

# the stentorian

vol. XXXIII, issue 1

north carolina school of science and mathematics

august 2013

stentorian123@gmail.com

## Sharon Letchworth to speak at Convocation

By SU CHO

NCSSM Alumna Sharon Letchworth will speak at NCSSM's 34th Convocation on Aug. 13. Letchworth is the President of Letchworth Pharma Consulting, which advises start-up companies on scientific planning and development strategies.

Letchworth previously worked with Targacept, Inc. as Therapeutic Area Leader for the Movement Disorders program, focusing on symptomatic treatment and disease modification in Parkinson's disease.

She established and championed therapeutic area strategies based on unmet medical need, input from key opinion leaders, and market dynamics.

Letchworth led a cross-functional project team to advance programs on Parkinson's disease, essential tremor, tardive dyskinesias, and orphan indications.

She also served as Preclinical Program Director for Targacept's collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK),



Sharon Letchworth

Photo courtesy of LinkedIn

overseeing drug discovery and research in smoking cessation and other addictions, pain, obesity, and Parkinson's disease.

As director, she oversaw preclinical project team activities pertaining to the programs within the GSK collaboration. Letchworth formerly involved herself in Targacept's cognition collaborations with AstraZeneca and Aventis, developing research and budgets.

Working as a preclinical science liaison, she provided interface between the departments of Preclinical Research and Business and Clinical Development to position science and progress communication materials for partnering efforts.

She conducted a postdoctoral fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

At the cancer center, Letchworth worked on pharmacological, functional, and anatomical characterizations of the mu opioid receptor (MOR-1) and orphan opioid-like receptor (ORL-1).

At Wake Forest, she analyzed opioid and dopamine systems in the non-human primate and studied the effects of drugs of abuse on these systems.

Letchworth graduated from NCSSM in 1988, received a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Wake Forest University in 1992, and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 1997.

Letchworth currently holds an Adjunct Faculty position in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in the Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

## New faculty join NCSSM family

By KANAN SHAH

With the start of a new school year, NCSSM is proud to welcome new teachers and SLI's to its community.

This year's new teachers include Michael Bruno in Chemistry; Sam Boyarsky and Mason Matthews in Computer Science; David Cantrell, Zach Lechner, Michael Mulvey, and David Rigsbee in Humanities; John Sheridan in Mathematics, and Sam Wheeler in Physics.

**Bruno**, the new AP Chemistry and biochemistry teacher, is from Connecticut and has been teaching at Guilford College in Greensboro for the last two years. He lives in the neighborhood and says, "If you're up early enough, you'll probably see me running by the school with my two huskies. They need a lot of exercise!"

**Matthews** is an NCSSM alumnus from the class of '98. He will be teaching only one class, Databases, because he is also the president of a software company, "SciMed Solutions," in Durham. Matthews took two of the three most valuable courses

for his current job, Genetics and Immunology, at NCSSM. He also still remembers the Leadership Seminar with Dr. Warshaw, which has helped him. Matthews looks forward to being able to teach college-level classes where "The art of teaching doesn't take a back seat to research."

**Boyarsky**, another alumnus of NCSSM from Durham, will be teaching AP Computer Science I and Data Structures I. He is excited to be working in such a cool place.

**Lechner**, the new American Studies and Latin America teacher, grew up in Missouri and completed his Ph.D. in history at Temple University. He is excited to work at NCSSM, explore the local culture, and live in the South after reading and writing about it for so long.

**Mulvey** was previously a visiting lecturer at UNC-Chapel Hill, teaching African, World, and European History. He specialized in modern

New Faculty  
continued on page 2

## Student Government sets agenda for year

By DAVID CHOI

With the start of the 2013-2014 school year, Student Government would like to extend a warm welcome to all the students as they move on to campus.

With juniors starting their journeys here at NCSSM and seniors preparing for college applications and their last year of high school, SG would like to encourage students to remember that they are here to help students achieve their goals. SG is here to make sure students have an awesome NCSSM experience, whether it's the beginning of the first year or the last.

The Executive Officers of the 33rd Session of SG are Student Body President Parth Thakker, Student Senate President David Choi, and Student Body Treasurer Jessica Lee. Feel free to contact them if you have any questions or

ideas for SG.

There are 4 standing committees in SG this year: Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Programming, and Outreach.

The Academic Affairs committee works on items such as scheduling, grade transparency, and issues associated with classes,

improving student life on and around campus. This includes getting discounts from restaurants and stores around campus and leading projects to improve campus.

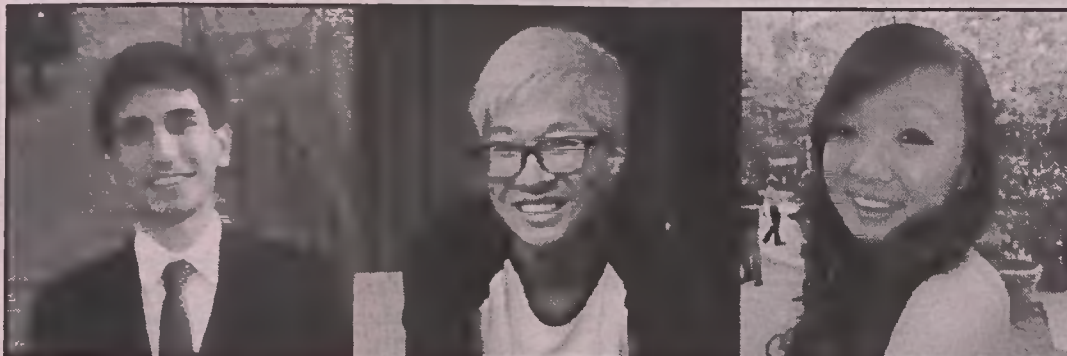
The Programming Committee leads the organization and execution of all the events that Student Government sponsors. Some

The Outreach Committee handles communications between the student body and Student Government, ensuring that students know what SG is working on, and that the student body's ideas and concerns are being heard and addressed. They also head publicity for the events and initiatives sponsored by SG.

"like" the NCSSM Student Government Page.

Junior Senator elections are coming up soon this fall. Serving as a Junior Senator is the most direct way for juniors to work in SG and represent their class. Juniors interested in getting involved in Student Government should keep their heads up for an email with more specific information concerning nomination, petitions, and campaigning in upcoming weeks.

As the school year is just starting up, SG would like to encourage students to stop and enjoy these moments. Before the hectic pressure of classes or challenges of getting into college quite set in, take a moment to soak in the beauty of this new beginning. Once again welcome to campus, SG is looking forward to an amazing year here at NCSSM and to serving the students.



SGA President Parth Thakker, Senate President David Choi, Treasurer Jessica Lee

grades, and test scores.

The Student Affairs Committee works on

examples include Lock-Ins, the all-male beauty pageant Mr. Uni, and Senior Breakfast.

For more information about SG leaders, positions, and the Senate, please visit and

Photo courtesy of Adam Beyer



In this  
issue:

PSAT off  
transcripts  
page 2

Guide to  
Durham  
page 4

An Indian  
Adventure  
page 6

Club  
Listings  
page 8