

THE DECREE

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May 10, 2013

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

Graduating Seniors Have Big Plans

By Emily Bower
Senior Staff Writer

Now that graduation has passed, the class of 2013 is anxious to get out into the real world.

Career plans, graduate school, and student debt are all challenges that seniors around the country face after they take off their cap and gown. Interviewed in April, Ashley Marks, James Cheatham, Sarah Whittaker, Marcelo Prata, Timaine Moore and Rebekah Cain chipped in with their worries, plans and memories.

Marks, a criminal justice major, plans on going to basic law-enforcement training after graduating and will continue her journey into her job field, working two years at a detention center. "My professors kept me in the loop for job opportunities that would best interest me," she said.

Whittaker, a psychology major, hopes to work in human resources back in her native Maryland. "I'll miss all the free time I had to hang out with my friends," she said, "but I'm ready to get established with a career."

Cheatham wants to implement his exercise science major and work in cardiopulmonary rehab, personal training, physical education or community wellness. He'll remember his professors, especially Dr. Magal. "He's an excellent teacher and friend," he said. "He's approachable and knows what he's talking about. He made an effort to get to know me personally."

He also plans on remaining active in his religious community.

"I want to spend more time teaching others the truths of the Bible," he said. "As a Jehovah's witness, the preaching work I do is all volunteer and done out of love for others."

Prata, an exercise science major from Brazil, plans to stay in America to attend graduate school.

"I'm looking for a grad assistant position with tennis, soccer, or strength and conditioning," he said. "If that doesn't work, I have a few job opportunities back in Brazil." If Prata returns to Brazil, he will study sports nutrition.

Moore, a business administration major, plans to work as a sales representative in restaurant equipment liquidation and eventually open his own store in Wilson. "Wesleyan has given me the knowledge and structure to succeed and excel because of all the hands-on business courses," he said.

Outgoing SGA President Cain, an

exercise science major, plans on pursuing a career in her field. "Exercise science is the best major here," she exclaimed, "although I might be a little biased."

Student debt is a problem faced by many grads. Marks said she'll need to repay \$20,000, while Whittaker claims \$10,000 in student loans.

Other seniors expect to pay between these two figures, with one student owing around \$13,000. Moore rounds out the higher end with around \$40,000 in loans.

The graduates also reminisced about their favorite memories while at Wesleyan. Whittaker hopes to keep her friendships alive after moving back home. "My favorite memories all include the times I hung out with my friends," she said.

Moore enjoyed his time with teammates on the football team, but will also remember the times he spent helping others. "Some of my favorite memories are all the charity work that I participated in, from food drives to toy donations," he said.

Marks will remember her time spent with the women's soccer and lacrosse teams. "All my memories with the soccer and lacrosse teams made these past four years fun and exciting," she said. "I'll miss playing collegiate sports and the simplicity of being a student."

Prata also will miss his athletic career here at Wesleyan. "My favorite memories are with the tennis team," he said. "They were my second family. I'll miss playing soccer and tennis for Wesleyan."

The small campus community is something else that Prata will miss. "I got to know a lot of good people here that I would like to keep in touch with."

Cain agreed with Prata, stating that she enjoyed the small community here at Wesleyan. "My professors are amazing," she said. "One of the best things about going to a smaller school is the fact that you can be invested in by your professors, and I'm so thankful for that."

She also enjoyed the family atmosphere. "I have so many memories, it's hard to pick a favorite," she said. "But I will miss my Bishop family, going to games and events and being able to chat with everyone."

Unlike the others, Cheatham's favorite memory hadn't happened just yet. "My favorite memory will be made shortly after 10 a.m. on graduation day when I finally walk across the stage and receive my diploma," he said.

He added: "I'll also miss room 106 in the Taylor Center. All the main exercise science classes are taught there, and I'll miss the people I started and finished my college career with."

After spending their undergraduate career here at Wesleyan, these six seniors offered advice to the underclassman.

"Just have as much fun as you can while maintaining your good grades, because the time goes by so fast," said Whittaker.

Prata echoed Whittaker's sentiments. "Make memories. Make friends," he said. "Remember that time is short, so don't hesitate to be yourself."

Along with making memories and spending time with friends, Marks also offered quality advice for the real world. "Accept any job opportunity that will get your foot in the door," she said. "Even if you don't like it, you might grow to love it."

Cheatham wants underclassmen to know that time may change things, but "that doesn't make the truth false. If you

question something, don't be afraid to investigate until you find the truth," he said.

Along with his words of wisdom, he provided a warning. "Senioritis is very real. Pace yourself and finish the race."

Moore gave practical advice, urging students to "begin putting together your professional portfolio and start an internship."

Cain gave a mixed answer, urging students to "do your best in everything. Take every opportunity you can," she said. "Volunteer, make memories and make friends. Wesleyan is so diverse. Get to know those around you and gain a perspective on life."

Academics are also important, and Cain wants students to realize that "you're setting the stones for future opportunities, so do your best. That's why you're here."



Philip Heavner, a Rocky Mount ASPIRE student, was selected to receive the President's Cup for his outstanding academic performance (See story p. 2). Rebekah Cain won the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for her contributions to the campus community. G. Arizpe photo.

Cliff Sullivan, 'Consummate Battling Bishop,' Dies at 57

Campus life came to a halt on the afternoon of April 24, as hundreds filled the Dunn Center to remember Cliff Sullivan—34-year Wesleyan employee, former Bishop student-athlete, bibliophile and beer aficionado, and devoted friend and family man.

Sullivan, the college's registrar for more than 30 years, died April 21 at his Rocky Mount home after a courageous battle with brain cancer. He was 57.

The hour-long memorial service included eulogies by family, co-workers and college friends. As tributes were given, a slide show flashed on a background screen, chronicling Sullivan's time at Wesleyan and his love for his family.

NCWC Store Manager Rachel Dix, a long-time colleague and Sullivan family friend, helped to organize several fund-raisers with Wesleyan students to benefit the Sullivan family. In opening remarks, she said Sullivan would be watching the ceremony with some amusement. "Cliff would want us to be positive," she said.

Dix joked that Sullivan could sometimes be "Mr. Grumpy Grump." She lauded his dedication to the college and his generous

spirit. An avid gardener, Sullivan would often present Wesleyan staff members with roses that he had raised in the yard at his Rocky Mount home, Dix said. She conjured an image of Sullivan often seen by his

colleagues: "gym bag on his shoulder, apple in hand, headed to the Taylor Center" for his lunch-time workout.

Incoming Board of Trustees Chairman Dewey Clark, a Wesleyan alum and a colleague back in the 1980s, described Sullivan's meticulous record-keeping as registrar, while noting that he "set a standard of excellence in his profession." He remembered playing with Sullivan in a noon-time basketball league on campus and said he enjoyed Sullivan's sense of humor. "He could give it as well as take it," he said, but added that Sullivan "was always gentle," with

"not a bad word about anybody." Dr. Steve Ferebee, professor of English, worked with Sullivan for almost 30 years. In his eulogy, he said they shared a love of gardening, books and music. Speaking for many Wesleyan faculty members, Dr. Ferebee highlighted Sullivan's encyclopedic knowledge of college policies and curricular matters and his indispensable presence on faculty committees. "Ask Cliff must be the most repeated sentence on campus," he said, adding that Sullivan was "protective of students."

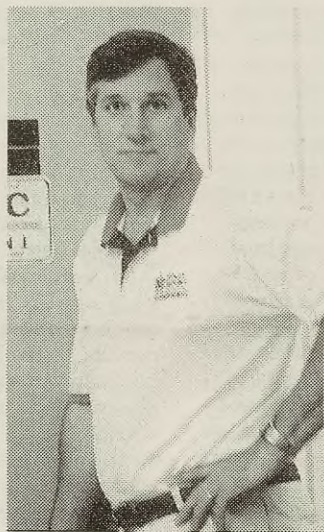
His voice choked at times with emotion, Dr. Ferebee recalled the many kindnesses Sullivan showed him when he was enduring a tough time, such as the deaths of family members and his partner. "He was a good friend," said Dr. Ferebee. "He was honorable. He lived a life of verve and joy. Well done, Cliff."

Several classmates spoke at the memorial. One, Pam Watson, said that when she began at Wesleyan, she was somewhat shy, but that Sullivan introduced himself and befriended her. Sullivan possessed an "inherent ability to reach out to others and make connections," she said. Watson marveled at Sullivan's ability to keep in touch and bring friends together over the years. "Cliff lived life with purpose and integrity," she said, and faced cancer with "grace, strength and dignity."

During the service Jake Swartout, a senior pitcher for the Bishops, presented a baseball to the family of Sullivan, who played catcher for Wesleyan in the 1970s. Swartout placed the ball, signed by members of the current team, into one of Sullivan's old gloves, which rested on a table on stage.

It has been announced that a scholarship will be established in Sullivan's name for Wesleyan student-athletes.

Born April 17, 1956 in Garner, Charles Clifton "Cliff" Sullivan came to Wesleyan in 1974 to play baseball. Along the way, he joined the soccer team, though he had never before played the sport. According to an obituary in the Rocky Mount Telegram, Sullivan was so well liked on the soccer pitch



Cliff Sullivan

that coaches took to calling him "Hustle." In 1976, he was named the college's Male Athlete of the Year.

Sullivan majored in history and political science, receiving his BA in 1978. While employed at Wesleyan, he earned an MA in education from East Carolina University in 1990.

He joined the college staff as an admissions counselor in 1979 and by 1980 he was director of academic advising and registrar. From 1993 to 1996, he was assistant dean for academic affairs, and from 1996 until his death, he was registrar and veterans affairs coordinator. In 1992 he was given the Distinguished Staff Award.

Active in his community, Sullivan was on the boards of the Twin County Education Foundation and the Children's Education Foundation. He served on committees at Halifax and Nash community colleges. Besides gardening and reading, Sullivan's interests included cooking, beer-brewing and auctioneering.

Sullivan is survived by Ellen Sullivan, his wife of 34 years; a son, William Duff Sullivan of Kill Devil Hills; a daughter, Shannon Sullivan Miles of Rocky Mount; five grandchildren; and his parents, Charles and Faye Sullivan of Kinston.

NCWC Chaplain Barry Drum concluded the memorial service by calling Sullivan "the consummate Battling Bishop."

Student Arrested On Gun Charge

By Decree Staff

A North Carolina Wesleyan student was arrested and charged with gun possession after an early-morning incident April 22 in Petteway Residence Hall.

Matthew Price, 22, of Stantonsburg, was charged by city police, who allege that he was in possession of three guns and a machete, which were found during a search of the student's room and vehicle. Price was released on \$10,000 bail, according to various media reports.

The Rocky Mount Telegram reported that Price was charged with three felony counts of possession of a firearm on education property and one misdemeanor for possession of a weapon on education property.

"We will not tolerate the possession or use of guns or any weapons on this campus," said Dean of Students Randy Williams in a statement by the college.

He told The Decree that one of the weapons, a .40-caliber handgun, was found with Price in his room.

Police were summoned after Price was reported to be intoxicated and acting in a threatening manner, college officials said.

Media outlets and the college indicated, without elaboration, that there were racial slurs inside the student's room.

The incident drew intense media coverage. WRAL, a Raleigh TV station, and other news outlets came to campus and the story was reported by various news web sites around the region.

Emily Bower, a Wesleyan junior, was interviewed by a WRAL reporter, who had camped at the Sheetz store on North Wesleyan Boulevard. "It's scary that something like this occurred on campus," Bower said. "The racial slurs are going to make people mad."

Courtesy police officer Tamika Locke, a resident of Petteway since last fall, responded to the incident, with backup from city police, who took Price into custody without incident or injury, college officials said.

The college said that Price has been banned from campus. (Rebecca Staylor contributed reporting.)

New SGA Board Hopes to 'Continue the Momentum'

by Katherine Crickmore
Senior Staff Writer

After her opponent unexpectedly withdrew a week earlier, Chelsea Laurens was voted Student Government Association President during an election that lasted from March 18 to March 21.

Along with Laurens, Sarah Olsowski was voted vice president, Deontae Swain was reelected treasurer and Bruce Morgan, an ASPIRE student, was elected secretary. All four candidates were unopposed.

Laurens' opponent, Jennifer Oster, announced her withdrawal shortly before a debate was scheduled to be held between the candidates. In the wake of Oster's decision, the debate was transformed into a question-answer panel for the remaining candidates.

"I'm extremely honored and grateful to be put in such a position," Laurens declared upon her election to office.

"I'm looking forward to a great year!"

Laurens, a member of NC Wesleyan's Honors Program, is majoring in exercise science and psychology, and is planning to graduate in May 2014. She serves as the president of Rotaract Club, president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, secretary of S.L.A.P. and captain of the soccer team, though Laurens stated that she plans to resign from most of her positions as soon as possible.

"I want to focus on SGA completely," Laurens declared during the panel on March 15 in the Blue and Gold Caf .

During the panel, the junior praised Rebekah Cain, the current SGA President, and the quality of her work, while commenting that she wishes to continue the progress.

"Rebekah Cain has done phenomenally as SGA president and I could not have asked for a better role model to follow," she said. "I want to keep the ball rolling, as far as improvement goes."

Cain had similarly flattering words about the new president and expressed her confidence about Laurens' leadership qualities.

"Chelsea is a wonderful leader," Cain said. "I am so excited that she will be taking the reins and leading NCWC to the next level. She'll be a wonderful representative for the student body."

Laurens' work through Rotaract Club, whose goals are service and professional development, have led many to believe that she will be more than ready to take on the challenge of the SGA presidency.

Patricia Smith, the associate professor of business administration, listed various projects that Laurens headed, including a "Peace Table" in the cafeteria, and said that the junior did a wonderful job leading the organization.

"Her guidance has made a difference to Wesleyan and the Rotaract Club," Dr. Smith said. "Our club has more members than ever and it's accomplishing more goals because Chelsea has been a dynamic leader."

Olsowski, a freshman majoring in

accounting and business administration, is also a member of Rotaract Club and the soccer team. She was the SGA secretary during the past two terms.

"Student body government has always been a passion of mine," she said, "and I can't tell you how excited I am to lead the student body for yet another term."

Bev Biancur, head women's soccer coach, had high praise for both of the women on the team.

"Sarah is a very passionate and driven individual," the coach said. "She will be a great addition to the student government and will work with Chelsea to make Wesleyan the next 'Great College.'"

Biancur spoke of Laurens' leadership qualities in athletics and academics and was confident of her future potential. "Chelsea is a leader through and through," Biancur said. "She is determined to leave her footprint at North Carolina Wesleyan College and help to move our campus community into the future."

Laurens listed the recent changes with campus security and the cafeteria as examples of improvements that she hopes to continue.

The newly elected members of SGA discussed several goals for their term during the panel. Laurens stated that she wants to focus on enhancing the nutritional value of the cafeteria food, while Olsowski wants to explore possible arrangements with local restaurants for students to use flex dollars at their facilities.

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