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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

North Carolina Wesleyan Vice President To Give Commencement Address as 200 Prepare to Graduate North Carolinians Represent 90 Percent of Students Set for Ceremony

William C. Nelsen, Vice President of Development, will deliver the commencement address May 6 during NC Wesleyan's spring graduation ceremony at the Mingis Auditorium of the Dunn Center.

An honors convocation, scheduled for 10 a.m., will precede commencement exercises, which will begin at 1:30. As of April 30, 219 students had applied for graduation.

Besides distributing diplomas, the college will grant an honorary degree

to Irene Howell of Goldsboro, the mother of two NCWC graduates, in recognition of her professional accomplishments and community service. She has been a pioneer in developing facilities for child care and residential care facilities for mentally retarded North Carolina citizens. "A woman of strong Christian character, an eastern North Carolina native coming from a background of meager means, Irene Howell's vision and commitment to her fellow humans has made a difference," President Ian Newbould said in announcing Howell's selection.

At the honors convocation, the college will present two major awards to students. The Algernon Sydney Sullivan award is given to a senior who exemplifies academic achievement as well as excellence in character, leadership, service to the community and commitment to spiritual values. The President's Cup recognizes superior academic achievement.

Vanessa Gore, a psychology major, spoke for many graduating seniors when she commented on her fondest memory of NC Wesleyan. "There are so many fond memories of my time at Wesleyan, it is hard to just pick one," she said. "I suppose it will be all the support that I received from not only my friends but faculty and staff members as well. Everyone here is so willing to lend an extra hand to help out in any way that they can. It is what impressed me the most when I first arrived here, and it continues to leave a lasting impression."

Gore reflected on the friendships she has made over the years. "My friends of course I will never forget," she said. "They have been there for me through it all. We have had great times together. We have stressed and worried over tests and papers, and we have kicked back and taken a huge sigh of relief after it is all over with."

A member of the basketball and tennis teams and various college organizations, Gore plans to work for a year to earn money for graduate school, with hopes obtaining graduate degrees in clinical psychology or counseling. And she intends to do volunteer work during the next year to help her identify a career path, which, she said, may require a doctorate. Her ultimate goal is to start a family counseling practice.

A Maryland native, Gore is one of 21 non-North Carolinians set to graduate. The other 20 come from Virginia (7 students), Maryland

(4), New Jersey (3), California (1), Delaware (1), Florida (1), Georgia (1), Pennsylvania (1), and Washington D.C. (1).

Business and social science majors once again dominate the list of graduates. Eighty-seven students studied business as either their first or second major, while 39 majored in justice studies. Among the other most popular majors are computer information systems (37 students), accounting (30) and psychology (15).

The commencement address will be one of Dr. Nelsen's final acts as an NCWC Vice President. He has announced his plans to leave after two years of leading the college's fund-raising efforts. He came to



William C. Nelsen

Baseball Team Takes Conference Title, Sets Sights on World Series

By Anthony DeGregorio
Decree Sports Editor

The North Carolina Wesleyan baseball team seized the USA South Conference championship title for the first time in the last six years, but it isn't satisfied.

The Bishops compiled a record of 27-16 and earned an automatic bid into the NCAA South Regional, a double-elimination tournament, scheduled to begin the weekend of May 19th. The team awaits the outcome of other Division III conference tournaments before learning its next opponents.

If NCWC wins its regional, one of eight around the nation, it will move to Appleton, Wis. for the Division III World Series at the end of the month. The school has twice won the national title, the most recent in 1999 under current coach Charlie Long. Its first title came in 1989 when the squad was coached by John Fox, now the head coach at the UNC-Chapel Hill.

"We need to maintain our focus and stay hungry for a national championship," said Blake Rice, NC Wesleyan's ace, who this year has pitched 80 innings and set a school record with nine complete games enroute to claiming USA South Pitcher of the year honors.

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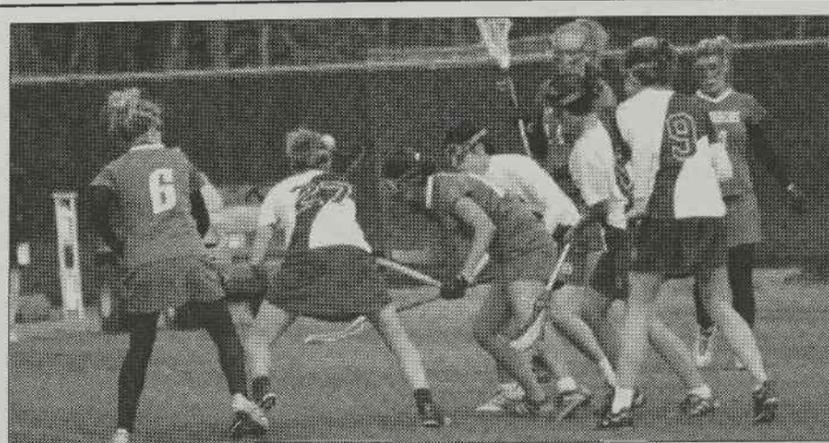


Photo by Grace Wallace

Despite winning only three matches in her program's inaugural season, Lacrosse Coach Lorin Smith sees many reasons for optimism. See interview on page 5.

NC Wesleyan in 2004 after serving since 1986 as president of Scholarship America, the nation's largest private sector scholarship and educational support organization. Under his leadership, the organization grew seven-fold in size and program outreach and won recognition as one of America's most efficient nonprofit organizations.

During his career, Nelsen has served as president of Augustana College (South Dakota) and as vice president and dean of St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Midland Lutheran College, his master's in religion and ethics from Columbia University, and his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania. Having served as a Fulbright Scholar in Germany, Nelsen has authored two books concerning faculty development and a variety of articles in the fields of ethics, government, higher education, private sector responsibilities, and student aid.

Elected Officers Look To Improve Campus Life

By Jessica Bowen
Decree Managing Editor

The results are in. The 2006-2007 Student Government Association executive board, Campus Activities Board, and Mr. and Mrs. Wesleyan have been elected.

SGA President is sophomore Tina Sirois and Vice President is junior Martin Hill. Freshman Amber Long was elected for the secretary position and junior Amber Huggins is SGA's new treasurer. There were other nominations for the vice president's position; however, the nominees failed to meet the GPA and/or credit hours requirement.

In an earlier interview, Sirois told the Decree that she hopes to increase student participation in campus activities. Other primary goals include:

- *Creating additional office space for SGA organizations
- *Improving campus life, in particular the rules that govern campus life
- *Enhancing the dining hall atmosphere and food selection

One of Hill's goals as Vice President is to "not only establish a voice but to enhance Greek life and establish a more physical presence for current and upcoming students." He plans to establish a better line of communication between students, faculty and administration.

Hill says he would like to increase quality programs such as a Step Show. "The demand has been so high on campus," he said, "and students have been willing to volunteer their time to help."

Improving the living quarters in resident halls is another of Hill's goals. "As far as living is concerned, I would like to add features such as a coin machine in residents' living quarters," said Hill, "and improve

the concession systems such as other small colleges or universities." Hill believes the vending machines should be operated by student ID cards

Hill ran for SGA vice president because he says he is a "confident individual" who has a drive for success and wants to give the students what they want to the best of his ability.

"I bring a different spice to the table by being involved with a lot of student organizations since freshmen year," says Hill. "I relate directly to the students and have an understanding of where they are coming from."

Hill says he knows what it's like to be misunderstood and hassled and he plans to "bring that to the table and use it as motivation and dedication to carry out this position."

Hill also believes there should be better equipped handicap systems for dormitories so handicapped people can have access to all dormitories without using the fire exits.

Junior Jessica Jones is CAB's President and freshman Caitlin Garippa holds the vice president seat. Tamyra Villines, freshman, is CAB's new treasurer and Yvonne Johnson, freshman, is the secretary. Sophomore Mike Fernandez will be the SGA Representative for CAB.

Jones, who is also president of the Black Student Association and an RA, plans to get students' support for next year's activities. "You can't do a program if you don't know what your audience wants," says Jones. Jones added that she wants students to have fun on campus and not "run home on the weekends."

Jones is glad to have a CAB executive board for next year. "You can't downgrade this year's CAB because they didn't have a full executive board, they only had President and Vice President," Jones says.

Jones ran for CAB president because she was tired of having nothing to do on campus. Jones says "You can't complain about something, if you're not willing to suck it up and do it." Money for activities is included in tuition, but there are no activities, noted Jones. "Where is the money going that we paid for?" She wants to have more activities to show for the money spent on activities.

Freshman Michael Davis was elected Mr. Wesleyan accompanied by freshman Kelleigh Jackson as Miss Wesleyan.