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Faculty Depart With Class Of 2010

BY MOLLY KUO

June 5, 2010 marks the end of many things: the end of a week, the end of a school year, the end of the twenty-ninth class at NCSSM, and the end of Gerald Boorman's ten years as Chancellor. But the students and their chancellor are not the only ones leaving this June: instructors Ginger Wilson, Jim Little, Chuck Roser, Lisa Zuraw, Dennis Yeh, and Loren Winters are all leaving NCSSM this year.

Roser and Zuraw, who will be leaving the Chemistry department this June, say that they will miss the students' talent and passion for learning. Zuraw said one of her favorite experiences was writing

recommendations. "I found it exciting to share the successes of the students as well as their future potential with others."

Roser has been teaching here for 19 years, and over his time here he has had the chance to develop many original teaching materials, including videos of chemistry demonstrations and animations of various reactions. This has allowed his impact to be felt across the state. "I have enjoyed the opportunities to develop educational materials that could be used by teachers throughout the state," Roser said.

Here on campus, Roser's influence has spread beyond the chemistry classroom. Always present at school events, Roser has also led various miniterms, including the Art and Chemistry miniterm and the Glassblowing course. "Roser will certainly leave a legacy," junior Ryan Lee said.

Roser said that teaching these miniterms has rekindled his interest in glassblowing and woodwork, which he plans to pursue in his retirement.

Zuraw and Roser's departure has raised some questions about the future of the chemistry curriculum. Roser was the architect of the Organic Chemistry course, and Zuraw and Roser are the only two teachers who taught it this year. Roser is also the only teacher of AP Chemistry with Advanced Topics. There has been much speculation

among students on whether current Chemistry teachers would take on the Organic Chemistry and AP Chemistry with Advanced Topics classes or if new teachers would teach those classes. In the search process for new chemistry teachers, the Chemistry faculty specifically looked for candidates with the ability to teach organic chemistry. It was announced at the North Carolina Central University articulation agreement signing that one of the newly hired chemistry teachers is both a NCSSM and North Carolina Central University alumna.

Wilson, who has been at NCSSM since its opening in 1980, will be sorely missed. "Dr. Wilson taught me to love history," said Lydia Allen, who had Wilson for American Studies, AP United States History, and AP European History. "I do not think there is any one experience that is my favorite," Wilson said. "What is remarkable, however, is that for the last thirty years I have been eager to begin each teaching day. Not many people have been fortunate enough to have a job they love so absolutely. I am daily reminded of the southern novelist Pat Conroy's comment that the most beautiful word in the English language is 'teacher.'" In addition to her teaching duties, Wilson is also the current Dean of Humanities; the identity of the next Dean of Humanities has not yet been announced.

Little, who has been here since the year after the school opened, will also be missed. Lydia Thurman said, "I first got to know Mr. Little from all the help he gave to the Model UN team. With his sarcastic sense of humor and his 20 minute crash courses in macro, Mr. Little really improved the Model UN team experience." Incidentally, Wilson and Little were instrumental in founding Student Government at NCSSM and were acknowledged for their contribution to the school with plaques at a Student Government breakfast this past Friday.

Yeh and Winters will also be leaving at the end of this year. Yeh has taught Precalculus

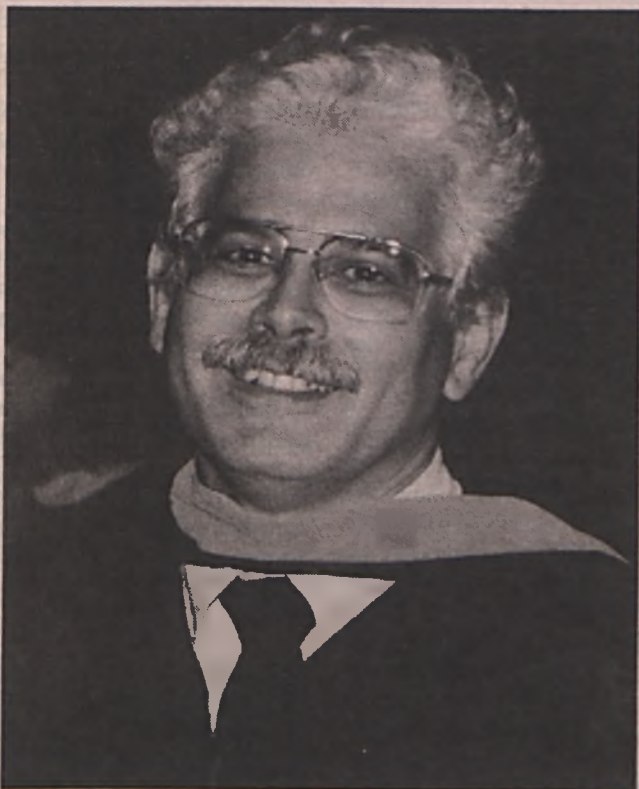
and Computer Science and led Miniterms on Cryptography and Computer Graphics. Many students also jokingly refer to Yeh as the faculty sponsor of most of the clubs on campus. "I'll most miss Midday Monday Masticatory Missions with Morrison, Menchini, miscellaneous Math dept members, and sometimes Miller," Yeh said of his weekly lunches with colleagues. "Of course, I can't pinpoint my single most favorite experience, but sitting in on the lacrosse PA class and playing goalie in my work attire was tremendously fun! Also, during the trip to 2009 Science Olympiad Nationals, Dr. Kolena found a Korean barbecue restaurant nearby in Augusta, Georgia. The online review read, 'the location is absolutely sketchy and the building is completely rundown, but the food is amazing'. We went, and it turned out to be a vast understatement on all counts!"

Senior Toyosi Oyelowo had Winters as her advisor. "Dr. Winters was my favorite advisor; he always offered me coffee jelly beans," she said. Matheson Davis, another advisee, also said Winters was a great advisor. "He helped me make some really important academic decisions, and I really appreciate it. He pushed me to take Physics with Advanced Topics, and I'm glad I took that class."

In every corner of the school, students, faculty, and staff will feel the effects of these teachers' departure. What the community will feel most, however, is the effects of their having been here in the first place.



Loren Winters has taught Web Physics and High Speed Photography at NCSSM. He will be leaving this year along with many other teachers.



Chemistry teacher Chuck Roser will be leaving NCSSM after 19 years. He has produced many educational materials that are used by educators across the state.



Virginia Wilson, who now serves as the Dean of Humanities, has been on the faculty since the school's beginning in 1980. She, along with Jim Little, was instrumental in founding Student Government. • Photo from first edition of *The Odyssey*



Jim Little, who now teaches Economics, has been at the school since the early '80s. While here, he has served as the Student Government advisor and the Model UN sponsor, in addition to teaching a host of humanities classes. He too will be leaving this year.