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Joan Barber, Vice Chancellor of Student Life, retires after 28 years

By EVAN BROOKS

After 28 years of working at NCSSM, Dr. Joan Barber is stepping down from her position as Vice Chancellor of Student Life.

Barber grew up in Port Gibson, Mississippi, a small town in the central region of the state. As the daughter of two teachers, she began studying biology at Alcorn State University at the age of fifteen and taught high school biology, chemistry, and physics after graduating at the age of nineteen.

Her love for biology and investigative research led her to return to school to earn an M.S. in Biology at Jackson State University and a Ph.D. in Zoology with a specialization in renal physiology at Howard University.



Her work as a doctoral candidate focused on using hemoglobin as a perfusate in rat kidneys had profound implications for kidney

transplantation and treatment of kidney diseases.

She later completed post-doctoral study at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medi-

Courtesy of ChiChi Zhu

cine, where she also taught a course on urinary systems to second-year medical students.

Barber came to NCSSM in 1986 as Assistant Principal, where she brought her research expertise to teaching Research in Biology and moved up to Associate Principal, then to Vice Chancellor of Student Life.

Throughout her life, Dr. Barber has always been passionate about research.

With her passion for the biological sciences and public service, she has always

found ways to make sure that students have the opportunity to be exposed to research.

Barber created Step Up to STEM, a summer enrichment program for talented rising freshmen from across North Carolina. The program began last summer as a means to increase the awareness and access to research for students across the state at an earlier age.

Ershela Sims, Dean of Engineering and Technology, worked with Dr. Barber very closely through designing, implementing, and running the program.

"Dr. Barber's passion for research is what really drove the program," said Sims. "As the program director, she did more than just make sure the

Continued on Page 2

Welsh '92 to speak at commencement

By JUNGSU HONG

Matthew Welsh, computer scientist and software engineer at Google, will speak at the 2014 NCSSM Commencement on May 31.

Welsh is an NCSSM alumnus, graduating from NCSSM in 1992. He received his bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1996, and in 1996-97 he spent the school year at the University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory and at the University of Glasgow.

He then received his Master's degree and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in 1999 and 2002, respectively.

After his receiving his diplomas, Welsh worked as a senior researcher at Intel Research, Berkeley from 2002-2003 and became a professor of Computer Science at Harvard University.

Welsh was the Gordon McKay Professor of Computer



Dr. Matthew Welsh

Science at Harvard University, where he was there until 2010.

He authored several books on the Linux operating system, Linux HOWTOs, the LinuxDoc format, and articles in the Linux Journal. His main research interests include space of operating systems, networks, distributed systems, embedded systems, and programming languages. He left five months after receiving his tenure to work at Google.

At Google, Welsh now

Courtesy of matt-welsh.blogspot.com

works as a software engineer, and works in the area of mobile computing, distributed systems, and networking.

Each year, all NCSSM seniors are invited to submit potential Commencement speeches. These speeches are then reviewed by a committee of faculty and staff who work anonymously without knowledge of the students' names to choose a student Commencement speaker who would normally be the valedictorian.

This year, Parth Thakker has been selected to speak at the 2014 Commencement. "I was honestly pretty surprised to see my name in the email, says Parth Thakker, "But I do feel very honored to have been selected, particularly since the speeches were reviewed anonymously. I hope that I will do it justice."

Michelle Zhao was selected as an alternate, in case that

Thakker cannot speak.

This year's commencement is a bit unusual, as the President of the student body typically introduces the guest speaker. This year, however, President of the Student Senate David Choi will assume this role in the ceremony in place of Student Body President Parth Thakker.

"It's the Senate President's responsibility to step in whenever the SGA President is unable to fulfill one of their duties, but it's both an honor and a great gift to be able to be speaking with Parth on Saturday. Personally, it feels emblematic of our relationship and friendship as we've worked through the 33rd Session of SG together, and it's a great privilege to share that moment with him," said David Choi.

The 33rd annual NCSSM Commencement will be held on Watts lawn and is open to the public.

SG update

By KIM NGO AND ADAM BEYER

The end of the school year marks the transition between the 33rd and 34th sessions of Student Government.

The final meeting of the 33rd Session on May 14 featured the swearing-in of the new leaders of the 34th Session: President Abhi Kulgod, Senate President Daniel Ren, and Treasurer Vinay Kshirsagar.

In order to demonstrate their devotion to the student body, the new session's leaders had to perform a short dance as selected by the outgoing leaders. Kulgod performed the "stanky legg," Ren body rolls, and Kshirsagar a rendition of twerking.

Also at the final meeting of

Continued on Page 16

In this issue...

College Map p4-5

Dr. Rigsbee p6

Senior Wills p7-14

Class of '14 p15