

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

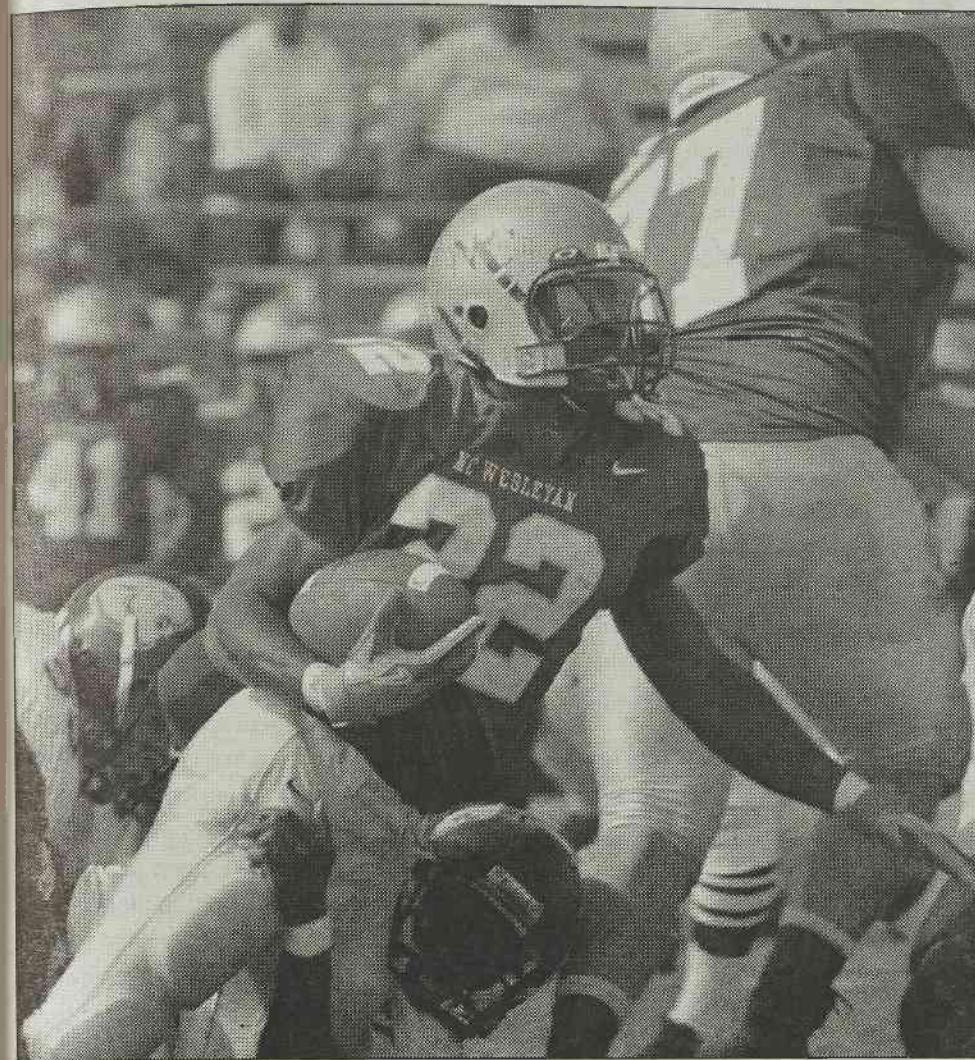


Photo by Sports Information.

Javon Williams and the NCWC football team will try to improve on last year's successful inaugural season. See Trevor Seibert's early season coverage on page 3.

NC Wesleyan Joins Katrina Relief Effort

North Carolina Wesleyan College has joined a nationwide relief effort, collecting money and needed supplies and organizing a trip to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Members of the Wesleyan community have been contributing through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the USA South Athletic Conference, and NCWC student organizations.

Chaplain Barry Drum said that the college is partnering with UMCOR and that collections—cash or checks—will continue through September at a table set up outside the cafeteria.

Drum expects total donations to exceed the \$800 that NCWC raised for victims of last December's tsunami.

"The students care," Drum said. "I've been so impressed. If you think about it, the typical college student doesn't have much money, but our students, and the entire Wesleyan community, have been willing to dig into their pockets and give generously."

Drum noted that NCWC hopes to send volunteers to the Gulf Coast during fall break as part of a trip organized by First United Methodist Church of Rocky Mount. The group will help with basic reconstruction, Drum said.

In the USA South Athletic Conference initiative, "USA South CAREs," NCWC athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and administrators

have been asked to donate at least one dollar apiece, with the proceeds sent to the Red Cross, Salvation Army or other charities. The Athletic Department reported that others on campus have donated to CAREs as well.

The NCWC Greek Council and Carleton House Residents Committee have organized "Project: (S)aving (O)ur (S)elves," collecting money as well as donations of clothing; washcloths, towels and toiletries; and canned goods and other non-perishable items.

Sociology 410 students are conducting a campaign titled "Backpacks for Hurricane Katrina's Children Left Behind." Professor Amy Karnehm Willis reported that the students, working in conjunction with The Down East Partnership for Children, were collecting art supplies, books, toys as well as backpacks for the youngest victims of the hurricane.

Wesleyan Welcomes Two UNO Students

NCWC has welcomed two University of New Orleans students, who came here after their evacuation from the flood-ravaged Crescent City.

Niran Mousa and Kristoffer Daniel have arrived in Rocky Mount and enrolled for fall semester. Mousa, a senior, is an English major with a minor in history, while Daniel is a freshman.

First-Year Student Population Includes More Females, International Students

By Jessica Bowen
Decree Staff Writer

Of the 359 first-year students at North Carolina Wesleyan College, 36 percent are female, a 17 percent increase over last year's class. First-year students include 288 freshmen and 71 new transfer students, making total enrollment about 875 students for the Rocky Mount campus.

According to Gary Sherman, vice president of enrollment, the percentage of females is "still skewed, but much better than last year." Sherman called the increase in female students a substantial step forward for Wesleyan.

NCWC students seem pleased with the change. An anonymous sophomore said that she felt "much less tension in her classes" attributing this factor to the increase of females in the classrooms. She said "This year most of my classes have just a couple more males than females."

Two male students expressed similar reactions. "There's more females and it's a good thing because the female-to-male ratio was bad last year," said junior Mike Brown. Senior Rick Acka, added, "There had been a lot of dudes (in classes). This year there's more females to talk to instead of just guys."

Sherman explained that women's soccer and volleyball attracted a larger number of first-year students this year. Soccer went from last year's total of

6 first-years to this year's 16, while volleyball increased from 4 to 7. The addition of women's lacrosse brought 10 athletes to campus. Besides the increased number of female athletes, Sherman noted that the number of first-year football players decreased by about 75 from 2004, when the football program began.

Sherman pointed out other changes in enrollment, including an increased number of international students—six as compared to one last year. Of the total, five participate in athletics. Their home countries include Canada (1 student), Gambia (2), Germany (2), and Ireland (1). "In recent years we've not had a very significant international base, so this is a step forward," said Sherman. He added that the best recruitment method for international students is word of mouth, which he described as the "building block effect."

According to Sherman, the SAT scores of first-year students were on average 14 points higher than last year's scores. The average SAT score was 915, compared to last year's 901. High school GPAs increased by .14.

The first-year population consists of five valedictorians compared to zero from last year. The NCWC honors classes have been filled to capacity with the 15 new honors students.

NC Wesleyan Wins 2005 USA South Conference Sportsmanship Trophy

Fayetteville—The USA South Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) has announced that North Carolina Wesleyan College has been chosen as the winner of the inaugural USA South Sportsmanship Trophy. NCWC won the trophy after earning individual awards in football, softball, golf and women's tennis during the 2004-2005 academic year.

"We're very honored to have won the inaugural USA South Sportsmanship Award," said NCWC Athletic Director John Thompson. "Sportsmanship has been an important focus in the league for a number of years and we're proud of all of our student-athletes."

Thompson said that the award reflects a school-wide emphasis. "There is a determined effort on the part of all our coaches to instill the

ideals of sportsmanship in our student-athletes," he said. "Our coaches are teachers and role models, and we place an emphasis on sportsmanship. I think that carries over to the courts and fields."

There is a sportsmanship award for 12 of the 14 conference-sponsored sports. For every sport, each team member votes for the team he/she deems to have demonstrated the best overall sportsmanship throughout the season. The team garnering the most votes receives that sport's award. The school that wins the most individual sport awards wins the overall USA South Sportsmanship Trophy.

The only other schools that won multiple individual sportsmanship awards were Averett University (3) and Peace College (2).