted. During my tenure at the school I tried to be sure that my students had the opportunity to do some of those things as well as make the most they could out of the school curriculum."





Ruth Jones

I sat down to talk to Ruth Jones the other day..... Oh, no!

I kept telling myself, it can't be true! But, unfortunately for NCS D, it is all too true.

Ruth Jones will officially pass down her plethora of hats and RETIRE on September 30th, 2010. She is handing off her first hat to Scott Skelton for homecoming. Although she is more than confident Scott will do a superb job, it will be bittersweet as this will be the first homecoming she will miss in 27 years! She smiled and laughed as she remembered a boy, Sidney Hicks, "I am going to miss catching up with him this year; he was like one of my family!"

As we chatted, I asked Ruth to look back over her career. She recalled starting in Rankin Hall in 1974 under Principal, Carol Apple; that's when she began as a teacher assistant for Josephine Brendle and Beulah Huffman. She laughed as she remembered being given the Christmas play to coordinate, which was a long standing initiation for all Rankin Hall newcomers! Oh what memories!

Ruth stayed at the NCS D campus for 7 months and transferred to the Central NC School for the Deaf when it opened in 1975; that's where she worked as a teacher assistant/ reading tutor in Dixon Elementary building. She remembered the Central school as a "DIFFERENT WORLD" and recalled many memories working with some familiar names like Ronda and Lemuel Watson, Terri and Donnie Crump and Jennifer Triplett.

She just couldn't stay away from the NCS D and returned in 1983 to work with the High School in woodworking and the Alternative program. That's when her role of the "many hats" really began. She worked in Jeter Hall with Margret Houser, she was a teacher assistant for PE, she taught swimming lessons, and she was the life guard on campus and off campus for the many trips with the kids.

It was also in 1983 she became the Volunteer Service Director and has been here ever since! It was in this position that she could fill up closets with the hats she had been given over the years, always willing to help out wherever and whenever staff at NCS D came a callen. And boy did they come a calling! Ruth also poured her heart and soul into the community, and in the communities surrounding us; continually building up and maintaining a great rapport for our school. Ruth has always been instrumental in showcasing our students, our staff, and our programs throughout the state of North Carolina and the world!

If you have ever talked with Ruth – you know she is most humble and does not like to boast about herself. Truth be told, she spends every waking moment building up others around her! Even though I knew I

could write all day about her accomplishments at NCS D, I asked her about some of her most memorable recollections – but I'm not sure that was as easy for her! She said there were so many memories, with so many people; staff and students alike – it was very challenging for her to narrow them down to just a few! I don't doubt that for a minute because if you really know Ruthie – everywhere she goes – there's always a lot of fun to be had!!!

She said that one of her most awesome memories was coordinating the 100-year celebration at NCS D. She worked very hard on it for 17 months and the payoff was "oh so cool" when she got to do a "FLY BY" with the paratroopers! "SO COOL!" (I should have asked her if it was even cooler than getting kissed by singer James Taylor on her sweet 16th birthday, but I didn't think of it at the time!) Ruth remembered asking the pilot if she was going to fall out of the plane. She was concerned as she looked around and all the doors were open; she said it was wild. Although the pilot reassured her, she wasn't so sure if she "could trust the boy flying the airplane;" after all, he was younger than her son at the time!

Before the big 100-year celebration day, Ruth worked directly with the US Army and the Golden Knights. In all her persuasive glory she was able to get them to come to the 100-year celebration "gratis", meaning "FOR FREE!" It was "THE VERY FIRST TIME EVER the Army had ever done anything like this, FOR FREE!"

Ruthie remembers having to coordinate directly with Washington DC for air space. They put her in command of campus for the event, directly under the Army and not the school's director! She remembers continuously calling Fort Bragg! What a hoot! Working to find strategic places for the huge concrete pads needed for the helicopters' tie down... She never complained about the work it took to accomplish such a glorious event; she just remembers it being "SO COOL!"

Oh to hear her tell the stories of memories past, like the 97' senior trip to Virginia Beach; "They were an incredible group; I was so proud of them!" "The dolphins were so close to shore and there was Kawasi running out of the surf, screaming 'Sharks!' He was scared to death! Doug Caraway buying Danny Safriet a snorkel set with goggles. He wore them everywhere we went and when it rained, he stuck his head out the

window trying to swim! Then there was Momma Roberta wrapped up in a toboggan with mittens sitting on the shore, and William Hamilton smoking a cigar on the boardwalk next to Shawn Roberts with braids so tight and tiny on his head! What an incredible group! You just had to know them!"

Ruth was touched when the 1993 yearbook was dedicated in her honor.

"Then there was the Walt Disney World senior trip '95 or was it '96? And being a class sponsor to the class of 2002; what happened in Florida stayed in Florida! Especially with Tom Riley and John Baker, no one ever knew who was imitating whom!"

Looking back Ruth mentioned so many great people she had the blessing to be able to work with – but the ones who came to the forefront of her mind...

"Mr. Mehl, what a gift, such an amazing person..."

"Doris Green gave the high school girls such finesse and class."

Ruth mentioned what a tremendous amount of respect she had working with the

Dean of Students and Athletic Director, Harold Deuel. "He EMPOWERED students and staff alike! He had amazing administrative and people skills!"

"Charles Crowe, Garrett Walker, Tom Maye, they all kept me in stitches! "Sandy."

"What a tremendous era to work with those people. WE HAD A PURPOSE! At that time – we were the best school in the country! It was an amazing time to be a part of this school!"

"There were activities happening ALL THE TIME

on campus: Boy Scouts, Key Club, Cheerleaders, and Pep Squad." Anita Kugel with her sewing classes and Christmas Decorations."

"The lighting of the Christmas tree was always very special time! Staff used to bring their families over; we would hold hands and sing Christmas Carols. That's when Shirley Cowan and her bell choir gave us goosebumps."

Ruth feels that one of the biggest highlights of her career at NCS D was working for her dad when he came over from Western Carolina Center. Dr. Iverson Riddle came to our school for about a year and a half. He helped out when we were between directors. Ruth remembered always wanting to work with him and it was a very prideful experience for her when she finally got to do so. She remembers the experience with fondness; she admires her father for being "a visionary" and for his ability to "make things happen." Among many things, Dr. Riddle was instrumental in obtaining the funding for Main Building's renovation and for the German Exchange Program.

In closing our conversation, I asked Ruth





about her hopes for the school. She said "DO WHAT YOU GOT TO DO AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN! I wish you all nothing but the best! I hope the school sets up firm goals and high expectations. I would hope that the school will do what is best for these children, for their families, within the law and with a high regard for their rights. The key is to focus on what we know is right, educate others, and fight not to take a direction that is not appropriate for our children!" Any last words Ruth? "Its time for me to

pass the torch. So many people I will miss, and I have learned so much from. I will leave it at that!"

When asked what she is going to do with herself after retirement, "FAMILY! Children, grandchildren and the GYM ON MY SCHEDULE!"

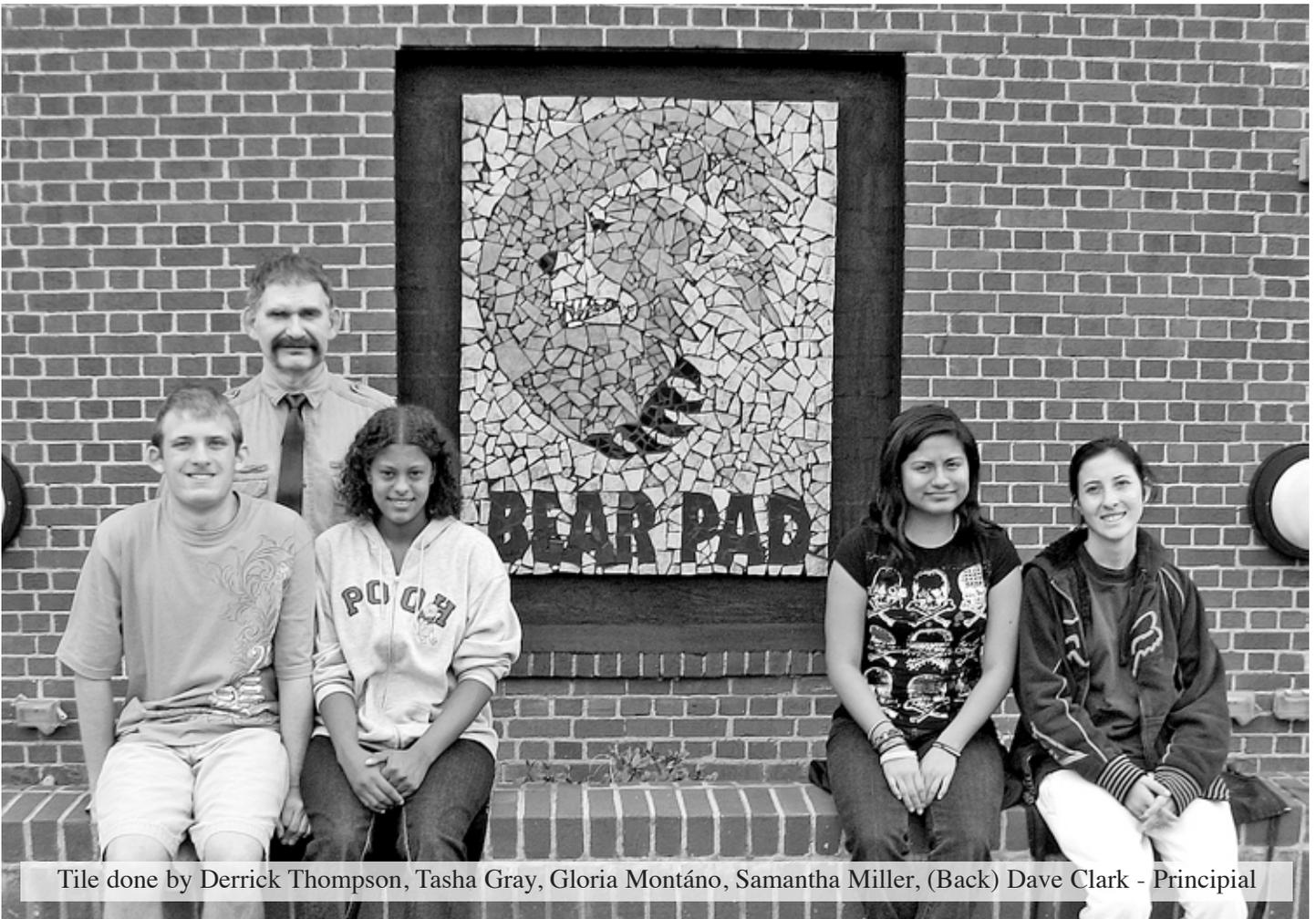
Hats off to You Ruthie! Go and enjoy those grandbabies, especially that new one that's due on your birthday! At least with retirement, that trip to Holly Springs won't seem so far away! Here's to travel, sunsets and wherever and whenever the wind blows your spirit!

So where will the other hats be distributed? Only time will tell.

I can only tell you this: "It will take a great many people to fill the shoes left by Ruth Jones!"

**WE LOVE YA RUTHIE!
YOU WILL BE MISSED
but NEVER FORGOTTEN!!**
I am honored to be your friend!

Kimberly Lajzer
Friend of Ruth Riddle Jones



Tile done by Derrick Thompson, Tasha Gray, Gloria Montáno, Samantha Miller, (Back) Dave Clark - Principial



Carol Brown

Carol Brown came to the NCS D Human Resource Office from Broughton Hospital Human Resources Office. She had prior State service with the Department of Corrections in Morganton. Ms. Brown's primary role at NCS D was the Health Benefit Representative and helping employees with other areas of HR. She retired effective August 1, 2010.



Louise Carroll

Louise worked in Dietary many years. She is fondly thought of as a dedicated worker whom the children made laugh. She is known as a punctual and sweet lady.



Carolyn Davis

Carolyn gave many years to the Dietary Department. She loved interacting with the children. She took her job seriously and was most dependable. She is remembered as a warm and dependable worker.



Lucille Matthis

Lucille worked as a Residential Life Trainer at NCS D for 10 years, retiring this past winter.

Lucille and her family moved to Morganton in 1977 to enroll her son, Travis, in school at NCS D.

She occasionally worked as a substitute teacher and this eventually led to a full time position as a teacher's aide. She worked with Liz Derrick in the pre school program for a number of years.

When the pre school program closed, Lucille began working as a Residential Life Trainer with the elementary students. It was a joy to watch her working with her students. She met the needs of each one, constantly teaching them while she made learning fun. One of her many talents is decorating. She found an outlet for this in her residential area, which she made warm and inviting.

We thank her for the many years of supervision and care she provided to our students and wish her many happy years ahead.



Henry Surratt

Henry gave many years at NCS D in maintenance. He could always be seen in his truck delivering supplies.

The years that maintenance was combined into Western Regional Maintenance we sure missed him around campus. It was wonderful to see him back briefly. His knowledge of sports will be missed. He could always tell us how the Redskins, Panthers, or Tar Heels were doing. To you, Henry, GO HEELS!!!!!!!!!!



Johnny O'Kelly

Everything that comes into NCS D-- from pencils to refrigerators-- passes through the warehouse.

Johnny O'Kelley should know. He began work at NCS D in 1972, worked his entire career as Warehouse Manager, and retired in 2009. His two years accumulated sick time made him a forty-year

retiree. "I miss most the people, the atmosphere of children, the laughs, and smiles. It felt like I left a world I love and went to another planet," he says, when asked about his new life.

"I took all the orders from each department, separated them out in the Warehouse, and made sure they got to the right person or department. You lose yourself when you get involved with the children." He reminisces about the changes in Main Building and says, "I was always not satisfied with the present year and strived to have it better the next." He describes going to food shows with the Dietary department to learn how to improve things and says he saw dietary grow, adding new cooking equipment, a salad bar, the Big Cheese, and ice cream machines.

Among Johnny's best work memories are watching the children grow. He saw three generations of children pass through grades 1-12 and enjoyed the connection between employees, academics, and sports. Some of his favorite memories were of the closeness and unity between the warehouse, dietary, maintenance, and the academic department staff. Johnny also liked being involved with the vocational program and seeing students excel in welding, furniture, or other trades, especially those students who had initially shown less promise. He enjoyed events like graduation, homecoming, and the times NCS D hosted visiting teams on campus. Dietary did special things for Christmas, Easter and other holidays with a lot of behind-the-scenes work, and this all showed up in the warehouse, of course!

With retirement, Johnny is busy outside, working in his yard or painting. "And then other people find plenty of things for you to do," he laughs. "I could have retired earlier and made more than I did working the extra years. But I had a love for it. It was a fulfillment from God to be there with the children." Johnny's love for the school and the kids is evident as he continues to promote the school and its programs.



“Our” Maintenance

How good it is to say this again. For the past several years, we have had Western Regional Maintenance which served Broughton, J. Iverson Riddle Institute and North Carolina School for the Deaf. A very good job was done by all, but we missed having “our” maintenance crew. Last year, the change was reversed and “our” maintenance was returned. Welcome back. We missed you and are very glad to have you back on campus. Believe us, when we say it feels good to see “our” maintenance guys around the grounds and buildings again.



Front L-R: Jackie Brittain, Dustin Jordan, Steve Watts, Rufus Collier, Tom Cook, Greg Whisnant. Back L-R: Eddie Mathes, Jeff Stroupe, Danny Cooke.



L-R: Marlene Robinson, Patty Brittain, Linda Marzen, Sheila Maynor, Alberta Crawley, Susan Powell, Debrah Lail.



Front L-R: Shatemia Largent, Joyce Feimster, Frances Church, Harold Daves, Helen Buchanan, Jaime Maynor, Steve McCall. Back L-R: Sharon Hicks, Stephanie McElrath, Patsy Rogers, Gail Charlet, Mary Mace.

Support
Groups
Who
Keep
“Her”
Going

“A Reflection”

“Her”

As a North Carolina School for the Deaf graduate (class of '64), I have always held a great affection for “Her.” “She” taught us right from wrong. Some of us learned the “hard way.” Nevertheless, we learned while receiving an excellent education.

For over a hundred years “She” has made “her” home address 517 West Fleming Drive, Morganton, NC 28655 – since 1891. That’s 119 years if you’re counting.

“Her” past outstanding achievements and successes are now making a positive comeback. Hopefully “She” is headed toward a new positive direction known as the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

The sight of seeing “Her” students returning was a great upside for the recent fall session and brought home a tear or two as “She” now looks down at those “flying fingers” with a “smile”. It appears that “She” is now ready to unpack “Her” bags and settle down for some serious educational instruction time from “Her” teachers and support staff on a regular basis.

“She” has always been a gracious host to “Her” Alumni who usually attend from all parts of NC and beyond in “tidal wave” fashion. The year 2010 will be the 66th annual homecoming at



NCSD. Hopefully, it will be an opportunity for “Her” to greet the alumni with a big “Hello!”

Dr. Rance Henderson, a former Superintendent of NCSD during the 70’s and 80’s had NCSD rated as one of the top schools for the Deaf, if not the best in the USA. “She” stood tall, supported by a local board of directors which consisted of prominent deaf and hearing leaders across the state of NC. They and they alone advised and guided the school in a positive and helpful manner.

The state of NC has been most generous to NCSD in recent years by funding renovations for Main Building (\$13 million), \$5.3 million on Hoey Building (high school), \$629,000 for an auditorium, for a total of \$20,280,000.

We want to see “Her” happy and live another 119 years which “She” can do with proper leadership and supervision. That would make her 238 years old, if she makes it through another 119. Whew!!

The next time you pass by I-40, exit 103, please stop by and visit “Her”. She would appreciate it very much!!

Homecoming will be October 2, 2010.

Photos by Sion A. Moss, III

Garrett Walker
Morganton, N.C.

North Carolina School for the Deaf
Morganton, North Carolina 28655

Nonprofit
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 39
MORGANTON, N.C.
28655