**UNC REMEMBERS ONE OF ITS GREAT PROFESSORS**

**Quality Human Being; From Dr. Donn Adams, UNC Emeritus Professor of Educational Field Experiences**

**Yes, Les Trowbridge affected (in an extremely positive manner) the life of many, many people with focus on elementary through graduate school preparation of science teachers. He was a qualilty human being.**

**For me personally, he was a tremendous support to my professional life as a science teacher Kindergarten through graduate school.  It started early in the 1960s .  It was an honor to be the Director of Science Fairs for Weld County.  Les volunteered as a college professor to serve as a leader of the evaluation of student projects.  Not only did he lead this team in a very professional manner, but he volunteered to present to parents and students a wonderful presentation about "The Benefits of Science Fairs for the Participants"!  This is an example of Les' commitment to the working relation between college and public schools.**

**Les was always very supportive of his NDEA students.  Example: he was instrumental in providing me the opportunity to be CSC meteorologist for three years.  Twice a day I collected data at CSC and reported to the Denver radio stations.**

**He was nationally active when he held the position of the President of National Science Teachers Association.  He was always active and a contributing member of this association.**

**In addition, Les was always a wonderful and active family member.  He and Dorthee always supported each other personally and professionally.  Many times while riding his bicycle to work, he would stop and walk his bicycle in order to discuss personal and professional issues with his former and current students.**

**Les will always be an outstanding leader for his students and his fellow professionals.  He is here to stay as a model science educator.**

**Remembering the Lessons Les Taught Me; From Dr. Rodger Bybee; Director Emeritus, Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS)**

**I had the privilege of knowing Leslie W. Trowbridge for 45 years. During that time, Les was my teacher as an undergraduate student, a professor in my graduate program, a coauthor on a leading textbook, and a colleague in science education.**

**As I remember Les, he taught me the**

**▪ mysteries of meteorology ……… when he taught the discipline he loved.**

**▪ value of national leadership …….. when he was president of the National Science Teachers Association.**

**▪ capacity of reconciliation ………. when he returned to the University of Northern Colorado.**

**▪ courage of convictions …………. when he discussed revisions of our textbook.**

**▪ importance of grace in difficult decisions … when he discussed his decision to**

**step down as coauthor after eight editions.**

**Major Advisor, Mentor, Department Chair; From Dr. Jay Hackett, Emeritus Professor of Earth Sciences and Science Education from UNC**

**As a graduate student, and later as a department faculty member, I quickly realized that Les was the most objective and even-handed person I had ever met.  He truly set the standard.  Most of us spend the rest of our lives trying to measure up.  
  
Following graduation from the Science Education Program, I was fortunate enough to join the Department faculty.**

**Les occasionally would remark that Jay was like the proverbial camel who once he got his head under the tent was soon sleeping inside.   His sense of humor was always delightful and relevant.**

**National Science Teachers Association; From Dr. Henry Heikkinen, UNC Emeritus Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry**

**My first indirect encounter with UNC was at a NSTA Convention in 1974, back when Les served as NSTA President and I was a newly-minted Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland--he was the first truly national science-education figure I had met and he made quite an impression upon me. It took another dozen years to relocate here to Greeley as MAST Director, where he warmly greeted me once again and generously offered any support that I might need.**

**There have been few truly selfless, impactful people in science education--Les was one of those rare individuals, indeed.**

**Condolence From: M. Lynn and Jane James; Dr. Lynn James is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry from UNC**

**It was with sadness that we learned of Les's passing. He was a good man, an excellent teacher, and so easy to work with. He had such an impact on science teaching and will be remembered with fond memories by many. We extend our condolences to his wife and family.**

**Les' pin map; From Dr. Richard Moyer, Professor of Science Education & Natural Sciences, Univ. of Michigan, Dearborn  
  
I recall being in Les' office as a graduate student about 1973 or 74 and seeing a world map on the wall with dozens and dozens of colored pins. He told me that they represented locations where former science education doctoral students were now working. A few years later, I was back in Greeley for a summer as my wife Lois was completing her degree. I had little to do except walk our 8-month old daughter Jessica around campus in a stroller. One afternoon, I found myself in Les' office and again noticed the map and I looked for "my" pin but none was implanted anywhere near Dearborn, Michigan. I mentioned this to Les and he noted that he would take care of it as soon as he got some more pins.  
  
Later that following fall, as a joke, I mailed Les a box of pins so he could rectify the situation. He never forgot and every year when I would see him at conventions, he laughed about the box of pins and assured me that I was "now on his map." The last time I was on campus, when Jay Hackett was honored as an outstanding alumnus, Les planned a "Pin Ceremony" for me. Flight schedules didn't allow for it but days later, I received in the mail a handmade electrified pin that lighted and an official pin holder’s certificate. Les got the last laugh.**

**Science Education Department, Field Trips & Les and Dorothee Together—Very Different Personalities; From Dr. Lee Shropshire, UNC Emeritus Professor of Geology**

**Lee recalls Dr. Bob Sund as a famous, brilliant, creative, and outspoken mentor of Les—and a mentor of others too. Sund’s textbooks led to those of Les and Jay Hackett in later years. Dr. Jim McClurg was recruited by Les to come teach at Colorado State College here in Greeley--from the University of Michigan. McClurg was a beloved teacher here in Greeley, and it was a great coup that Les was able to recruit him away from Michigan.**

**Field trips with Les and Earth Sciences founder Oscar Tollefson (Tolly) to the Black Hills were often quite adventurous. One time, after a vehicle broke down, Lee worked out a plan to get the students safely cared for and on to Gillette, Wyoming for the night. Les and Tolly did not want to leave the UNC students—called the “poor boys” by Les--without the best care during that time. But Lee observed that the “poor boys” were happy enough with their abundant supply of beer for the evening!**

**Finally, Lee observed how wonderfully mysterious is was that Les and Dorothee found each other—Les so patient and down to earth, and Dorothee so rambunctious! Wow, the spice of life at the Trowbridge home…**

**From Junior High to the Big Apple; From Dr. Leon Ukens, Professor of Science Education, Towson University**

**Les took me (a Greeley junior high science teacher with a Masters degree from UNC) and John Gapter (UNC biology professor) and Ivo Lindauer (UNC biology professor) as a team from UNC to NYU from 1969-1971 under the guidance of J. Darrell Barnard a professor at NYU.  We were part of something called the TTT project in Elementary Science Education.  Les, John, and Ivo were post-docs and I was a doctoral student.  There were several other teams from around the country.  I stayed and completed my Ph.D in 1971 and went on to teach science education for the next 34 years at Towson University near Baltimore.  Les was a fantastic mentor and friend to me while at NYU and since.  He exemplified what excellent science education was about.  He and Bob Sund were well known throughout the US and world for their work.  I took classes from both while at UNC.  I was in numerous seminars with Les and other science educators while at NYU.  What an experience that was for me, and I owe so much to Les for taking this country kid to the Big Apple.**

**Guest Author as a Graduate Student; From Dr. Mike Urban, Asst. Professor, Coordinator or MS/Med, Dept. of Professional Education, Bemidji State Univ.**

**I am saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Trowbridge. In addition to sharing a temporary office with him (along with Kristin Quadracci) while the new Ross Hall was under construction, he encouraged me to write a "guest editorial" in his secondary science methods textbook (which, as of the last edition, was still included) -- and attended my wedding. It was my good fortune to have known him. He will be remembered fondly by this soul, and the many others, he touched.**

**National Science Teachers Association Conventions; From Dr. Courtney Willis, UNC Emeritus Professor of Physics**

**I arrived at Colorado State College in the fall of 1962, the first year you could declare physics major.  I had Les Trowbridge for two classes, a Meteorology class to fulfill my earth science requirement and of course Secondary Science Methods (before the famous book!)  After teaching high school science for well over twenty years, I found myself back in Greeley at the University of Northern Colorado teaching Physics and the Secondary Science Methods class.  I now was using Les’s famous methods book and I even suggested it to a friend in California when he asked for a recommendation.  He had tried several other books but they were all unsatisfactory.  He was forever grateful.**

**Although I often saw Les around UNC, our most memorable time was at an NSTA national convention in St. Louis about a decade ago.  We had both planned on going but I somehow had not reserved a place to stay there.  Everyplace was packed.  Les said that he was driving up to see his mother first and then was driving down to St. Louis and I could stay with him.  So I flew in and met him there.  We had a very enjoyable time.  When it came time to go home, instead of flying home, Les talked me into driving back with him in his Cadillac.  We had a great time just talking.  We both talked about our experiences teaching high school physics.  We tried to determine whether the mirages on the roads were from light reflecting off the different thermal layers close to the road of if the light was refracting through the layers.  In the middle of the night in the middle of Kansas we stopped at a rest stop to view a comet.  It was late, about 2 in the morning when we arrived in Greeley but we had had a great time!**

**Les the Mentor, From Dr. Bill Hoyt, Professor of Oceanography, Director, Earth Sciences & Physics**

**When I arrived at UNC in 1981, I was assigned an office next to Les Trowbridge; that was one of the best things that ever happened to me! I quickly learned that Les was a giant in the international science education community, the Chair of the world-famous UNC Science Education Department, and a man of great wisdom. I learned many things from Les and certainly count him as one of my most influential mentors. Through a difficult experience in 1982-83, when UNC elected to eliminate the Science Education Department, Les showed me how to persist and move on in positive directions even when things do not go your way. His indomitable spirit even brought him BACK to UNC and many here were beneficiaries of having him with us. I also learned from Les Trowbridge how to chart my way through the dangerous waters of synthesizing science and the Christian faith--while maintaining the integrity of both. Not many wanted to do that, but Les introduced me to the Rocky Mountain Section of the American Scientific Affiliation and we attended many conferences together.**

**My fondest remembrances of Les and Dorothee were at the various Earth Science Departmental potluck dinners we had--Dorothee could always be counted of for entertainment as she would gather the kids, Les, and any of us who would join in for some science experiment or demonstration. Even in their advanced years, Les and Dorothee were the life of the party! Thanks to Les and the Trowbridge family for the great gift we enjoyed all those years!**