

## The Decree

"Wesleyan's Student Voice Since 1984"

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2000

## President White resigns

Robert R. Mauldin, chairman of the Board of Trustees at North Carolina Wesleyan College, April 25 announced the resignation of Dr. John B. White as president of the independent, four-year college, effective May 31.

VOL. 15, NO. 8

"Under the five years of John White's guidance, the College has enjoyed success on a number of levels. Enrollment has increased, and there have been enormous strides in the improvement of facilities and technology available to students," said Mauldin.

Dr. White said, "This was a difficult personal decision on my

part, but it is in the best interest of myself and my family at this time."

White thanked the Board and members of the College community for their support of his leadership, and added, "as the Old Testament suggests, however, all things have 'a time and season.' There is a time to go on to pursue different paths, and for me that time has come."

Dr. White added, "Wesleyan College continues to play an important role in higher education through the traditional program in Rocky Mount, and its Adult Degree Program in Durham, Goldsboro, Raleigh, and here in Rocky Mount. There's a strong foundation upon which to build."

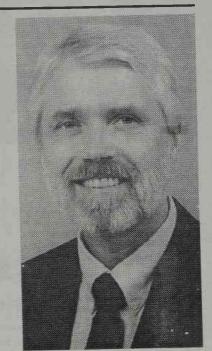
Mauldin cited the many significant accomplishments by Dr. White since his tenure began in the summer of 1995 as the College's fourth president. Among those many achievements are completion of the fundraising for the Dunn Center for the Performing Arts and its opening in January 1996. The newly land-scaped College Common now connects the Dunn Center with the remainder of the campus.

The College also has raised over \$7 million towards the \$10 million five-year Quality of Life Campaign launched in order to make improvements throughout the College and to build a proposed fitness/recreation facility.

The Hartness Student Center and the Thomas J. Pearsall, Jr. buildings were renovated for new use; the latter includes the Four Sisters' Gallery.

Boddie and Centura Residence Suites were built to accommodate the College's highest enroll-

(Continued on Back Page)



DR. JOHN WHITE



NEW MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR PI ETA SIGMA NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY.

## Convocation honors student achievement

The annual Honors Convocation was held at North Carolina Wesleyan College on Sunday. April 30.

History Professor Karin Zipf was the speaker.

The two highest awards went to seniors, the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award to Casey Elizabeth Smith and the President's Cup to Laci Lynn Powell.

Smith is a senior from Wall. N.J. Her father is Kenneth Smith from Toms River, N.J.; her mother is Pastor Linda Applegate, from Wall. She is an elementary education major transferring to N.C. Wesleyan in 1998. She has worked in the College's security and student life offices, has been a math tutor, and currently works in the College bookstore.

She is also a member of Tri Sigma, and was awarded this year's Sister of the Year award.

Powell is a senior majoring in sociology/psychology and a minor in business administration. She is from Emporia, Va., and her parents are Leonard and

(Continued on Back Page)

## Popular professor retires after 27 years



DR. LEVERETT SMITH

By SHANNON ST. GEORGE
News Editor

After 27 years of dedication to his students, teaching, and the betterment of the N.C. Wesleyan campus, Dr. Leverett Smith is retiring.

Aside from being a prominent figure in Wesleyan academics, Dr. Smith also played a pivotal role in other areas of the college. He has been involved with the Visiting Writers Series, spent two years as head of the freshman program and helped establish Wesleyan's College Press. Fur-

thermore, he played a direct role in bringing the Lynch Collection of Arts on campus and was curator of the Black Mountain Collection.

Dr. Smith began his college education at Middlebury College in Vermont. After completing his years of schooling at this small liberal arts college, he then headed west to gain his Doctorate in American Studies at the University of Minnesota.

It was during these years in Vermont and Minnesota that this once aspiring accountant traded the numbers and equations for the letters and words. He found literature and discussions of his readings to be far more interesting. Smith arrived at Wesleyan after beginning his teaching career at Alliance College in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Smith sees his time at Wesleyan and the decision to retire as preparation for the rest of his life. As a parent he was proud to have three children graduate from North Carolina Wesleyan. He now looks forward to spending time with them and his grand-children.

Even though his presence in

the classroom will be missed, Dr. Smith will be around campus working on the Black Mountain Collection or perhaps in the library researching on of his favorite topics, baseball history.

"As a freshman. I had the pleasure to be one of Dr. Smith's classes — English 111. With a gentle, soft-spoken voice and a subtle humor, he helped his students through transitions from high school to college. His friendly and patient manner have always made him an easily approachable professor," one former student said.