

The Decree

VOL. 7, NO. 6

North Carolina Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, N.C.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1991

Wesleyan aims to boost math instruction

North Carolina Wesleyan College has been given \$20,300 from the Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Program for Higher Education for the project "Increasing Math Achievement."

The main priority of the program is to provide primary classroom teachers with the skills and knowledge to deliver more effective mathematics instruction. The purpose of the project is to pro-

vide teachers with skills, confidence, and materials to implement the curriculum effectively to reduce the gaps in achievement, and make mathematics accessible and enjoyable to more students. The primary goal is to provide 500 students in rural Halifax County with appropriate first-hand experiences in math-related activities.

The project, targeted at Inborden School and private

schools in the county, will benefit 20 teachers in Halifax County. Ninety-five percent of the students in the targeted school are identified as minority students with 88 percent receiving free or reduced school lunches. A review of past achievement data indicates 54 percent of the students fall below average achievement. Forty-nine percent are from single-parent households. Most are from

rural Halifax County along with some migrant children.

The recent "report card" for Halifax County issued by the State Department of Public Instruction indicates that the county struggles to provide equitable access to a quality educational program. The schools lack the basic supplies and resources to implement effective programs. Wesleyan's project will provide

resources and teacher renewal to encourage improvement in mathematics instruction. Materials will serve as a basis for a professional library for mathematics in the school.

The intended outcome of this project is improved primary grades mathematics instruction and achievement. Teachers will

(Continued on Back Page)

Wesleyan offers study at Sorbonne

North Carolina Wesleyan College plans to offer students the opportunity to study French history, language, architecture, and art in Paris, France, this summer in a new program called NCWC at the Sorbonne.

Students will be enrolled in one of the world's oldest and most prestigious universities, the Sorbonne of the University of Paris, France.

Heading up this venture is Karine Sparrow-Ginter, a new NCWC professor who joined the college from East Carolina University where she was co-founder and director of the ECU-Sorbonne program. She has directed travel/study programs in France and Spain since 1969 and has introduced hundreds of students to the rich cultural heritage of Europe.

The program will last six weeks, from June 29-Aug. 9. Placement tests will be administered upon arrival in Paris to determine the students' ability levels, which range from the absolute beginner to more advanced levels. The first week is dedicated to an orientation in Paris, while learning to work the metro and bus systems, location of major monuments, and notable neighborhoods of Paris.

In addition to their language



Completing ROTC tour

Major Blake Adams (left) completes his tour of duty at North Carolina Wesleyan College at the end of this semester. Captain Paul Grady (right) takes over as head of the campus ROTC.

Library staying open later to help studying

By DELINDA LEE

Finals are just around the corner and many Wesleyan students are rushing to cram a semester of learning into one night. Group studying is not uncommon and is often preferred to studying alone. But as the curfew draws near, a problem arises — where can a group of students go to study into the wee hours of the morning?

The library is offering a solution. Once again, the library is extending its hours during exam week. Students are now able to use the library facilities as late as

midnight on some finals.

On Monday through Wednesday, the library is open until midnight. Regular hours will resume on Dec. 12.

For students who wish that the library was open later hours on a regular basis, the library is looking to permanently extend the hours starting next year.

"The library use has picked up tremendously in the last two years," said Al LaRose, director of the library. There has been sufficient demand for the increase in hours and LaRose hopes to enact this plan next year.

Christmas tree lighting opens season

By CECILIA LYNN CASEY

Wesleyan continued the Christmas season last week with a tree lighting ceremony on Wednesday. A small group of students joined Judy Boyd and Carl Turner in decorating a medium-size tree located on the patio outside the Hardee's building.

Braving the cold weather, the group hung candy from the branches and draped white lights around the outer limbs of the tree. Boyd began the celebration by saying, "Usually the tree lighting ceremony is a solemn event; however, this year we're just going to let it be a time to come together as a community."

The tree and all the decorations were paid for by the Campus Activities Board. The tree's candy decorations are for everyone who is passing by. Also, Boyd explained that the reason white lights were chosen over colored lights was because when Martin Luther began the tradition of putting lights on Christmas trees, he only had white lights. So to keep the tradition, Wesleyan's Christmas Tree only has white lights.

Turner had the honor of plugging in the tree after it was com-

pletely decorated. Before he did so, he said a few words about the ceremony.

"Driving back to Wesleyan after Thanksgiving break, I noticed that there were many stores that had Christmas trees for sale and I was reminded that I was not going to be able to be home with my family when they decorated our tree," he said. "So I think that this is important for the college to have this for students because it gives the students a chance to have a sense of belonging to the community."

Graduate donates prize to chemistry department

The NCWC Chemistry Department has been chosen by Edward S. Tripp of Park City, Ill., to receive \$10,000 from Abbott Laboratories.

Tripp, a 1974 Wesleyan graduate in chemistry, was one of four employees across the nation who received Abbott's "Outstanding Researcher Award," the company's highest research honor.

He received 200 shares of Abbott stock and \$10,000 to donate to the university of his choice. Tripp joined Abbott in 1972.

(Continued on Back Page)