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Professor John Adams of the UNC School of Journalism, who will retire from teaching in June.

Adams to retire with fond memories

By LORI THOMAS Staff Writer

With a warm nostalgic smile, he pulled from his top desk drawer the yellowed, stapled pages of the grade reports of his first class at UNC in fall 1958. Going down the roll, almost every name evoked a memory: "I saw him last summer. She was a foreign exchange student, and he's at National Geographic now."

After 27 years in the UNC School of Journalism, Professor John B. "Jack" Adams will soon add to the drawer the grade reports of his last UNC class.

"He could make the issues come alive," said former student Stephanie Bass. "I always enjoyed and learned, but he wouldn't just give a good grade."

Adams will retire on June 30 at age 65. A dinner will be given in his honor at the Carolina Inn on March 30.

case, his concern for students' welfare married Polly-Betts Goslin. and interests and his being fair are obvious. That can't help but rub off."

Bass, executive director of the N.C. Center on Crime and Punishment, said Adams' firm but gentle manner was effective, since graduates of the school rarely run into problems with libel suits.

Kathy McAdams, another former student and present part-time faculty member of the school, said Adams "demands excellence, but he's not cranky about it." Adams merely would take his familiar stork stance, standing with one foot pulled up on the table, then softly clear his throat, and class would begin, she said.

Adams said he maintained stability through troubled times and guided the gradual growth and development of the school during his 10 years as dean; a time, he said, in which many changes

In 1951, they moved to California, where he convinced professors to let him enroll at the University of California at Berkeley, although it was three weeks into the semester. He earned his bachelor's degree in communication and public policy and graduated with highest honors and membership in Phi Beta Kappa in 1953.

By 1957, Adams had obtained his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Wisconsin.

Only after being rejected for a job with the U.S. Information Agency, for whom he later would be asked to consult, did Adams take a teaching position at Michigan State University. The next year he came to Chapel Hill, strengthening his interest in teaching and press law.

Adams has held executive positions occurred in education and the way with the Association for Education in

Adams came to the Journalism School in 1958 as an associate professor with special interests in international communication and media research methods, and was dean of the school from 1969 to 1979. Although mass communication law now is his specialty field, he admitted he never took a course in press law before coming to the school.

In 1984, Adams received the coveted Tanner Award for teaching excellence; colleagues and students were not surprised.

Dr. William Chamberlin, who also specializes in mass communication law in the school, said Adams had ideals that were important to every teacher. "When you see a model, you tend

to emulate it," he said. "In Jack Adams'



ina's history. I'm glad to be a part of the Senior Class Gift Campaign."

- Thomas Carpenter University Party

education was perceived.

He cited the shootings at Kent State and the general unrest on college campuses around the country while he was dean, saying he felt it was important that the school did not get distracted from what had been a successful approach to journalism education.

"The students felt proud of the tough curriculum," Adams said. One student in an advisory position to the faculty wanted to raise the passing score from 70 to 80 on the school's then-new spelling and grammar test.

Mildred Stout, administrative manager while Adams was dean, worked closely with him and understood his gentle respect.

"You knew that he assumed you would do your best," Stout said, "and he was the kind of man you wanted to do your best for."

Adams has had an almost inspirational influence on the entire school, said Dean Richard R. Cole. "Jack Adams will leave a legacy of fairness and compassion and true excellence in teaching."

Despite his talent and devotion to teaching, Adams originally never intended to teach.

A New Jersey native, Adams was the European sales manager for a New Jersey glass company following his service in World War II. In 1947, he

Journalism and has been a member of the editorial boards of Journalism Quarterly and the International Communication Bulletin. In 1975, he served as president of the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism.

Adams also is a member of the Order of the Golden Fleece, the University's highest service honorary, and one of the few honorary members of the N.C. Press Association.

Adams' publications include some 20 journal articles, 21 papers, six monographs, a book chapter and 25 book

Adams and his wife have two children: Mark, 22, who is studying toward his doctoral degree in biochemistry at the University of Michigan; and Jane, 20, a junior at Guilford College near Greensboro.

Adams said he was looking forward to traveling and spending more time with his family after retiring. He said he wanted more flexibility in his life by not having to plan around school breaks.

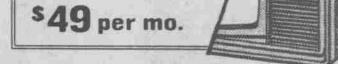
What he will miss most, he said, is the interaction with students, interaction that stands as a tribute to his success as a teacher and that, indeed, takes him back to students in the fall of 1958.







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