

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

First-Year Class Reflects Continued Improvement in Gender Balance, SAT Scores

By Jessica Bowen
Decree Managing Editor

The 2006-2007 freshmen class brought more female students, new international students, higher GPA's, and three more valedictorians to NC Wesleyan than last year's class.

There are 275 freshmen and 45 new transfer students in this year's class; of that 320 total, 41% are female, a six percent increase from last year's class. The ratio of males to females in the freshmen class, not including transfer students, is 61% to 39%. The total number of students enrolled in the Rocky Mount Traditional Program is 805.

Vice President of Enrollment Gary Sherman said the male to female ratio "tilted way out of proportion in 2004 when football was introduced." He added that due to a smaller number of football recruits, the number of incoming athletes has diminished.

The football team brought in about 80 players this year, 20 fewer than last year. "Football has had a very positive impact on numbers of students at Wesleyan," said Sherman, "but the recruitment of new student-athletes will be less each year until a stable team is

established."

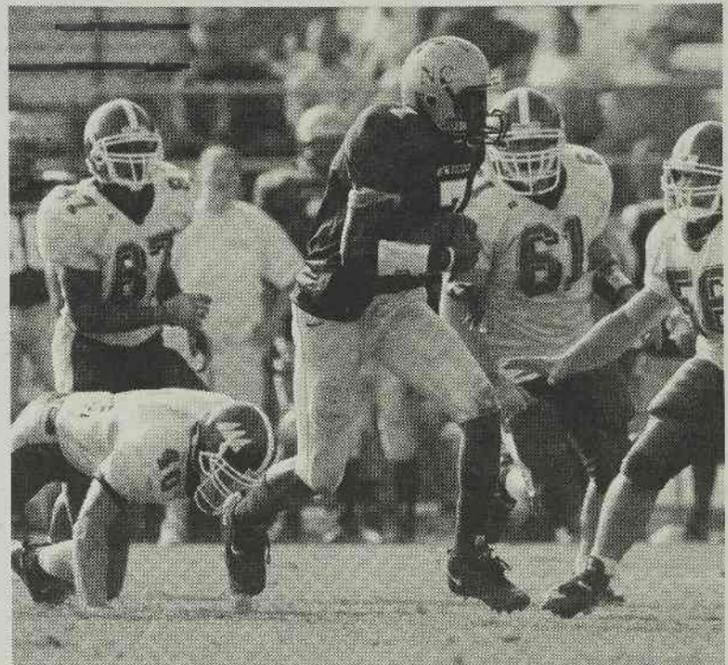
Sherman stated that adding women's lacrosse and cross-country along with a big recruitment year for women's basketball "has contributed in bringing a better gender balance to campus." However, there were fewer females enrolling for soccer, lacrosse and volleyball this year.

The freshmen class brought six international students; their home countries include England, Iceland, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia. Three international students play soccer. "We are working to build relationships with schools, organizations, and individuals who can direct qualified international students to Wesleyan," Sherman explained.

"The most obvious advertisement for Wesleyan is the internet."

Sherman noted that NC Wesleyan is conducting limited travel for athletic recruitment to several countries and that friends of the college are helping to build relationships with other countries. "Once a student attends and has a good experience here, that will result in greater numbers of international students looking to Wesleyan as well," he said.

According to Sherman, the average SAT scores for first year students was 937, 21 points higher than last year's average at 916, and 36 points higher than 2004's. **See "Freshmen" on page 2**



Quarterback Cedric Townsend and the Bishops football team has gotten off to a 1-2 start in its third season. Last Saturday, NCWC lost 24-21 to a non-league opponent, Emory & Henry in Virginia, which mounted a late fourth-quarter scoring drive to defeat the Bishops. See coverage of the first two games and other sports on page 3.

College To Observe 50th Anniversary With Host of Events

By Christine Werfelman
Decree Asst. Managing Editor

NC Wesleyan College will present a wide range of events this school year as it observes the 50th anniversary of its founding.

During this past spring semester, faculty and staff formed the North Carolina Wesleyan's 50th Anniversary Committee. "The committee has been meeting since last semester and there are over 15 events planned for just the first semester. Eleven of

the fifteen are held in just October alone," said Samantha McAuliffe, secretary to the President and Board of Trustees.

Many events will occur during Homecoming Week, October 9-14. It's always been a tradition to have

preparing for a long time to assure that homecoming is nothing but a success," McAuliffe reported.

The events scheduled for this first semester are as listed:

September 12th- A Day for Wesleyan

September 26th- Visiting Writer Series featuring Allan Gurganus. The Rocky Mount native will read from his work in the Dunn Center lobby beginning at 7 p.m. Gurganus is the author of the novel "The Oldest Confederate Widow Tells All." The reading is free and open to the public.

September 29th- Tom Long, CEO of Miller Brewing Company, will speak at the inaugural "Business on the Move" luncheon at 12:30 p.m. in the Dunn Center. Lunch price is \$10 at the door. Interested parties should RSVP Samantha McAuliffe by September 24 at smcauliffe@ncwc.edu or by phone: 985-5140. In addition to his luncheon talk, Long will address a group of NCWC business students.

October 7th- Chris Cash Memorial Scholarship. 5K walk/run

October 12th- The Women's Network of Eastern North Carolina will present "Wine, Woman and Wealth." This is an educational forum of legal and financial issues affecting women. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Dunn Center. "It will be an evening of fun, food and information," said Dr. Nancy Floyd, Professor of Business. For more information about the Women's Network event, visit the website encwomensnetwork.org.

(Any female interested in attending should visit the NCWC box office between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesdays to receive complimentary tickets.)

October 13th-

- Homecoming Golf Tournament
- Mims Gallery Art Show
- Hall of Fame Banquet
- Alumni at Chico's
- Homecoming Pep Rally & Bonfire

October 14th-

- Alumni Baseball and Softball
- Carnival Extravaganza
- Family picnic
- Tailgate party
- Homecoming football against Averett University
- Alumni Awards Banquet & All-Class Reunion

October 15th- United Methodist Church (UMC) 150th Celebration/NC Wesleyan's 50th Anniversary Celebration, to be held at First United Methodist Church, 100 S. Church Street, 11 a.m. to noon.

October 25th- Founders Day. NC Wesleyan will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a special speaker and a performance by the Wesleyan Players. This program is free and open to the public.

November 7th- 7 p.m., in the lobby of the Dunn Center, Nash county writer Kaye Gibbons will read from her work. She is the author of "Ellen Foster," among many other well-received books of fiction.

NCWC has come a long way in 50 years. Enrollment has increased, athletics has become a major part of this division three school and getting involved with the community more and more has set a great reputation with the town. Goals have been reached and accomplishments have been made since 1956 after the people of Rocky Mount, N.C., petitioned the United Methodist Church to help NC Wesleyan meet the need for a liberal arts college in their community.

'Hey, You're Not Michelle' - Changes Made in RD Staff

By Amanda Landi
Decree Staff Writer

The first thing that I learned when I got back on campus is that my Resident Director in Edgcombe Hall was not Michelle Philbrook. Then I learned that the entire Resident Life Staff had changed: Paul Seeley, the RD in Petteway Hall, was replaced by Jason Steinas; Shannon Hobbs, the RD in Nash Hall, was replaced by Travis Anderson; and Philbrook was replaced by Jennylynn Duerr. Ashley James, the RD in Collins Hall and the Director of Resident Life, was replaced, with Deborah Sanders, the RD of the Carlton House, assuming his position as Director of Resident Life, and Jasmín Spain becoming RD in Collins.

I got together with three of the Resident Directors, Duerr, Steinas, and Anderson. We met in the Edgcombe RD office, where I asked the RD's questions.

The new RD staff has come from various areas. Anderson is originally from Long Island, New York; Duerr is from Reading, Pennsylvania, and Steinas is from Rochester, New York.

Wondering who these people

are, I asked them some questions from their past. The list of hobbies I received contained a variety of answers. Anderson is very involved in music; he sings jazz and opera, and he plays the piano. Duerr is more involved in the arts; photography, interior decorating, and painting are some of her favorites. Steinas likes to surf and to keep life creative by playing the guitar and writing stories and poetry, or in his words "creative writing."

I asked each of the RD's why they chose North Carolina Wesleyan College as their new place of employment:

TA: "Boston is too far from my family. And, Wesleyan fit my personal profile of what kind of college I wanted to work at."

See "RD" on page 2

NC Wesleyan Community Reflects on Anniversary of 9/11

By Decree Staff Writers

The 9/11 fifth anniversary evoked a wide variety of memories and feelings among the NC Wesleyan College community. Here are some reflections shared with members of the Decree staff:

Rachel Dix, manager of the College Store, said that the attacks

hit close to home for her. She said her family had to wait more than five hours to learn the fate of two nephews who were working in buildings near the World Trade Center. It turned out that one nephew had just left a building where 286 were killed. The other nephew was not in the building

because he was home with a sick daughter. She added that her son-in-law was supposed to be in building 7 of the WTC complex, but due to a scheduling change was flying back to Kansas City. "The 9/11 anniversary is very personal to me," said Dix, adding, "I think **See "9-11" on page 2**

