

ADVANCE 2007



Giving Gifted Gnomes a Home

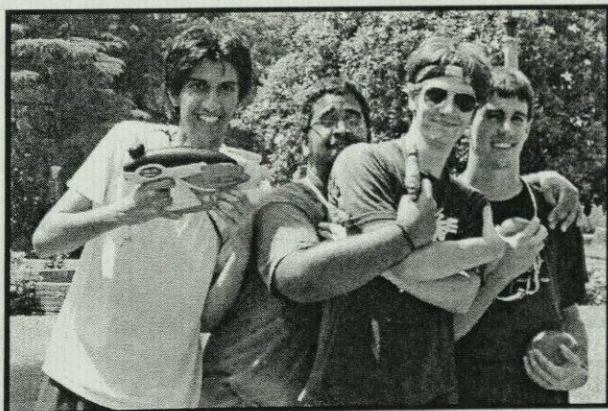
Northwestern State University

www.advanceprogram.org

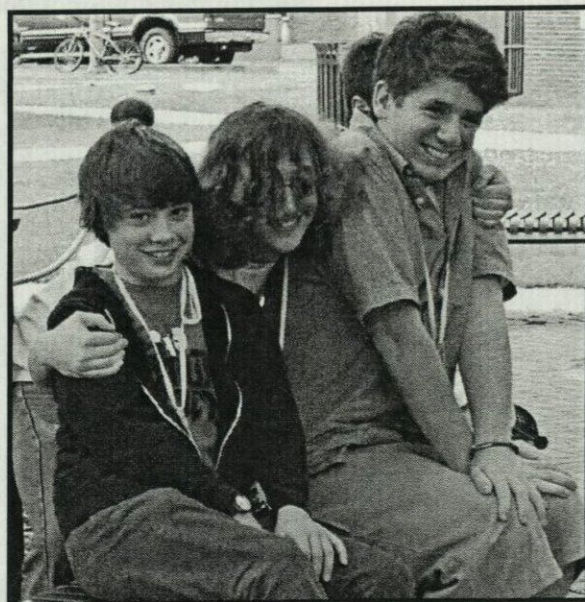
2007 ADVANCE Yearbook



2007 ADVANCE Yearbook



Top photo first row (from left): Amanda Marek, Isobel Pribil, Kelsey Cook, Naseem Alammar, and Sohni Syed. Back row (from left): Kaitlin Rounds, Nellie New, and Caitlin Blanchard...girls just having fun. Above (from left): Nik Sharma (TA) and RAs Andrew Stacy, Devin Drouant, and Kyle Boudreau in charge at Capture the Flag. Be afraid, be very afraid!



Above: Nick LaRocca, Rick Swan, and Devin Mullin chill during a classroom break.

Students Enjoy A Variety of Activities

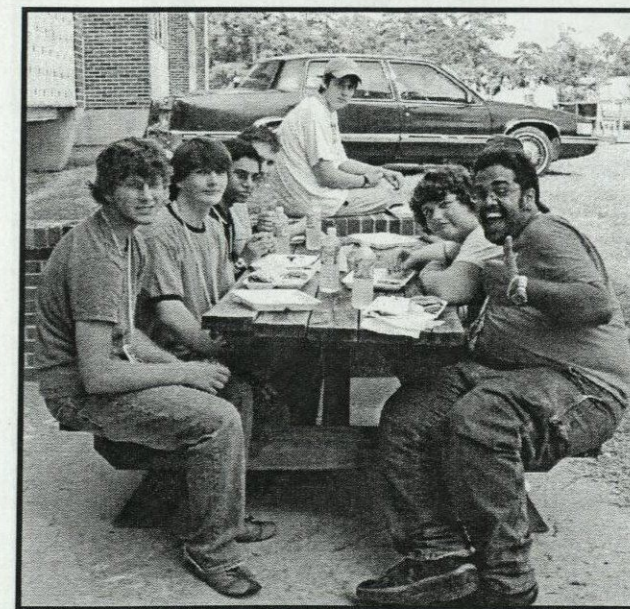
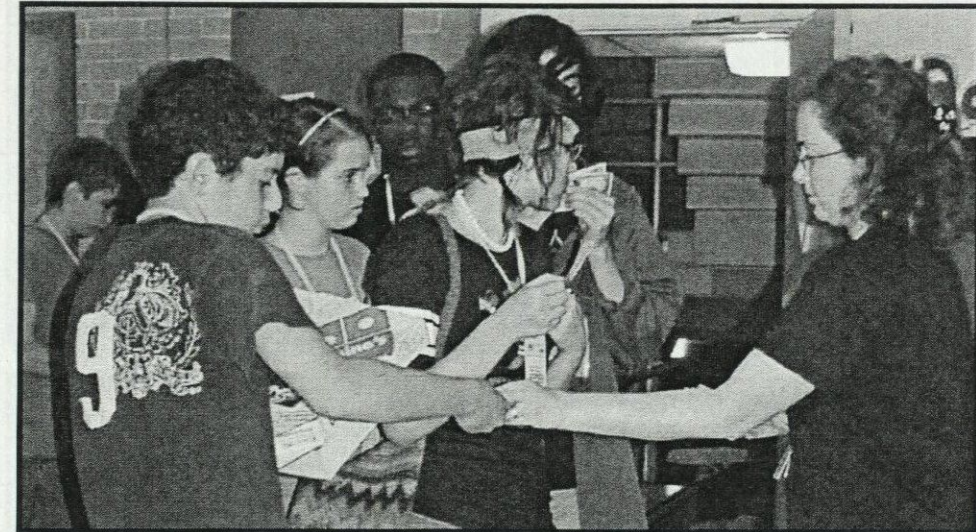
Right (from left): Chance
Tarver, Felipe Hernandez,
and Harrison Steinbeck play
ADVANCEball.



Right: Seated (from
left) Kriti Upadhyay
and Misha Molani.
Standing (from left):
Anna Cheng, Taylor
Jambon, Charlie
Deese, Alia Man-
ning, Jamie Park,
Danielle Basford,
Catherine Tucker,
Sohni Syed, and
Caitlin Blanchard
visit downtown his-
toric Natchitoches.



Below (from left): Chance Tarver, Abraham Younes, Phoebe Roberts,
Doven Glover, Maddie Ferguson, and Zach Fontenot (partially blocked) are
lucky recipients of pizzas. Celia Mangham, Coordinator of Residential Life,
handles the money for Domino's Pizza every night.



Above (from left): Chris Collongues, Mark Brink,
Nick Amin, David Parsons (partially blocked)
Mason Joiner, Max New, and Andrew Stacy (RA)
enjoy hamburgers behind the dorm.



Above: Messy Games is always a huge hit with
ADVANCE students. From left are Misha Mo-
lani, Katie Searvogel, and Lizzy Florek.

Administration and Faculty

Right (from left): Allyson Neely (Office Manager), Janet Darfus (Nurse), David Wood (Director), Harriette Palmer (Assistant Director), Pat Gresham (Counselor), Celia Mangham (Coordinator of Residential Life).

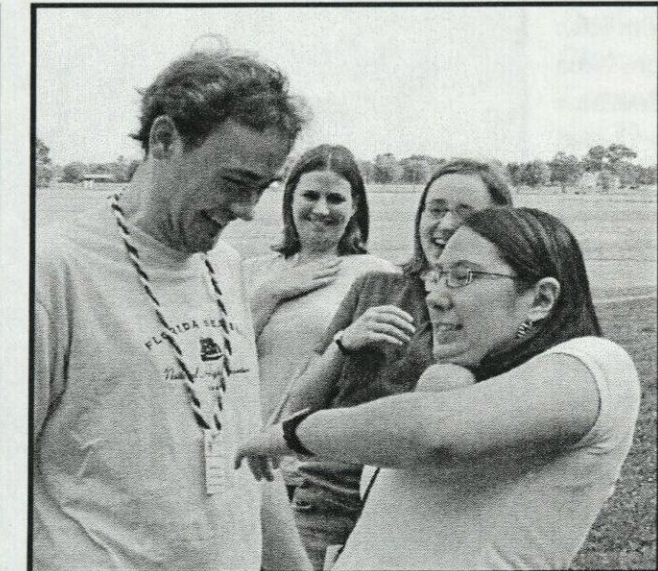
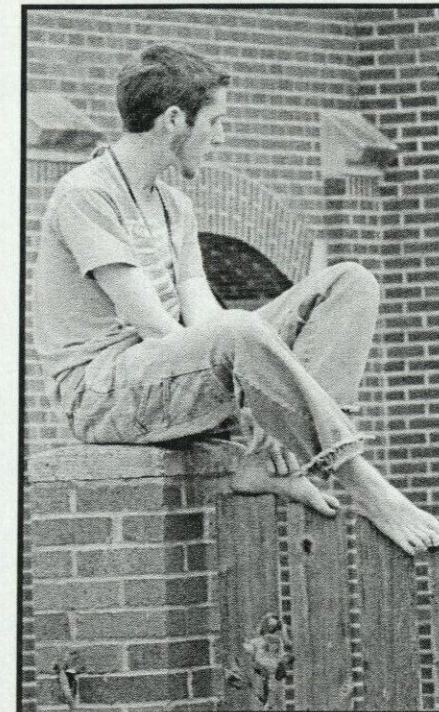


Above front row (from left): Ms. Mary Brocato (Journalism), Dr. David Lambert (Biology), Ms. Jo Hall (Shakespeare & Performance), Dr. Leon Hsu (Physics), Mr. David Zolzer (Digital Design & Animation). Second row (from left): Ms. Lillian Cutshall (Geometry), Dr. Chris Hynes (Chemistry), Dr. Willie Major (Classical Mythology), Mr. Seth DuBois (Algebra 1), Dr. Nate Pritts (Film Studies). Not pictured: Mr. Ralph Adamo (Creative Writing), Ms. Autumn Grant (Age of Empires).

Teaching Assistants



Above front row (from left): Katy Mulvaney (Shakespeare & Performance), Benjamin Fortin (Digital Design & Animation), Rebecca Eskew (Journalism), Jenny Hsu (Algebra 1), Will Torbett (Film Studies). Second row (from left): Katie Finch (Chemistry), Stephen Finigan (Classical Mythology), Nikhil Sharma (Biology), Megan Hussey (Geometry), Tom Cleveland (Physics), Katie May (Age of Empires), John Yargo (Creative Writing).



Above (from left): TAs Benjamin Fortin, Katie May, Katy Mulvaney, and Katie Finch share a laugh at staff silly games during orientation.

Far left: Will Torbett (TA) supervises at the courtyard.

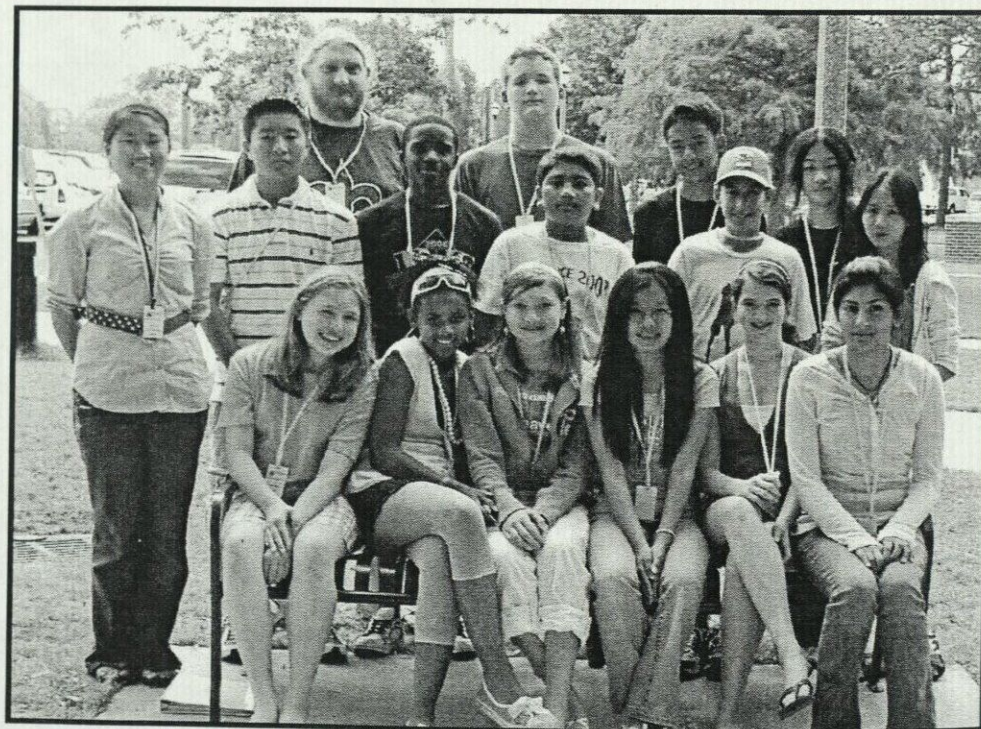
Age of Empires

Front row (from left): Mark Brink, Paz Nacari, Katie May (TA), Ryan Jalbert, Charlie Deese, Sohni Syed, John McJunkins, Autumn Grant (Instructor), Coleman McFerrin, Jack Jambon. Back row (from left): Maddie Ferguson, Katherine Barnett, Erik Haydel, Nikki Changlani, Caitlin Blanchard, Naseem Alammar, Nakul Joy.



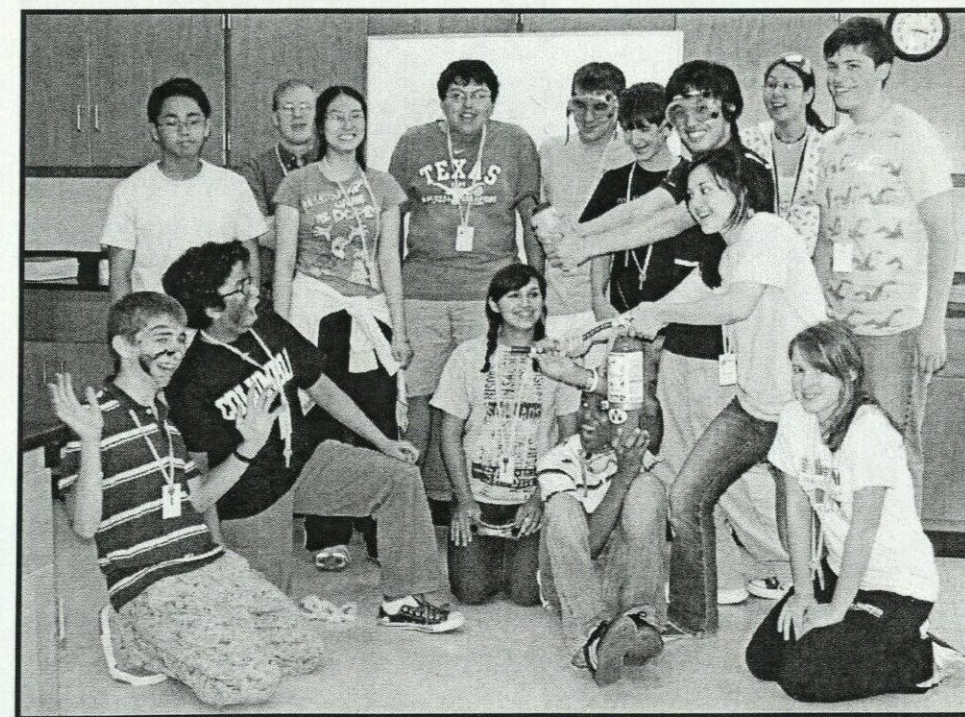
Algebra 1

Front row (from left): Rachel Garson, Nina Williamson, Courtney Flood, Anna Cheng, Phoebe Roberts, Srinee Bajaj. Second row (from left): Jenny Hsu (TA), Daniel Kim, Colin Marts, Harsh Patel, Benton Troxclair, Kim Ha. Back row (from left): Seth DuBois (Instructor), Will McMillan, William Chou, Reese Sun.



Biology

Seated (from left): Anu Devkota, Misha Molani, Kriti Upadhyay, Olivia Tseng, Caroline Stokes. Second row (from left): Andrew Chang, Zeshum Ahmed, Matt Milanowski, Belal Alammar, Dan Jaffrani. Back row (from left): Thomas Prince, Nikhil Sharma, Charles Bryan.



Chemistry

On floor (from left): Chance Tarver, Tommy John, Christina Thomas, Anvesh Kompelli, Libby Cloos. Second row (from left): Wally Nguyen, Judy Wang, Dominik Thomas, Michael Smith, Andrew Galatas, Michael Dai, Natalie Domingue. Back row (from left): Dr. Chris Hynes (Instructor), Katie Finch (TA), Alex Stokes.

Classical Mythology

Foreground: Yong Lin.
 Seated (from left):
 Lauren Speller,
 Hannah Roberts,
 Amanda Marek, Elise
 Prete, Isobel Pribil.
 Standing (from left):
 Esteban Espitia, Greg
 Hall, Li Lin, Max New,
 Chris Collongues, Ali
 Denby, Stephen Fini-
 gan (TA), Heather
 Hale, Mabry Broach,
 Rachel Johnson,
 Victoria Darby.



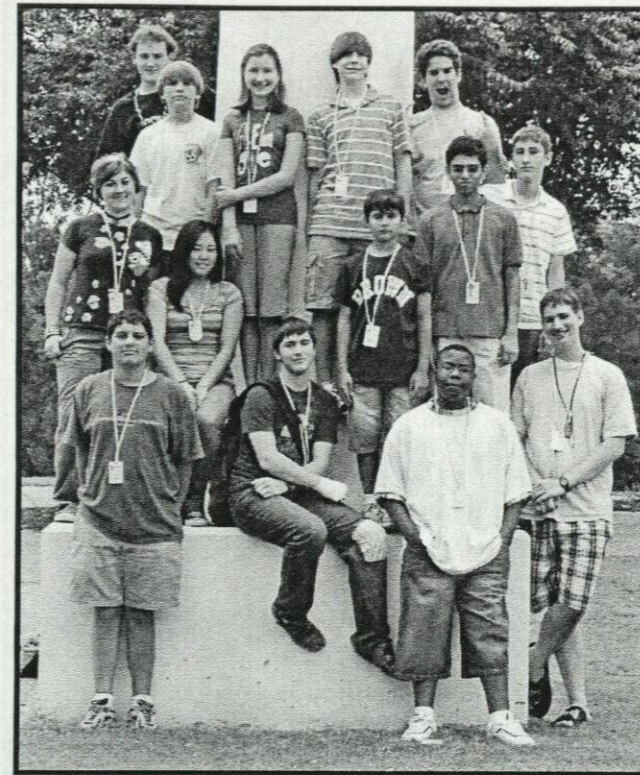
Creative Writing



On table (from left): Katie Hagan, Alexa Swan, Abraham Younes. Second row (from left): Margaret Parsons, Kelsey Mayfield, Camille Guillot, Nadia Rahman, Haley Norris, Ralph Adamo (Instructor). Third row (from left): Philip Lin, Mason Joiner, Jason Liu, John Yargo (TA). Back row (from left): Nastassia Porto, Erik Istre, Valerie Wade.

Digital Design & Animation

Front row (from left):
 Ryan Manuel, Andrew
 Holmes, Jonathan (JJ)
 Gallien, David Parsons.
 Second row (from left):
 Morgan Perry, Sol-Hee
 Park, Felipe Her-
 nandez, Nick Amin,
 Harrison Steinbeck.
 Back row (from left):
 Benjamin Fortin (TA),
 Matt Helluin, Catherine
 Tucker, Hayden Flint,
 Stephen Dufrene.



Film Studies



Kneeling (from left): Nick LaRocca, Paul Elliott, Jamie Park, Taylor Jambon. Standing (from left): Doug Waguespack, Rick Swan, Devin Mullin, Phillippe Dentino, Daniel Bogran, Rachel Segrest, Erica Catlett, Emily Gootee, Danielle Basford, Zach Veuleman, Will Torbett (TA). Not pictured: Garrett Cordes.

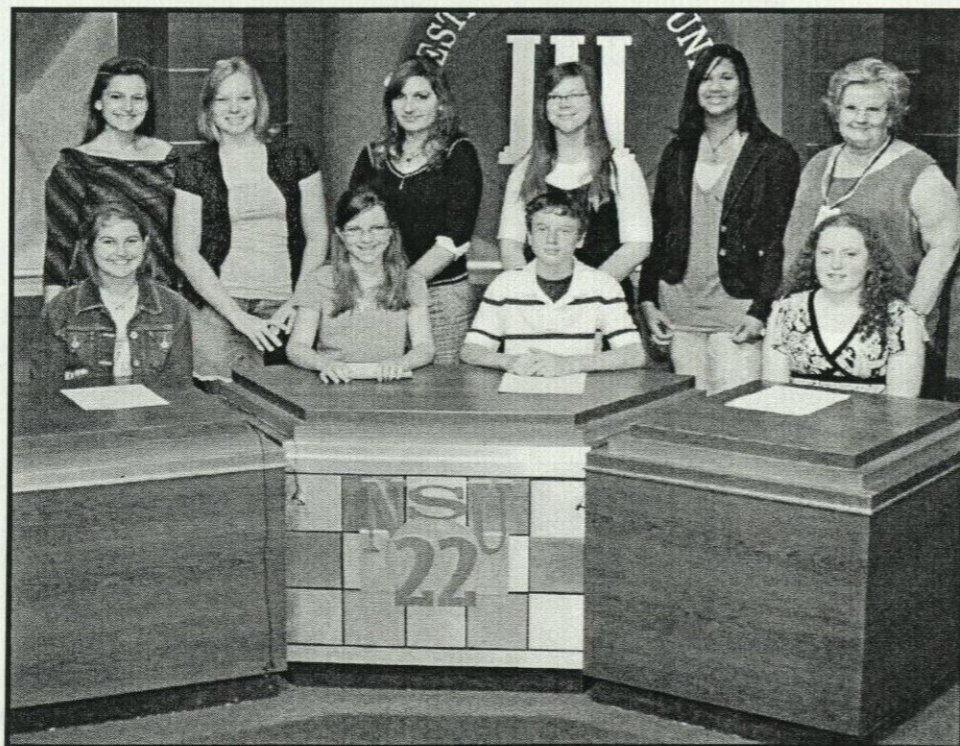
Geometry

Kneeling (from left): Willy Lin, Julie Strother, Megan Hussey (TA), Rick Changlani. Second row (from left): Ambert Yeh, Patrick Yeung, Jourdan Schultz, Annette Gray, Eugenia Chen, Katie Searvogel. Back row (from left): Daniel Cooper, Alex Williams, Zach Fontenot, Maurice Gaudet.



Journalism

Seated (from left): Nellie New, Kaitlin Rounds, David LeVasseur, Rachel Quay. Standing (from left): Rebecca Eskew (TA), Katelyn (KT) Markovits, Lana Skrypnyk, Amanda Williams, Kelsey Cook, Mary Brocato (Instructor).



Physics



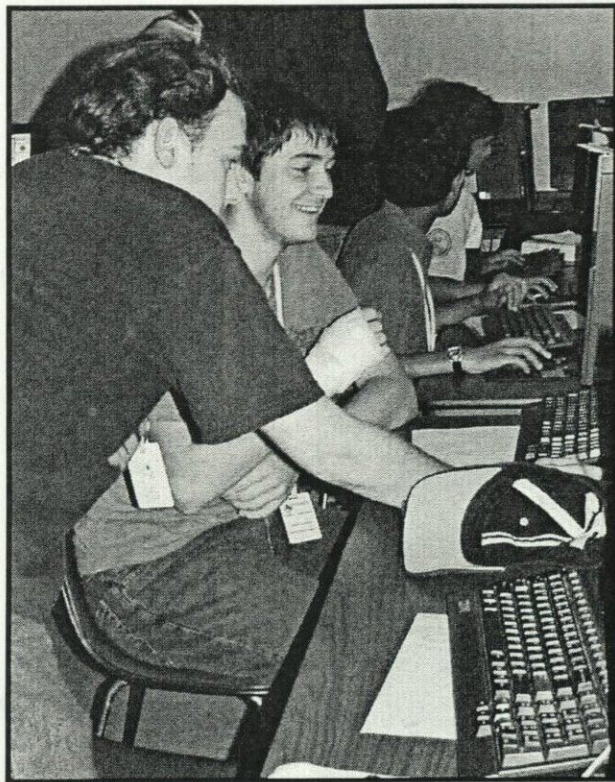
Front row (from left): Calvin Davis, Lynn Truong, Adithya Yadalam, Candace Blacklock, Meredith Ventura, Kiara Sampson, Lizzy Florek. Back row (from left): Dr. Leon Hsu (Instructor), Allen Gu, Kunaal Patel, Doven Glover, Kenny Burns, Anupam Reddy, Mike Lee, Tom Cleveland (TA).

Shakespeare & Performance

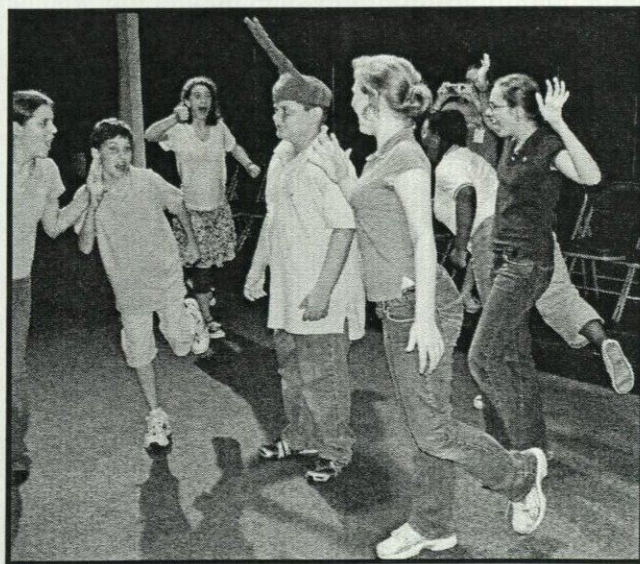


Front row (from left): Ariana Hudson, Morgan Westbrook, Alexis Pregeant, Daniel DiMarco, Alia Manning. Second row (from left): Jo Hall (Instructor), Kerry Ann Richmond, Lindsay Landry, Corinne Bachaud, Collin Stansberry. Back row (from left): Katy Mulvaney (TA), Lindsey Miller, Amelia Robert, Tiffany Burke.

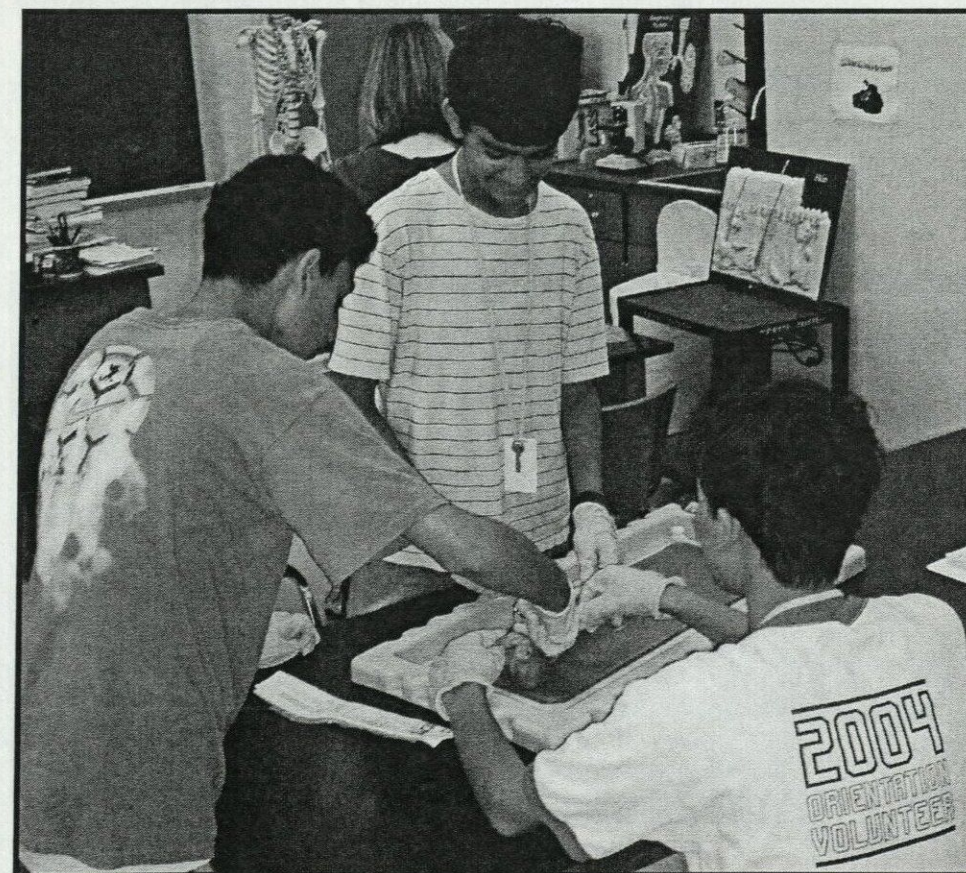
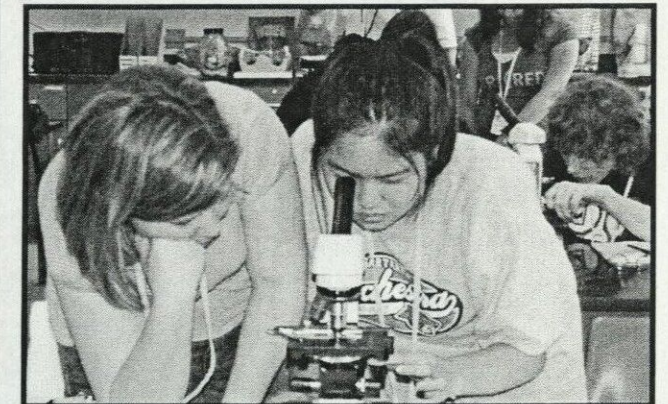
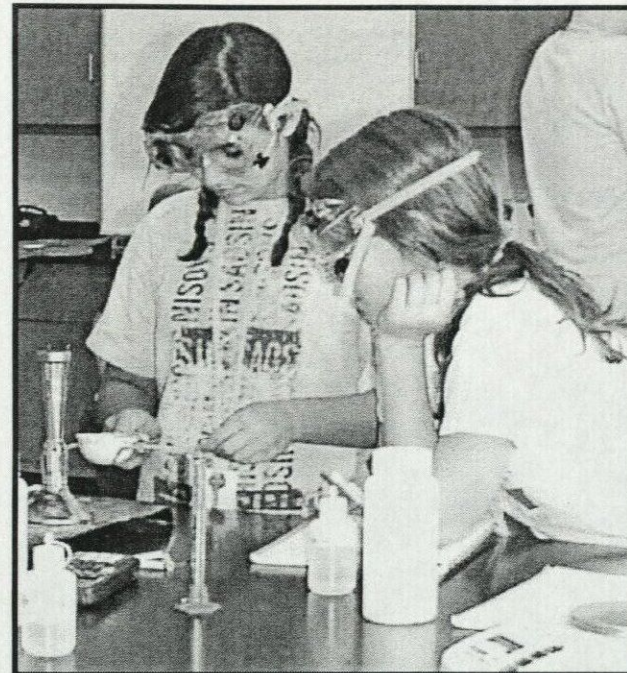
Right: Rachel Quay, Journalism student, operates the camera in the NSU News 22 newsroom.



Above: Benjamin Fortin (TA) assists Digital Design & Animation students (from left) Andrew Holmes, Nick Amin, and Felipe Hernandez. Right: Members of the Shakespeare class (from left) Morgan Westbrook, Daniel DiMarco, Amelia Robert, Collin Stansberry, Lindsey Miller, Alia Manning, and Corinne Bachaud perform a scene.



ADVANCE Offers Challenging Coursework

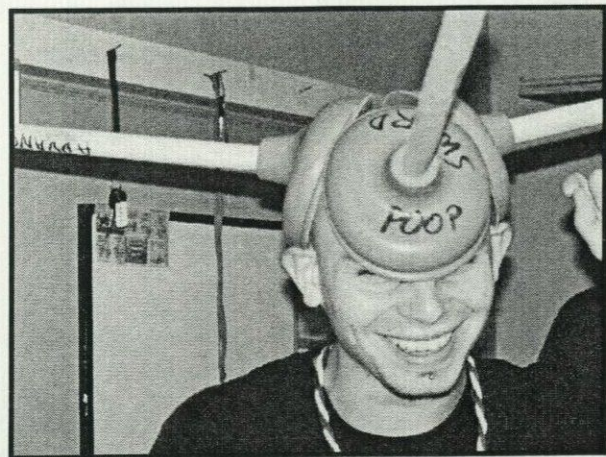


Above left (from left): Christina Thomas and Libby Cloos in chemistry lab. Above: Biology students (from left) Caroline Stokes and Olivia Tseng locate specimens. Left (from left): Belal Alammar, Zeshum Ahmed, and Andrew Chang perform a dissection in Biology.

Residential Advisers



Front row (from left): Mark St. Cyr, Rachael Joe, Brian Mullen, Nathan Wilson. Second row (from left): Devin Drouant, Britney Haydel, Kyle Boudreau, Camille Bullock, Sarah Norman. Back row (from left): Dom Bartholomew, Andrew Stacy, Kaitlin Witherell.

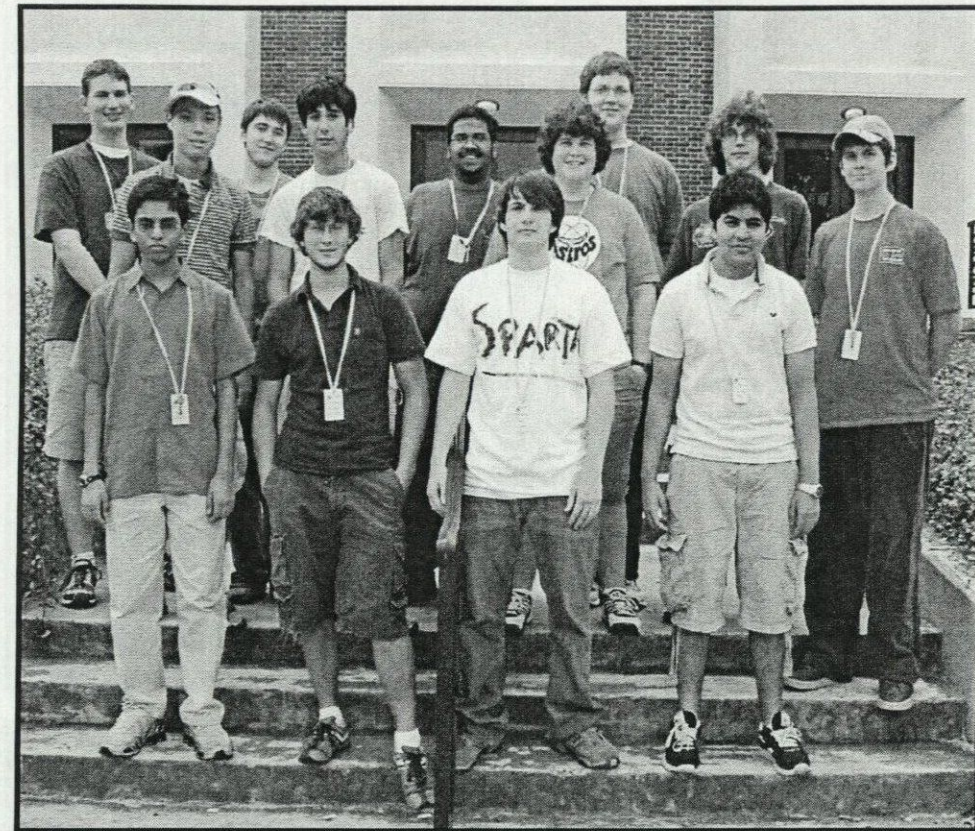


Above: RA Brian Mullen wins "poop swords" at staff awards.

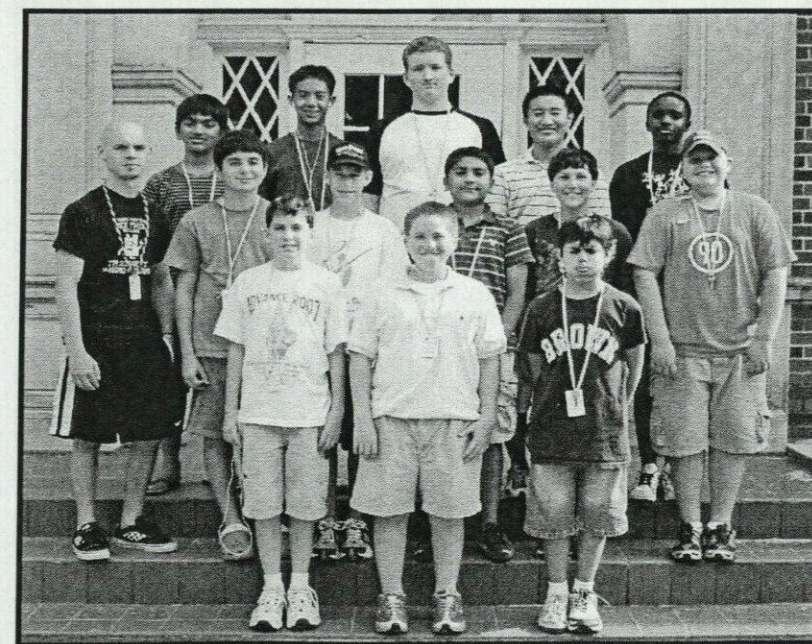


Above (from left): RAs Mark St. Cyr, Andrew Stacy, Britney Haydel, Kyle Boudreau, and Dom Bartholomew at a dance

Andrew



Front row (from left): Nick Amin, Chris Collongues, Mark Brink, Kunaal Patel. Second row (from left): Kenny Burnsed, Jourdan Schultz, Max New, Mason Joiner. Back row (from left): David Parsons, Andrew Holmes, Andrew Stacy (RA), Erik Istre, Charles Bryan.



Brian

Front row (from left): Daniel DiMarco, Coleman McFerrin, Felipe Hernandez. Second row (from left): Brian Mullen (RA), Abraham Younes, Benton Troxclair, Harsh Patel, Jack Jambon, Collin Stansberry. Back row (from left): Nakul Joy, William Chou, Will McMillan, Daniel Kim, Colin Marts.

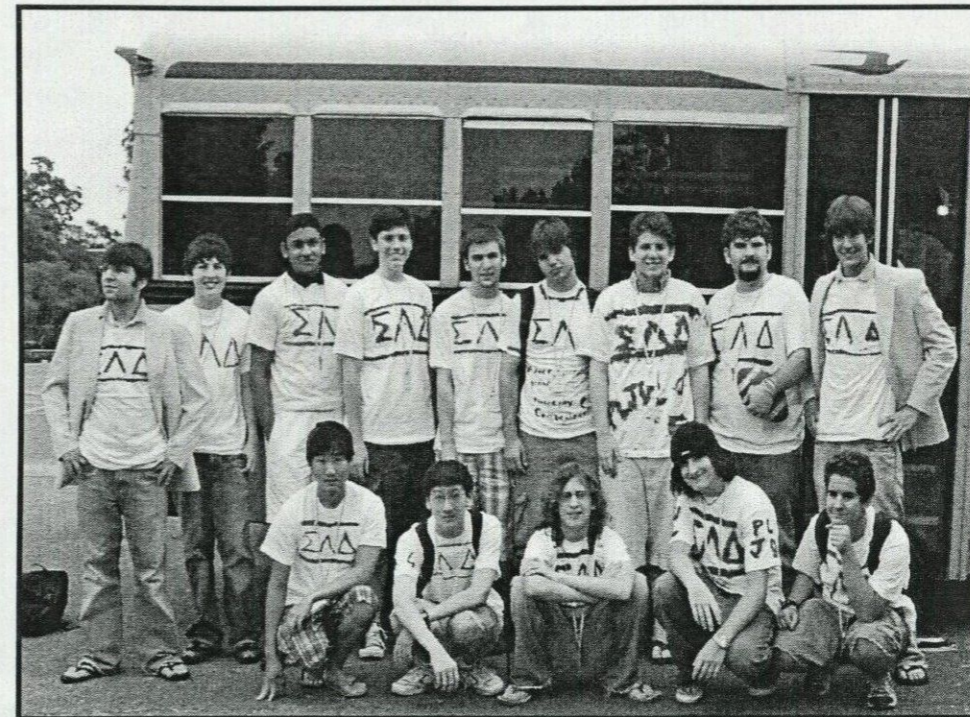
Britney

Front row (from left):
Britney Haydel (RA),
Katie Hogan, Taylor
Jambon, Anna Cheng,
Caitlin Blanchard,
Ariana Hudson, Kelsey
Cook, Nellie New,
Margaret Parsons.
Second row (from left):
Annette Gray, Mabry
Broach. Third row
(from left): Judy Wang,
Srince Bajaj. Back row
(from left): Lauren
Speller, Kerry
Richmond.



Camille

Front row (from left): Alia Manning, Naseem
Alammar. Second row (from left): Sohni Syed,
Kim Ha. Third row (from left): Kaitlin Rounds,
Olivia Tseng, Eugenia Chen. From top down:
Reese Sun, Victoria Darby, Nina Williamson,
Katy Mulvaney (TA), Camille Bullock (RA),
Amanda Williams, Lindsey Miller, Morgan
Westbrook, Courtney Flood.



Devin

Front row (from left):
Li Lin, Allen Gu, Rick
Swan, Doug Wagues-
pack, Stephen Dufrene.
Second row (from left):
Stephen Finigan (TA),
Calvin Davis, Anupam
Reddy, Alex Stokes,
Garrett Cordes, Erik
Haydel, Devin Mullin,
Zach Veuleman, Devin
Drouant (RA).



Dom

Front row (from left):
Misha Molani, Tiffany
Burke, Dominique
Bartholomew (RA),
Haley Norris, Katie
Searvogel, Kelsey May-
field. Second row (from
left): Catherine Tucker,
Ryan Jalbert, Phoebe
Roberts, Jamie Park,
Camille Guillot. Third
row (from left): Alexis
Pregeant, Alexa Swan,
Julie Strother. Top:
Rachel Johnson.

Kaitlin

Seated (from left): Kaitlin Witherell (RA), Valerie Wade, Hannah Roberts, Meredith Ventura, Candace Blacklock, KT Markovits. Standing (from left): Christina Thomas, Morgan Perry, Ali Denby, Lizzy Florek, Sol-Hee Park, Libby Cloos, Heather Hale.



Kyle



Front row (from left): Matt Helluin, Anu Devkota, Patrick Yeung, Matt Milanowski, Nick LaRocca, Paul Elliott, Rick Changlani, Willy Lin, Ambert Yeh. Back row (from left): Ryan Manuel, Zeshum Ahmed, Belal Alammarr, Kyle Boudreau (RA), Greg Hall, Yong Lin, Alex Williams.

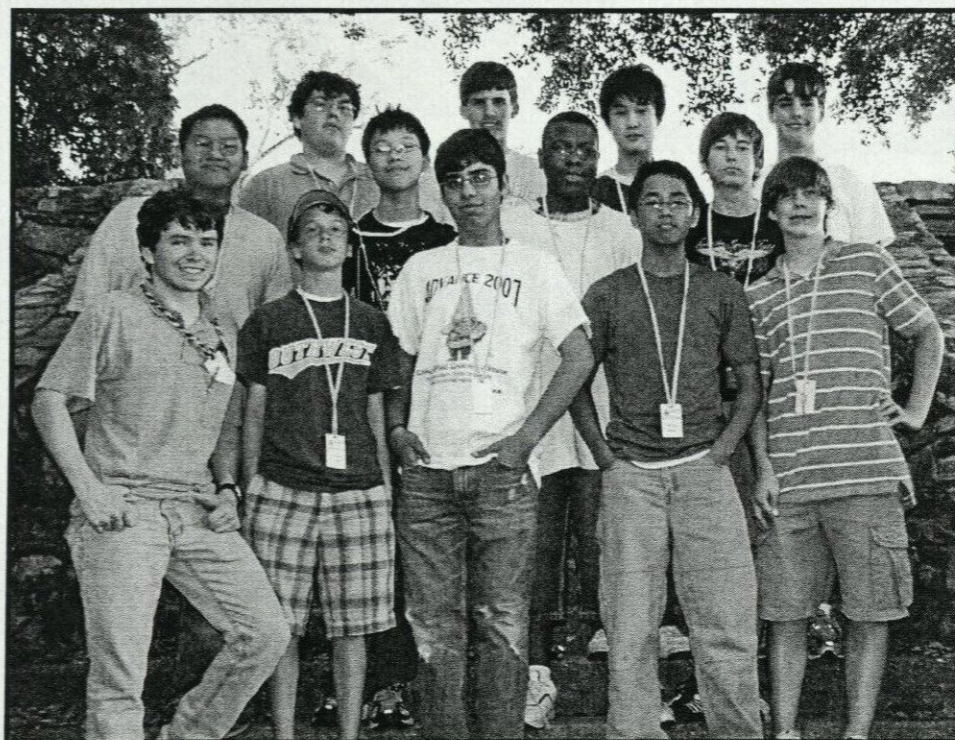
Mark

Front row (from left): Lynn Truong, Thomas Prince, Adithya Yadalam, Chance Tarver, Andrew Galatas, Tommy John, Mike Lee. Second row (from left): Michael Smith, Doven Glover, Michael Dai, Esteban Espitia, Anvesh Kompelli, Dominik Thomas. Back row (from left): Phillippe Dentino, Harrison Steinbeck, Zach Fontenot, Mark St. Cyr (RA).



Nathan

Front row (from left): Nathan Wilson (RA), David LeVasseur, Dan Jaffrani, Wally Nguyen, Hayden Flint. Second row (from left): Jason Liu, Andrew Chang, Jonathan (JJ) Gallien, John McJunkins. Back row (from left): Maurice Gaudet, Daniel Bogran, Philip Lin, Daniel Cooper.



Rachael

On ground: Lindsay Landry. Second row (from left): Katie (Tater) May (TA), Paz Naccari, Katherine Barnett, Kiara Sampson. Third row (from left): Rachael Joe (RA), Maddie Ferguson, Erica Catlett, Amanda Marek. Back row (from left): Elise Prete, Lana Skrypyk, Emily Gootee, Danielle Basford, Charlie Deese.

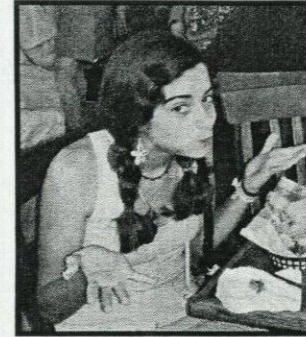


Sarah

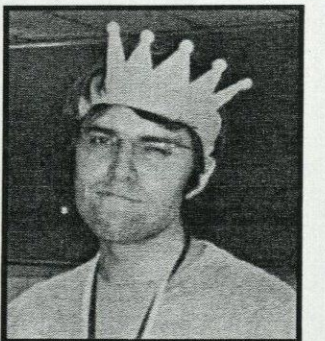
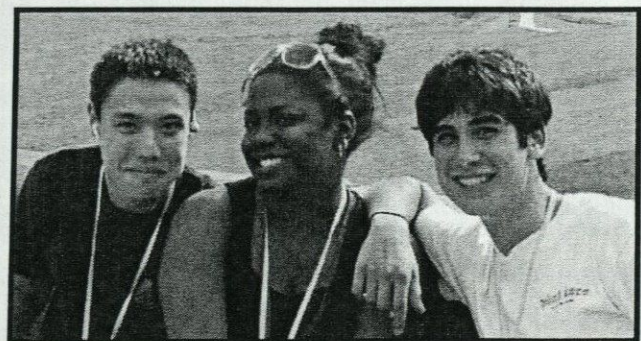
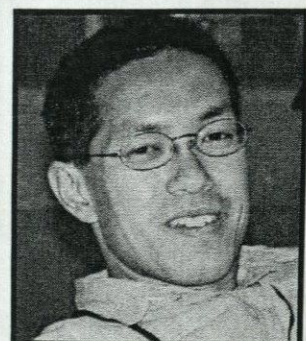
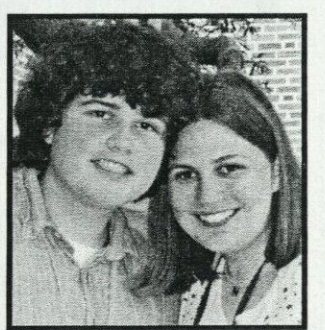
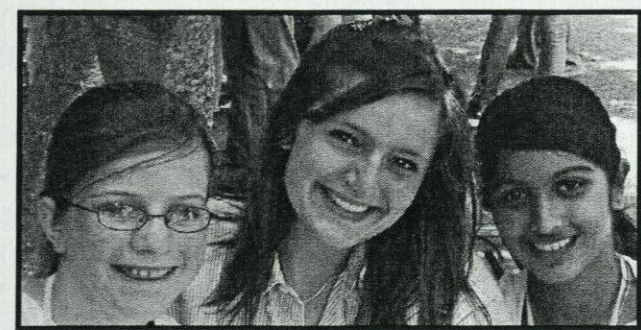
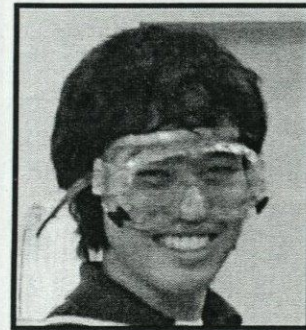
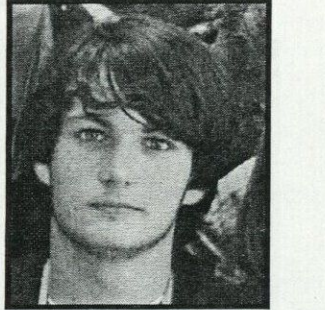
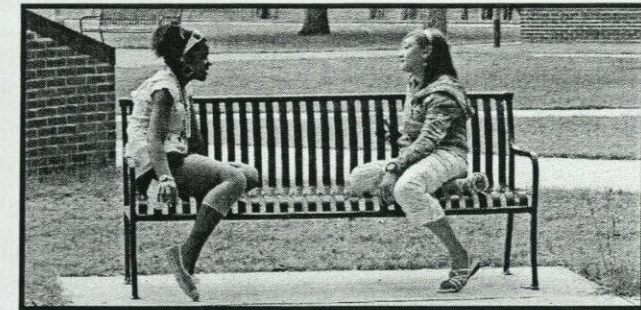
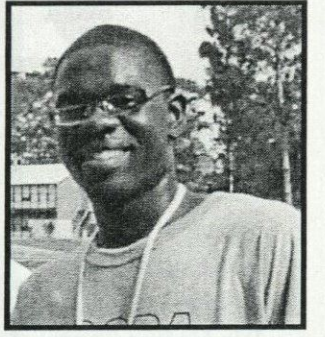
Across top (from left): Sarah Norman (RA), Nastassia Porto, Caroline Stokes, Nikki Changlani, Rachel Segrest, Corinne Bachaud. On steps (from front): Rachel Garson, Kriti Upadhyay, Natalie Domingue, Rachel Quay. Under bars (from left): Isobel Pribil, Nadia Rahman, Amelia Robert.



Great Students and an Awesome Staff Make For Wonderful Memories!



Left (top to bottom): Nastassia Porto, Isobel Pribil, Michael Dai, Dr. Leon Hsu (Instructor). Right (top to bottom): Doven Glover, Mark Brink, Max New and Katie May (TA), Stephen Finigan (TA). Below (from left) Nina Williamson and Courtney Flood. Middle (from left): Kaitlin Rounds, Rebecca Eskew (TA), Sohni Syed. Bottom (from left): Kenny Burnsed, Rachael Joe (RA), Jourdan Schultz.



Evening Activities

By Nellie New

Student life during ADVANCE took on two distinct and different personalities.

By day, it was read, take notes, study, learn, practice skills, and then study some more. By night though, ADVANCE took on a whole new meaning. It was time to get down and have some fun.

A variety of activities were available to students after study hall such as Dance Dance Revolution, e-mail, t-shirt making, ultimate Frisbee, and many more.

David LeVasseur, a first-year journalism student, said the activities give him a chance to just "let it all out." His favorite activity was SAC-tivities. Students walked to the Student Activity Center where they played pool, ping-pong, foosball, and watched movies.

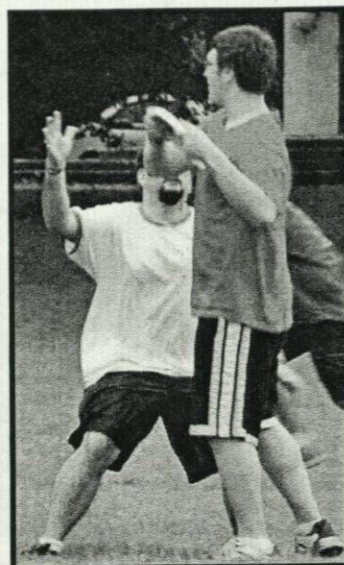
Some students didn't like the rules that went along with the activities. LeVasseur said, "The more rules, the harder it is to follow them." Students also were unhappy that some activities were cancelled.

Students relaxed and let off steam with activities that also included cookie decorating, origami, pancake dinners, making friendship bracelets, strawberry shortcake, and even more.

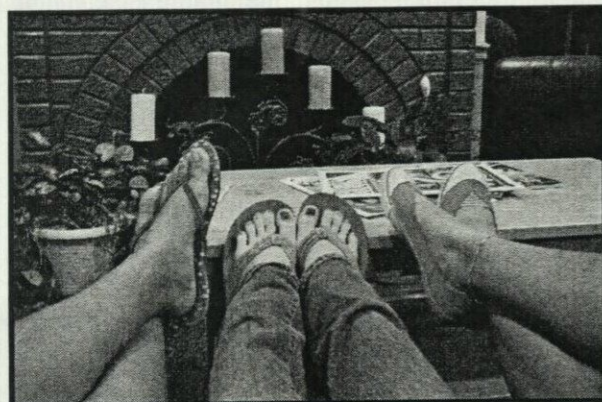
Other activities like ultimate Frisbee, four square, indoor soccer, and costume bowling gave students the chance to release some pent-up energy and give their brain cells a much needed rest for a few hours.

Kelsey Cook, a first year ADVANCE student said, "The activities really give you a chance to get out of class and take a break." Her favorite activity was going to PJ's, a coffee house across the street from the NSU campus.

Evening activities that offered something to do for everyone were one of the highlights of the ADVANCE program.



Right: Erik Istre, with Frisbee, and Zach Veuleman battle at ultimate Frisbee. Middle: Students put their feet up, literally, at PJs Coffee Shop.



Above: Haley Norris expresses herself!



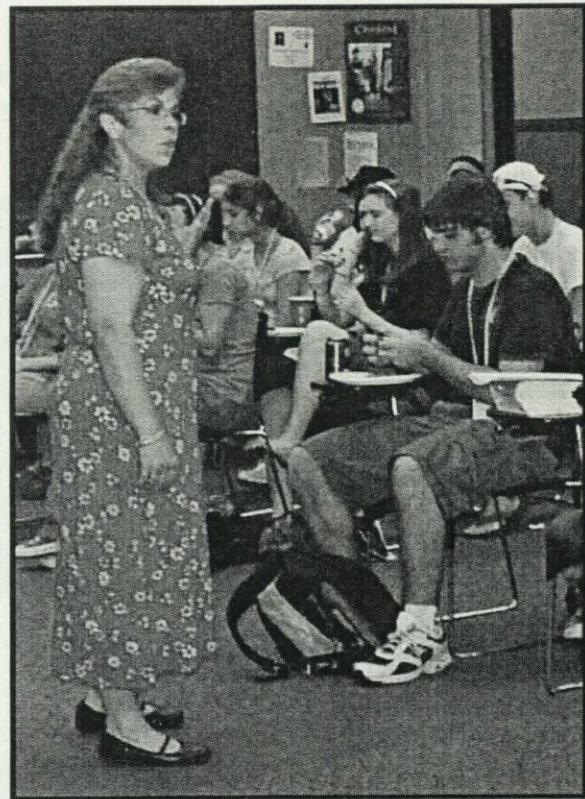
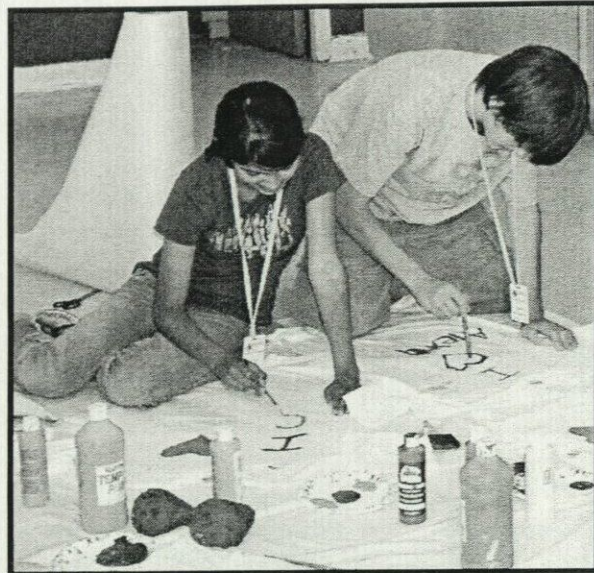
Left: Making friendship bracelets are (from left): Jason Liu, Jamie Park, Kriti Upadhyay, and Misha Molani.



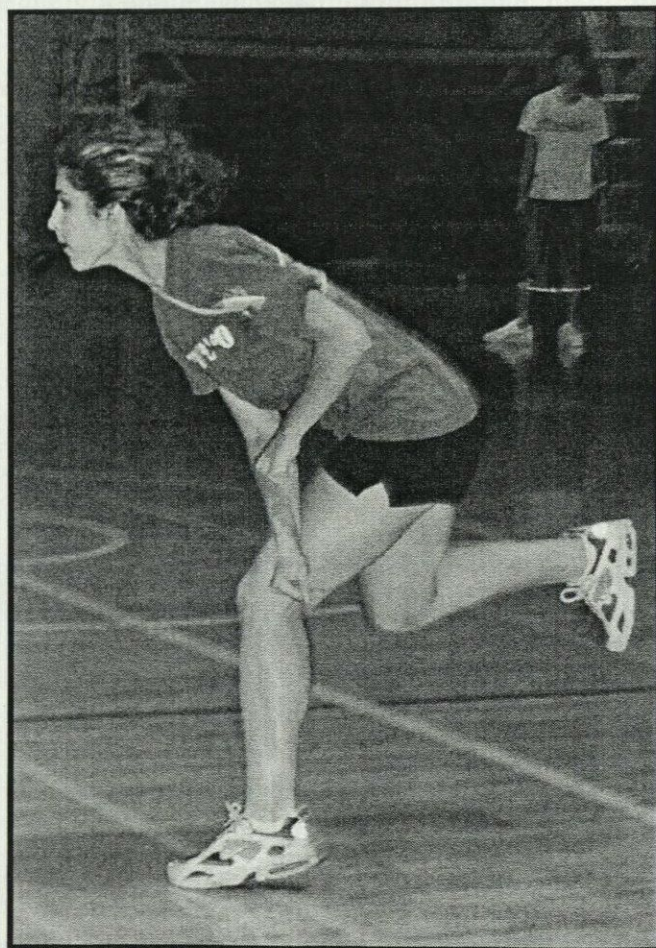
These ladies enjoy a coffee in historic downtown Natchitoches with Nathan Wilson (RA).

Activities Offer Something for Everyone

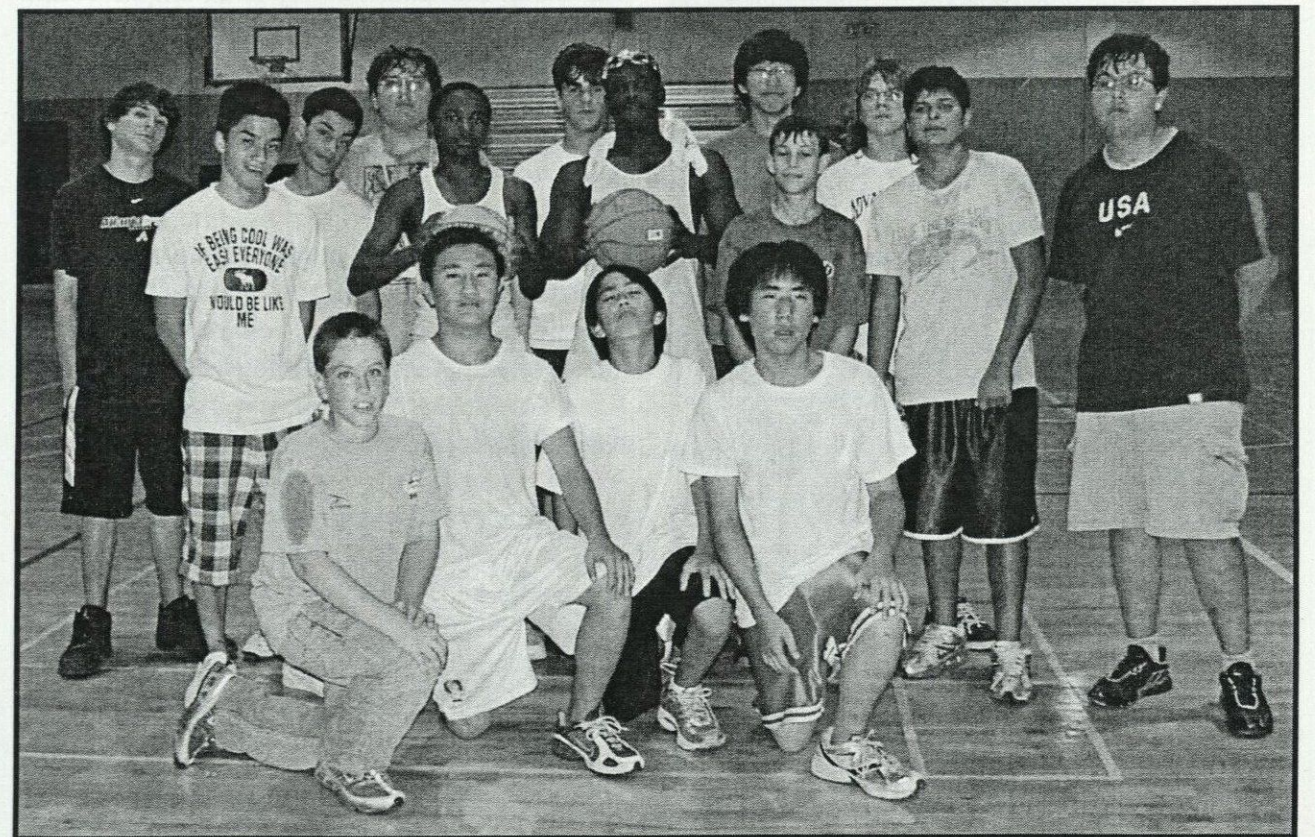
Right (from left): Sohni Syed and Greg Hall make T-shirts.



Above: Dr. Davina McClain, Director of Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University, hosts a pizza dinner to speak with the older ADVANCE students. Right: Meredith Ventura is always a contender at Deathball!



Far left: Feeding time at Bayou Pierre Alligator Farm. Left (from left): KT Markovits and Lana Skrypyk always enjoy crafts.



Students participating in 3-on-3 basketball are front row (from left): Coleman McFerrin, Daniel Kim, Willy Lin, Ambert Yeh. Second row (from left): Lynn Truong, Colin Marts, Doven Glover, Benton Troxclair, Rick Changlani, Dominik Thomas. Back row (from left): Thomas Prince, Belal Alammar, Maurice Gaudet, Daniel Cooper, Mike Lee, Alex Williams.

Field Trips Add To ADVANCE Experience

By KT Markovits

“It was real food, finally!”

Several ADVANCE students, when explaining their class field trips, used these exact words. But were the trips all about the food?

Every year some ADVANCE students have opportunities to go on class field trips with their teachers and teacher assistants (T.A). This year only a few classes received the privilege.

Biology students traveled up the road a few miles to the Alligator Farm on June 20 for a half-day field trip. Caroline Stokes, biology student, said one of the main events was an alligator show where trainers fed dead chickens to the hungry alligators. Dan Jaffrani, also a biology student, said a lot of the students tasted alligator for the first time at the on-site restaurant and it tasted something like chicken.

The Journalism 2510 class took their field trip on June 19 to learn about newspapers and public relations. Before they left for their day-long trip, journalism students hugged some of their friends good-bye and promised to bring back real food.

Lana Skrypnyk, a journalism student, said, “I’m stoked! The trip in the ghetto van is always fun.”

While riding to their first stop at the Natchitoches Times, students discussed what they are going to eat for lunch at Chili’s and how good the food would be.

Skrypnyk said, “I am looking forward to going to Chili’s and eating real food, really!”

The students visited The Natchitoches Times, the Natchitoches Events Center and the Natchitoches Information Center. All students took notes on their surroundings and the speakers. They were required to write a news report on their trip during the evening study hall. As a reward for their hard work, the journalism students stopped by TC’s Yogurt to celebrate a successful and busy day crammed with exploring careers in journalism with journalism practitioners.



Top: ADVANCERS (from left) Ali Denby, Mabry Broach, Kerry Richmond, and Lindsey Miller find treasures at Goodwill. Above: Journalism students tour the Natchitoches Times. From left: Carolyn Roy, Editor, KT Markovits, Nellie New, Rachel Quay, and David Levasseur.

Kelsey Cook, journalism student, said, “An awesome trip for awesome people.”

The Digital Design and Animation class took their mini field trip to Lucky Village, a Natchitoches Chinese restaurant, on June 19. But this was not an ordinary learning experience. Digital Design student Felipe Hernandez had a birthday celebration with a 24-cupcake cake and one candle. The class left in the white Northwestern State University (NSU) “ghetto van” at 5 p.m. and returned an hour and a half later.

Film Studies students also went on a field trip to Lucky Village. Afterward, they stopped at the Dollar Tree for shopping. Film Studies student Danielle Basford said, “To avoid the cafeteria food... that was our big purpose... to escape.”

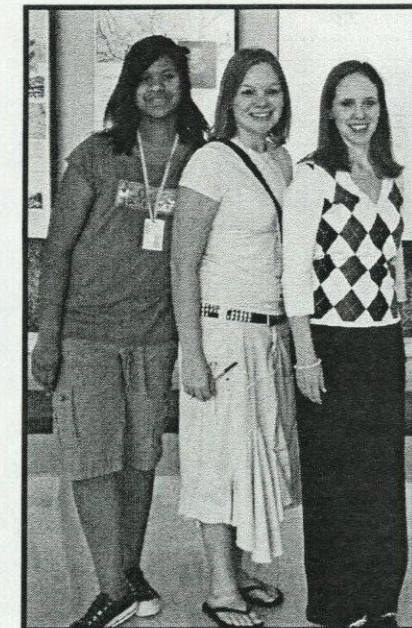
The Creative Writing class went on a field trip and took part in an interesting experience. The students headed off-campus to the local Goodwill store for some serious shopping. Students were instructed to find one item and write at least five pages of details about that item. Creative Writing student Valerie Wade said Goodwill was having a sale where a customer could buy five stuffed animals for one dollar. Most students took advantage of the opportunity.

Maybe these field trips weren’t completely about food, but it was fairly obvious that the dining out experience was a major part of each field trip.

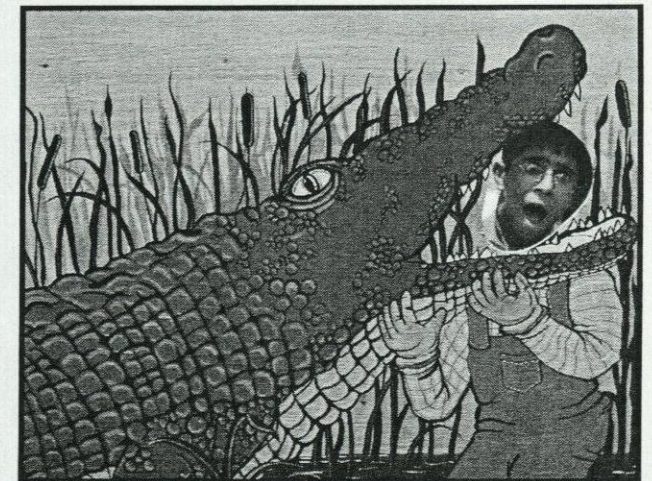


Above: Chili’s is a favorite destination for ADVANCE students.

Below: Journalism students (from left) Kelsey Cook and KT Markovits meet with Courtney Hornsby at the Natchitoches Events Center.



Below: Anu Devkota gets a little too close to this big guy at the alligator farm!



ADVANCE Dances

By Lana Skrypnyk

"The dance is broken, but don't worry it'll be fixed soon."

These words of Resident Advisor (RA) Rachel Joe left the students at the ADVANCE Program for Young Scholars wide-eyed and wondering what would happen at their first dance.

The Advancers in Joe's RA group, however, turned their frowns upside down. They decided that if whatever was wrong with the dance wasn't fixed they would take their music system to the main lobby and have a party for everyone. However, the intercom buzzed and summoned the students downstairs to go to the dance, just half an hour later.

"I'm pumped," said Elise Prete, a classical mythology student.

"I'm feeling pretty conceited about this dress," said Advancer Maddie Ferguson about the 80's style dress she bought at Goodwill.

The students weren't to get their feet dirty when they arrived at the gymnasium. One of their first tasks was to take off their shoes. The music played, but instead of dancing, the people on the dance floor mingled. The Student Activities Center remained open for students to hang out, and water was provided in coolers next to the coke machines.

Mark Brink, of Age of Empires class, said, "Nothing really much going on because the lights are still on. It might get good later."

When the lights dimmed, a colorful display of disco lights greeted the students. Then the dancing began in earnest.

The DJ included lots of diverse music, such as some of today's hits: "Ridin'," "Zoom," "The Cupid shuffle," "It's Going down," "Walk it Out," as well as some old-time favorites like "Istanbul Not Constantinople," and "The Cha-Cha Slide."

Advancers worked up a sweat on the dance floor.

"It burns a lot of calories," Prete pointed out. Some students learned to "walk it out," some just jumped around, some "skanked," (a form of dancing), and one brave young man attempted the worm.

"Awkward white kids. It's funny," Rick Swan, a film studies student, said about trying to "walk it out."

"I can't dance so I do whatever I can. Just trying to get it to work," said Brink.

The RAs and TAs (teaching assistants) monitored the dance to make sure dancing was kept appropriate.

"Grinding is out of the question," warned Nikhil Sharma, a TA.

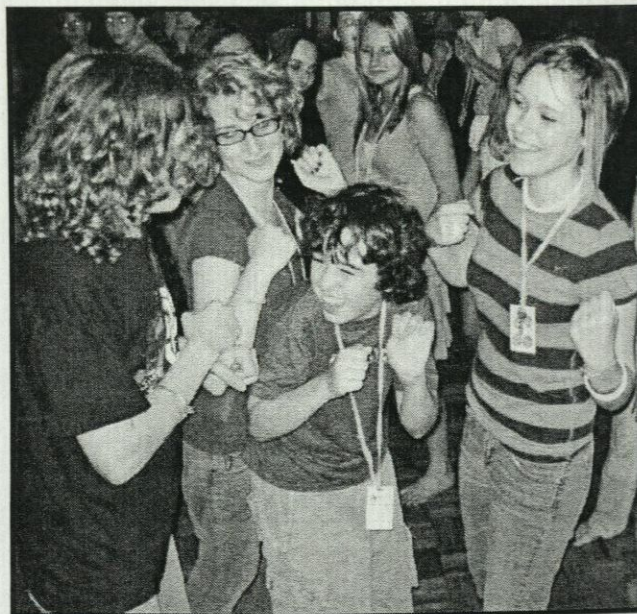
Three hours flew by, and ADVANCE students upheld the tradition with "It's the End of the World (as We Know It)," always the last song played.

The tired Advancers dragged their aching, sore feet back to Caddo Dorm.

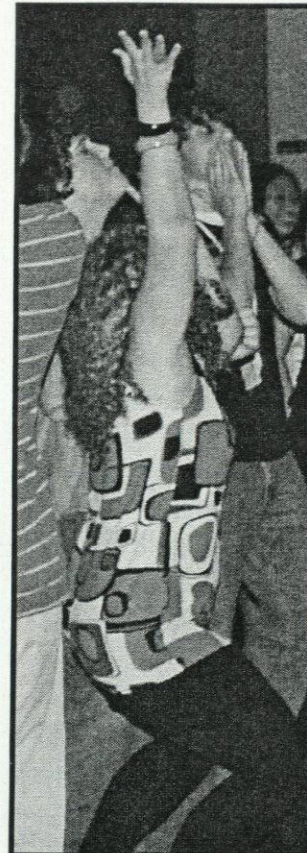
"I give it an A+," said Mason Joiner, a creative writing student.

Amelia Robert, a second year Advancer, said, "It was awesome, a good kick-off as the first dance."

Katherine Barnett, Age of Empires student, gave the dance two thumbs up.



Dances...A Time For FUN



Life at Caddo Dorm

By Kelsey Cook

“People make dorm life fun”, said Daniel Brogan, a first year Advancer in Film studies.

For three weeks, ADVANCE students have been living with the same people in Caddo Hall. Friends were the main reason people had so much fun here at ADVANCE. Arianna Hudson, first year Advancer, said, “I like having my friends within walking distance from me in the dorms and hanging out with them in the lobby.”

Although they love having friends here at ADVANCE, the students still miss the familiarity and comforts of home. Brogan said, “I love it here, but I really miss my friends and family at home and just being home.”

Many students complained about the showers. They thought the shower heads were too low and

the shower area was too small. “It’s not fun to have to bend over backwards just to get your hair wet”, said second year Advancer Phillip Dentino, “You wake up at six o clock in the morning when you’re tired and walk into a small, dank cubicle just to get clean.”

Dorm life would not be the same without the Resident Advisors. Phoebe Roberts, first year Advancer, said her Resident Advisor, Dominique (Dom) Bartholomew, was awesome. Harrison Steinbeck said, “Mark St. Cyr is just cool because he can relate to us and he acts just like us.”

Many people love the take-out. Haley Norris, first year Advancer, said she likes that students are able to order pizza from Dominoe’s. One student summed up almost everyone’s feelings when he said, “It’s like, finally, real food!”

The food, the people and the new friends made this year an unforgettable year for the 2007 Advancers.



Right (from left): Anvesh Kompelli, Adithya Yadalam, Tommy John, Michael Dai, and Mike Lee play monopoly in the dorm.

Dorm Pranks

By Kaitlin Rounds

“Oh my god, Rebecca! Somebody left a note on our door! Come look!”

Little did teaching assistant Rebecca Eskew and residential advisor Dominique Bartholomew know they were in for an awful prank.

After following five “really cute” clues to a well-planned scavenger hunt throughout their hall, each one promising them eternal happiness, they came to a clue that gave them an awful surprise.

“It said something about going into one of the girls’ suites taking a right and in the bathroom we would find a horrible sight,” said Rebecca.

Dom and Rebecca slowly walked into the room. They turned the corner and found a note waiting for them on the bathroom stall door. “Unclog me please!” it read, with a little smiley face to top it all off. Dom and Rebecca were laughing until they opened the door.

“The toilet was just full of poop. It was the color of your snot when you have a really bad cold in the winter,” Rebecca recalled, after she tried to unclog the toilet and was drenched with something she believes wasn’t just toilet water.

The scavenger hunt the girls of Suite C on the 2nd floor made for Bartholomew and Eskew was just one of the many pranks pulled on students, RAs and TAs throughout the three weeks at ADVANCE.

Sometimes the ADVANCE students would take advantage of their RAs. One RA Andrew Stacy decided to let one of his kids know they had gone too far.

“It was the fourth or fifth night and one of my students asked me if he could take a shower at ten minutes until lights out,” said the RA. Stacy told the student he could, but warned that something might happen.

“The kid went on and took his shower and wasn’t finished by lights out. I just walked in, but he had the shower curtain wrapped around him,

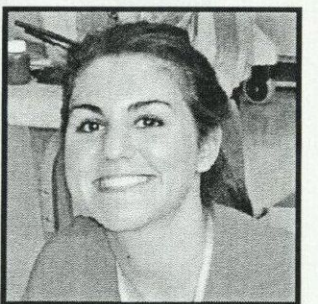
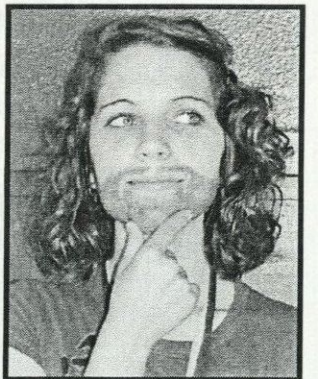
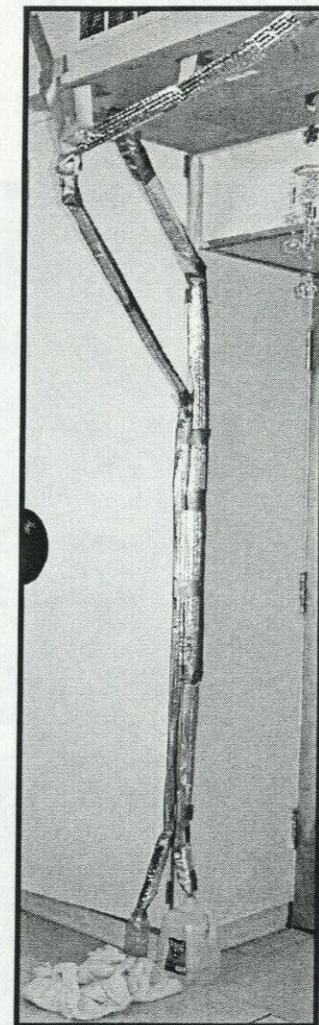
and I poured ice water all around his feet.”

The student laughed along with Stacy but he hasn’t taken another shower after lights out.

Other everyday pranks were pulled including stealing someone’s nametag or turning off the lights when students were in the bathroom.

“Sometimes we would be laughing so hard you could hear us all the way in freaking Japan,” said a third year student, Lana Skrypnyk.

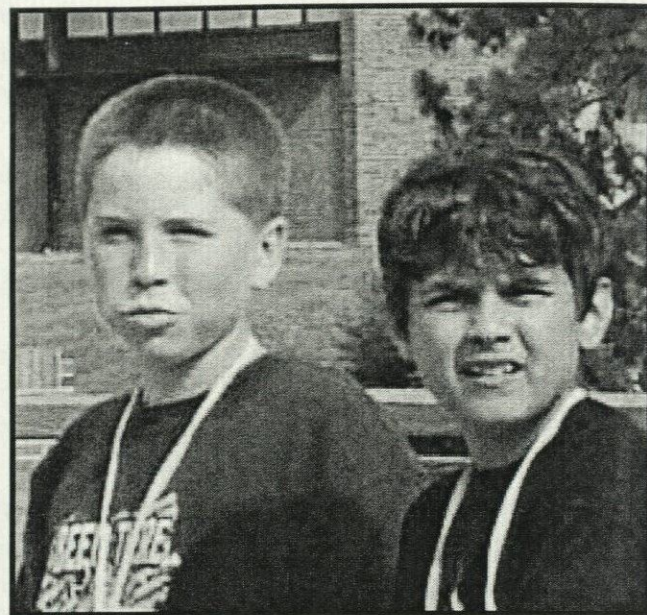
Wherever more than a hundred teenagers spend time together and are away from home, it’s a sure bet that pranks will happen.



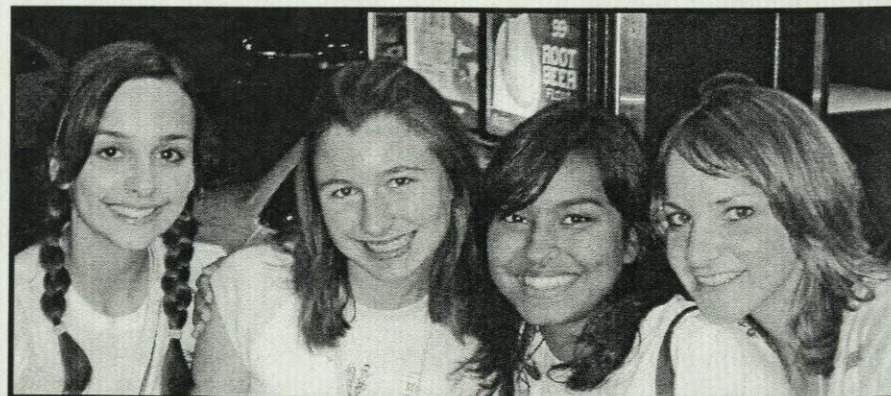
Above: Rachel Segrest builds an elaborate drainage system (left) to catch drips from the air conditioner in her room. Top: Sarah Norman (RA) always offers interesting activities.

RA Group Members... Friends That Last!

Right: Coleman McFerrin and Felipe Hernandez of Brian Mullen's group. Below: Rachael Joe's RA group at Sonic.



Right (from left): Alexis Pregeant, Catherine Tucker, Misha Molani, and Julie Strother of Dom Bartholomew's group.



RA Night Out

By Rachel Quay

There is one surefire way to tell which Resident Advisor (RA) group has their night out. They don't eat anything at dinner.

Every RA group has a RA night out to bond with their group and have fun one night during the ADVANCE program.

While the students get to brainstorm about the choice of activity, the RA and assistant director Harriette Palmer have the final say. The agreed-upon activity must be approved before the Advancers depart from Caddo Hall.

Often, students came up with ideas that were not feasible to do in the three-hour time frame reserved for evening activities. Many groups ran out of time and were not able to do everything they planned. Mark St. Cyr's RA group, for example, was supposed to watch *The Prestige*. There were also unforeseen obstacles such as restaurants being closed. Britney Haydel's RA group planned to have dinner at *Merci Beaucoup*, but it closes Wednesday nights. Instead they ate dinner on the deck of *Antoon's*.

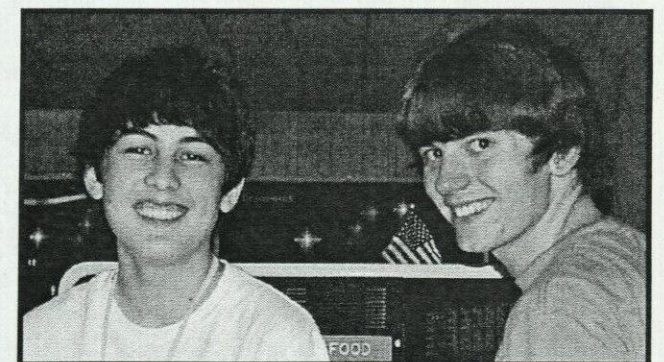
However, most students enjoyed their RA night out. "The food was delicious, we got to bond, and we all had an excellent time," said Rachel Garson, 13, of Memphis. She was a first-year, Algebra I Advancer who was in Sarah's RA group. Her group went to Chili's and then played Taboo back at the dorm. Other RA group activities included going to see a movie, eating at Sonic or other restaurants, hanging out in the Student Activity Center (SAC), and shopping at Goodwill. "We went to Taco Bell and we bought like \$200 worth of food...it was fun," said junior Michael Smith, 16, of Deville, Louisiana. He was a second year Advancer in Mark's RA group who took Chemistry. They also watched TV and played pool in the SAC. Many students discovered some new information on their RA night out. Some Advancers tried new combinations of foods. "Mashed potatoes are good on everything" said Natalie Domingue, 14, while eating dinner at Chili's. A chemistry student, she was also in Sarah's group. Camille Bullock's RA group played truth or dare, which is always a good way to get to know your suitemates. RA night out is an indispensable part of the ADVANCE experience and is part of what keeps kids coming back every year.

However, most students enjoyed their RA night out.

"The food was delicious, we got to bond, and



Above (from left): Lindsey Miller, Morgan Westbrook, and Amanda Williams of Camille Bullock's RA group cool off at Sonic.



Above (from left): Calvin Davis and Devin Drouant (RA) go for the high score at Country Lanes Bowling Alley.

ADVANCE Staffers

By David LeVasseur

Do you have what it takes to be an R.A. or T.A.? R.A.s (residential advisors) and T.A.s (teaching assistants) jobs at ADVANCE for the last three weeks have been difficult and time consuming.

The staff for the program worked for half a week before the students got here. The R.A.s worked vigorously as they cleaned and checked every room in Caddo Hall.

Everyday the T.A.s and R.A.s learned something new during the basic training. They studied the basic rules and safety issues. These staff members also had to find time to talk to one another and get to know each other.

Rebecca Eskew, journalism T.A., said, "I was scared because I didn't know what to expect. But when I met Dom Bartholomew (roommate), I absolutely loved her. She completes me."

When the students arrived at Caddo, an R.A. brought them up to their room. The students got settled in a short time and then they were assigned to an R.A. group.

An R.A. group is made up of two or more suites which have three rooms. Each room has two students. So each R.A. group has 12 or more

students in it. Dom is an R.A. on the second floor girls' hall.

"I just love it because I love dealing with kids," said Bartholomew. "I just love my girls. They're awesome."

During the day while classes are meeting, T.A.s work hard to keep their students in line and out of trouble. Some students commented on their T.A.

Lana Skrypnyk, a Journalism student said, "I love my T.A. She's like my big sis."

John McJunkins, an Age of Empire student said, "She really just gets into her class sometimes." John's T.A. was Katie May.

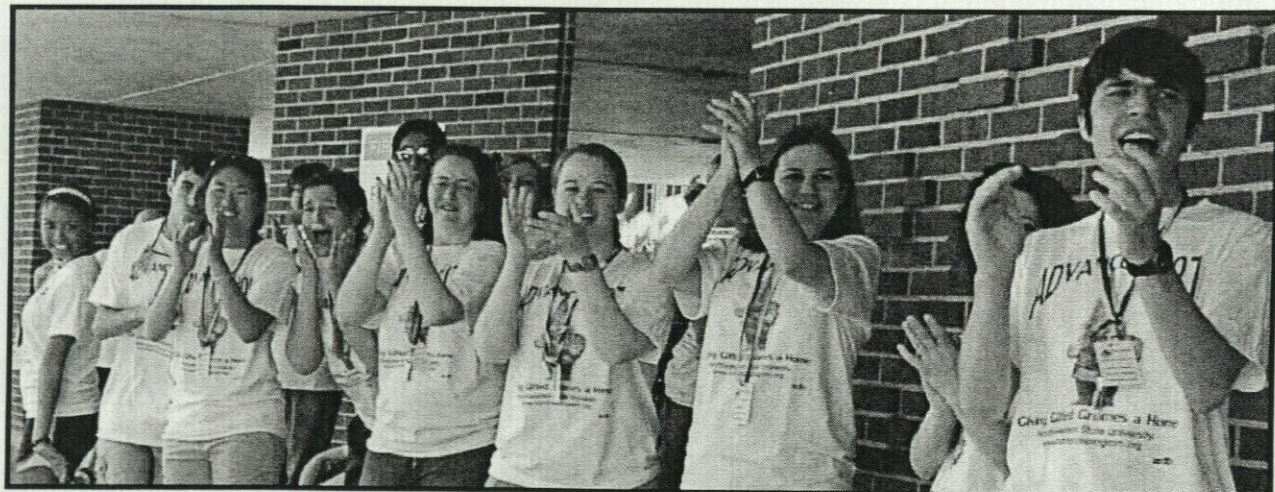
Although T.A.s are supposed to help out in their classes, they don't always enjoy it or follow through on their responsibilities.

However, Eskew said, "Other T.A.s just don't like their classes. I love my kids."

An anonymous source spoke about his T.A. and said he didn't do much of anything.

"Our T.A. is there to help us with our work and to set a good example. He's a cool guy, he just needs to pay attention in class." said the ADVANCE student.

Whether ADVANCERS liked their T.A.s or didn't like them, most agreed that T.A.s have tough jobs.



Happy staffers welcome students on registration day.

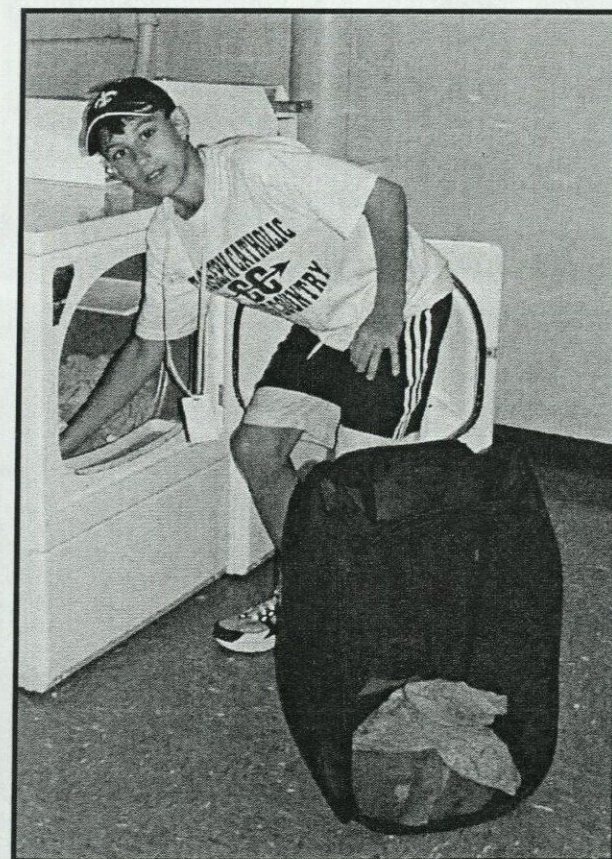
Laundry Happens

By Amanda Williams

Do you like doing laundry? Wait just a minute. Do you even have to deal with laundry?

Chances are, your mom still does your laundry. Well, guess what! There were no moms around to do the chores at ADVANCE. You were on your own for three weeks worth of laundry. No moms, no sympathetic big sisters, no one but yourself. And, unless you wanted to wear dirty clothes for three weeks, you did your own laundry. Laundry lists were a fact of life that almost every student learned.

For some students it wasn't so bad. Victoria Darby's favorite part of doing laundry was "smelling the flowery detergent." However, her least favorite part of the regular chore was "waiting for it to be done."



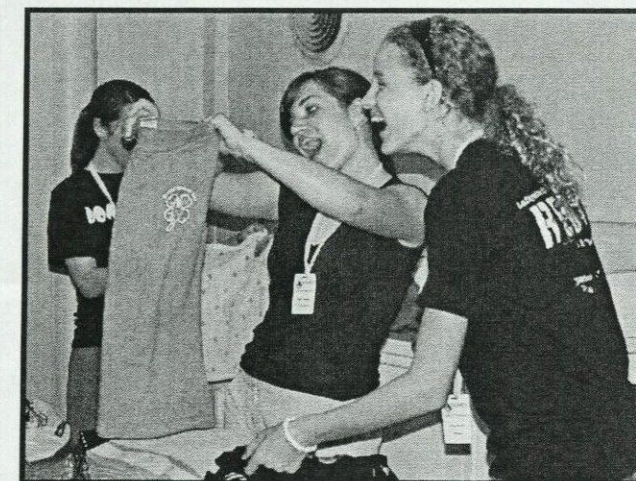
Eugenia Chen could relate to Darby's viewpoint. Chen liked "smelling the detergent," but hated to find out her clothes were still wet or damp after having been in the dryer "forever."

Alex Williams had an interesting and different outlook about laundry. He said he loved "to clean out the lint trap" and hated "folding all the clothes."

Willy Lin liked putting the coins in the coin slots. But like almost everyone else, he hated waiting for the laundry to dry.

Only one student seemed to look forward to laundry duty. Olivia Tseng said the only aspect she hated was "dragging around and separating the clothes." She loved everything else like "playing with the powder, pouring the detergent and putting the coins in the slots."

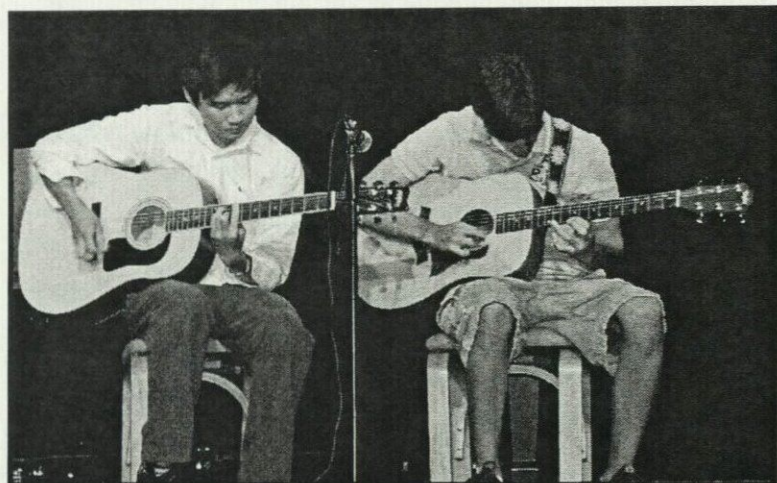
Some liked it. Some hated it. But all ADVANCERS sooner or later had to face laundry life.



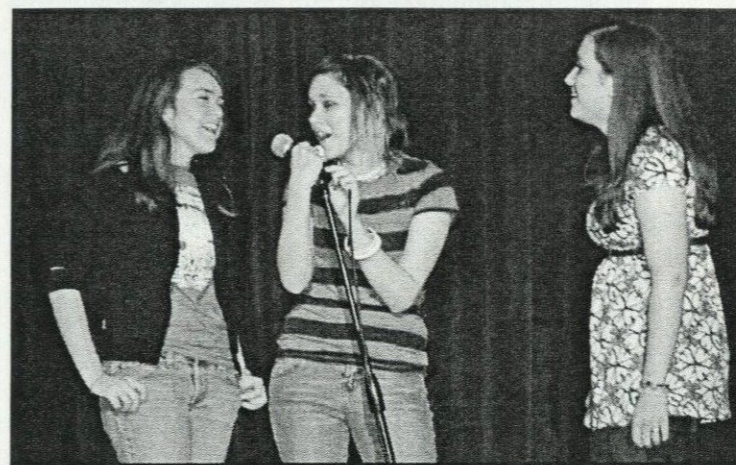
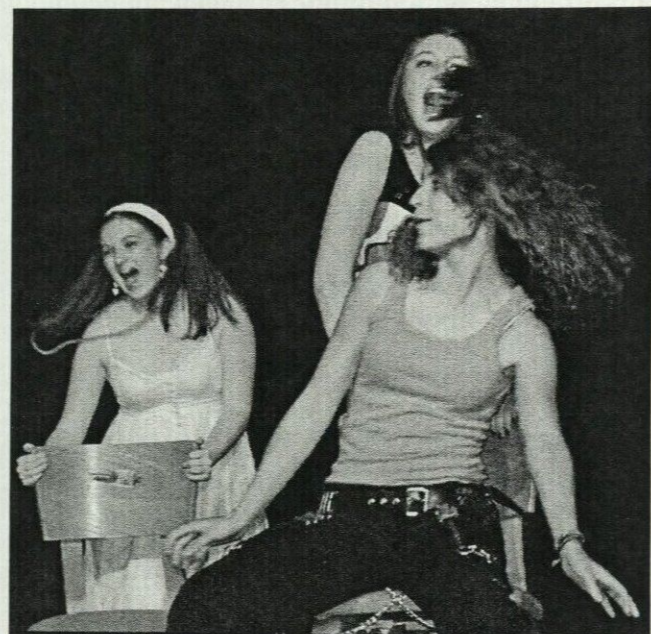
Left: Benton Troxclair does his laundry at ADVANCE. Above (from left): Paz Naccari (partially blocked), Emily Gootee, and Lizzy Florek seem to love doing their laundry.

ADVANCErs Are Talented... As Well As Gifted

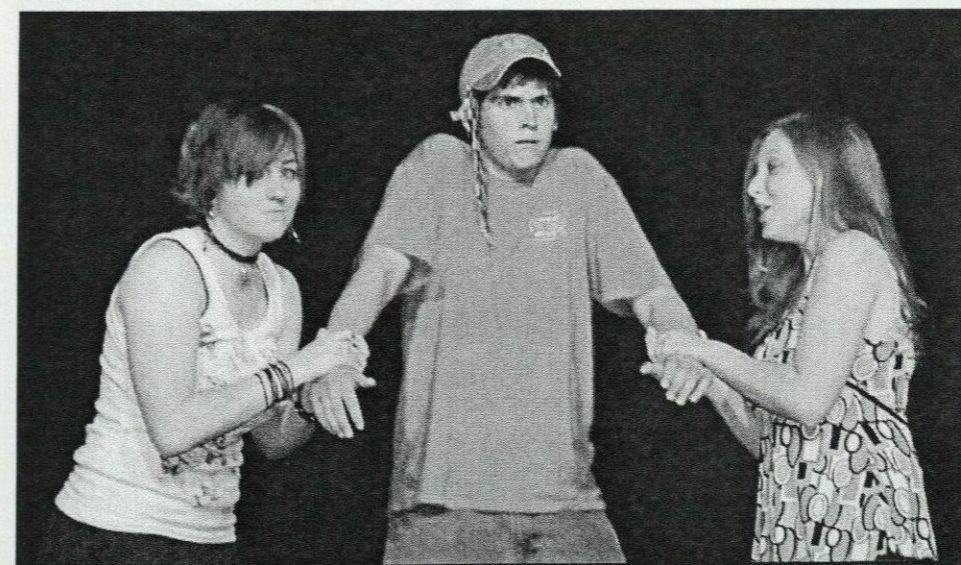
Right: Annette Gray sings in Japanese. Below (from left): Li Lin and Daniel Bogran play a musical medley accompanied by Philippe Dentino (not pictured) on the piano.



Above: Courtney Flood demonstrates cup-stacking. Right: The Spice Girls (from left) Hannah Roberts, Candace Blacklock, and Meredith Ventura perform "Tell Me What You Want".



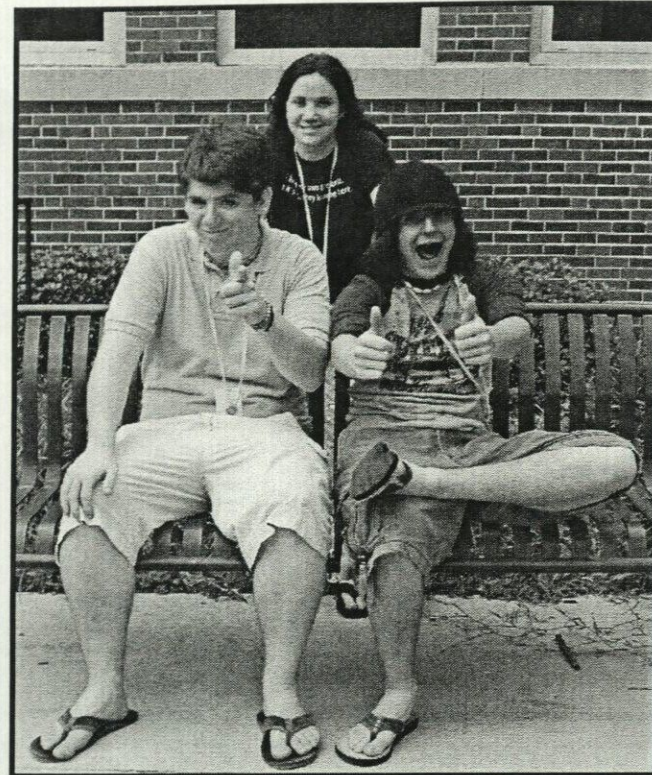
Left (from left): Paz Naccari, Maddie Ferguson and Emily Gootee emcee the incredible Talent Show. Left middle (from left): Corinne Bachaud and Amelia Robert sing a duet.



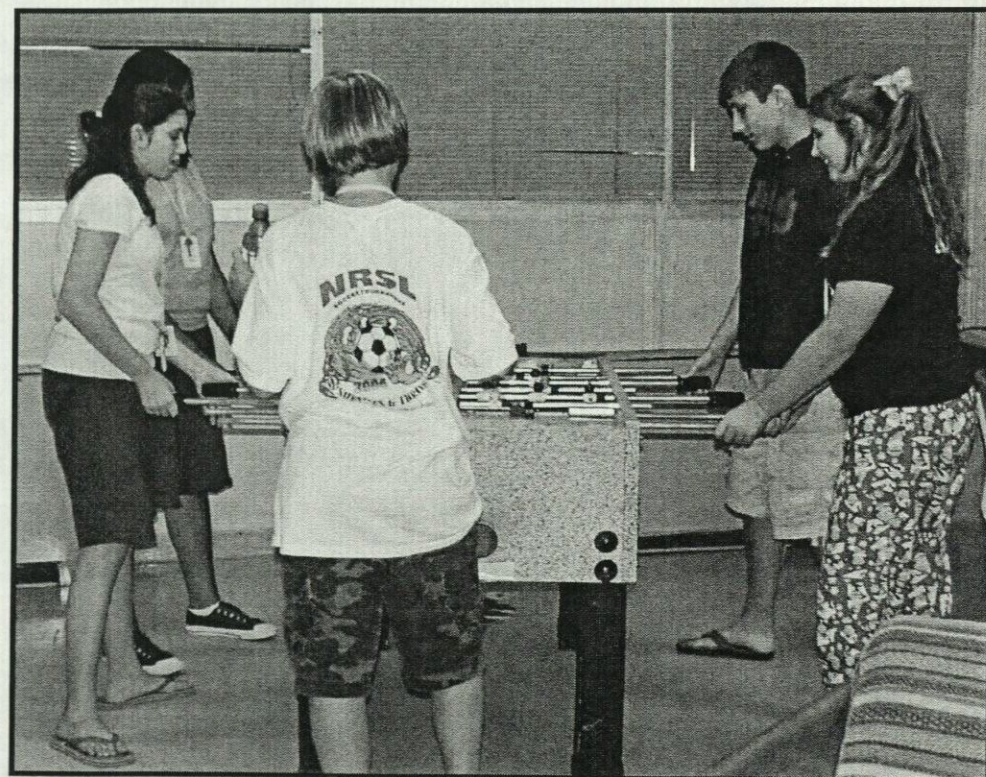
Left: An improv troupe comprised of (from left) Morgan Perry, Mason Joiner, and Valerie Wade perform the same routine at varying lengths of time. Above: Mabry Broach sings "Forget About the Boy" from the musical Thoroughly Modern Millie.

ADVANCE, Where Students Come First

Right (from left):
Devin Mullin,
Danielle Basford, and
Doug Waguespack are
fifth year students. We
will miss them next
year!



Right (from left):
Kelsey Cook (partial-
ly blocked), Margaret
Parsons, Matt Helluin,
Harrison Steinbeck,
and Nellie New are
worthy opponents in
foosball.



Left: Dora the Explorer (better known as
RA Camille Bullock) checks on students
after lights out. Below (from left): Natalie
Domingue and Anvesh Kompelli at a dance.



Left (from left):
Camille Guillot,
Catherine Thompson,
and Taylor Jambon
visit in the courtyard
after lunch.

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www.nsula.edu

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www.nsula.edu/scholars

Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts
www.lsmsa.edu

Cleco Corporation
www.cleco.com

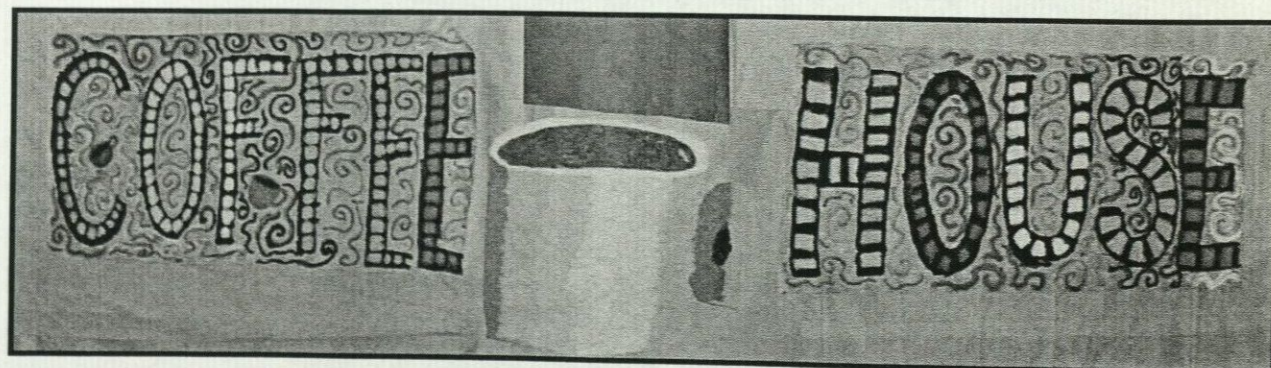
Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP)
www.tip.duke.edu

Ms. Rose Thomas, LSMSA Custodial Services at Caddo Dorm

Photography: Dominique Bartholomew, Kyle Boudreau, Camille Bullock, Rebecca Eskew, Autumn Grant, Celia Mangham, Misha Molani, and Harriette Palmer

ADVANCE Program for Young Scholars
www.advanceprogram.org

The next program will be held June 8 - June 28, 2008.



A 2007
Gifted Gnome Publication



See You Next Summer
June 8 - 28, 2008

