

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

Students Lament Sudden Departure of DSA Gabe Raynor — 'The Heart Of the Community'

By Jessica Bowen
Decree Managing Editor

Students expressed disappointment about the departure of Gabe Raynor, the director of Student Activities, calling him a friend and mentor.

According to Peter G. Phaiah, dean of students, Raynor submitted his resignation and the college accepted it.

The resignation came after the September 11 SGA meeting, and within days, Raynor had vacated his office at the Hartness Center.

Students were left feeling confused and dismayed. In responding to text messages from Decree staff members, Raynor would only say that he hopes that his past contributions will continue to influence the students and that his attitude toward life will leave a "lasting positive impression on (their) lives." He added, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Senior Martin Hill, vice president of SGA and president of Greek Council, said that the loss of Raynor will personally affect him as well as impacting campus activities.

"Two years ago I was leaving this school, no matter what," said Hill. "I was going to NC A&T because I felt that the undergraduate experience here stressed students out."

But that summer, after Raynor spent hours talking to him, Hill decided to stay. Hill said Raynor "let me know I had to stick it out to make a change and I'm still here. He taught me how to do things in a professional way."

Adding that Raynor helped the college retain other students, Hill believes that the loss of Raynor will affect the student body tremendously. "He was not only a leader, but a role model. He helped boost the morale of students. The heart of the community is gone."

Resident Advisor James A. Jones, a sophomore, noted that all "extracurricular activities ran through Gabe, and he handled it and made it fun."

On a personal level, Jones noted that Raynor, a former RD at the college, is the type of person who "encouraged students to come and talk to him." Jones said that Raynor related well to NC Wesleyan students and "you could talk to him about anything."

Sophomore Shirley Pabon said she was upset about Raynor's departure. "He was cool with everybody and appreciated everyone," she said, pointing out that Raynor is a "people person and a friend for everybody."

Like Jones, Pabon thinks Raynor's absence will have a significant impact on student activities. "I will say it'll be boring," said Pabon. "It's been quiet since he left and it feels weird without him." She thinks the students will miss Raynor, because, unlike Raynor "a lot of professors and coordinators don't have relationships with the students."

Junior Kelvin Clark, president of SGA last year, said the news of Raynor's sudden resignation was "surprising, unexpected, and disappointing." Clark is also worried

about student activities, stating that "homecoming is not going to be what it could have been."

Clark feels that Raynor's absence will affect the level of creativity put into programs and that students will have to work hard for what they want. "Unfortunately I don't believe that we have enough aspiring leaders to do so," he said.

Ken Kornegay, a junior, was dismayed by the move. He said "our leader is gone and our voices are not heard." He commented on the relationships formed with Raynor, saying "organizations built bonds with Gabe and now we have to form another bond with someone new."

Raynor served as advisor for Kornegay's organization, Student African American Brotherhood, as well as many other groups. Kornegay said that last year's programs were well done, in large part due to Raynor's leadership. "I really think the campus leaders should get the exact reason why he is no longer here."

SGA President Tina Sirois said she enjoyed working with Raynor, but is confident that student groups will be ready for homecoming.

"I'm not sure what really transpired with Gabe but it was great to work with him," she said. "Fortunately, homecoming won't be too hard to plan because the board is really planning a lot of the events by itself."

Robin Pietryk, head volleyball coach and assistant softball coach, thinks that Raynor's departure will leave a void. "I knew of Gabe but I never got to work with him. But from what I have been hearing, the students really got along with him and formed great relationships with him. So he will definitely be missed."

NC Wesleyan has hired Sarah Ashworth as the new director of Student Activities.

(Jessica D. Jones contributed reporting to this article)

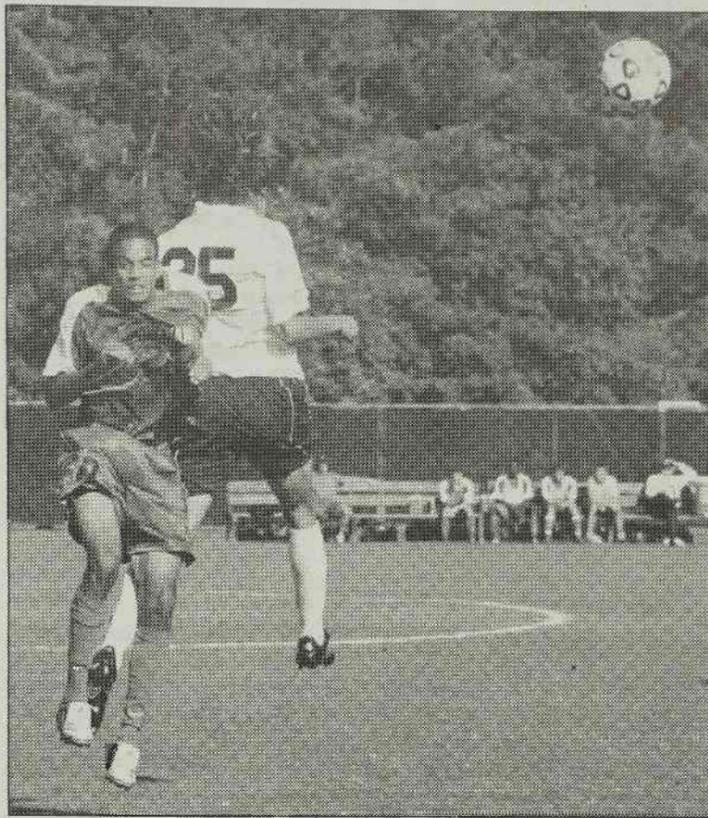
NC Wesleyan Welcomes Seven New Professors

By Decree Staff

Seven professors have joined the full-time faculty at NC Wesleyan.

The Mathematics and Science Division has welcomed two new members: Dr. George Whitwell in chemistry and Dr. Jeffrey Kuglitsch in earth sciences.

An assistant professor of chemistry, Dr. Whitwell comes to NCWC after 23 years of experience in private industry. He was employed at Akzo Nobel Chemicals in New York state as a research chemist, scientist, and research and site manager. He earned a B.S. in chemistry at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and an M.S. and Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Cornell University. A specialist in chemical synthesis of electronic materials, he has authored or co-authored 22 publications and he has received eight patents. Dr. Whitwell and wife, Mary, a retired veterinarian, have three children: Phoebe, 13,



Decree Photo by Grace Wallace

The NCWC men's soccer team has been head and shoulders above the competition so far this year. Pictured here, midfielder Dan Jones (in white) heads the ball in recent action against Chowan, a 12-0 drubbing by the Bishops

Best-Selling Novelist Allan Gurganus Visits Wesleyan in Early Highlight Of 50th Anniversary Celebration

By Jessica Autumnne Smith
Decree Staff Writer

The Visiting Writers Series has always been, at least for me, an enjoyable night out with friends to hear a great story told by a great story teller. For NC Wesleyan's 50th anniversary, the college asked Allan Gurganus if he would be a part of the celebration. To the delight of many, Gurganus agreed.

Gurganus, a veteran and native son of Rocky Mount, has been called The Great Southern Storyteller. He masterfully integrates the Southern culture and language into his stories, which in part makes them so familiar. and

yet so exotic. He is truly a great author, and as Dr. Steve Ferebee said in his introduction of Gurganus, a "great liar;" for a fiction writer must "construct a believable truth" that their readers will willingly buy into, while inventing the characters and events entirely from imagination.

Gurganus chose to read his short story entitled "Blessed Assurance" because one, he felt the geography mentioned (the mill village and the textile mill, the bridge and the river) would be familiar to his audience, and two, he claimed it as one

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Max, 10, and Johanna, 7; as well as four pets: Clyde, a Husky mix; Nemo the cat; and Nora and Bert, two anoles (a type of chameleon). When he's not in the lab, Dr. Whitwell likes to spend time with his family and enjoys swimming, hiking and "making crude but utilitarian items from wood, metal, or computer languages."

A native of southeast Wisconsin, Dr. Kuglitsch earned a law degree from Washington University (St. Louis) and worked as an attorney for 10 years in Milwaukee, handling criminal defense and probate cases. Dissatisfied with practicing law and inspired by a trip through the western United States, Dr. Kuglitsch made the jump into academia. He earned graduate geology degrees from Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Wisconsin-Madison, establishing himself as a paleontologist who specializes in working with

microfossils. Prior to coming to NC Wesleyan, he taught for five years in the Wisconsin state college system. He and his wife, Judith, an attorney, have two daughters, Rebecca and Linnea. In his free time, Dr. Kuglitsch enjoys hiking, canoeing and golf.

The English Department has appointed two visiting professors for the 2006-07 school year. Amy Knox, a Rocky Mount native, will teach composition classes this year. She holds a B.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill and an M.A. from Wake Forest University. Her academic interests include composition and Irish literary renaissance (late 19th, early 20th century—"That is right before, during and immediately after Irish independence"). She has worked in a law office and taught writing at Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem. In her spare time, Knox likes to

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NCWC Men's Soccer Dominates with Team Depth, Potent Offense, Stingy Defense

By Trevor Seibert
Decree Sports Editor

On the campus of North Carolina Wesleyan College, the word domination can be defined by the men's soccer team.

How dominant have the Bishops been? By October 3, the team had compiled a perfect 10-0 record. It boasts a 5.29 goal scoring average that ties them with perennial powerhouse Medaille (Buffalo, New York) for the highest average in the nation. And the team has allowed four total goals this year, shutting out six of the first ten opponents.

With eight each, Lucas Fuentes and Osumanu Otoo have paced an attack that has seen 18 players register at least one goal.

Freshman goaltender Renato Corte has posted a .55 goals against average in nine games, while senior Jeff Johnson has not yielded a goal.

For the team the biggest win came early in this season on September 19th when the Bishops traveled to Greensboro College in a match that pitted the top two teams from last season. In 2005, the Bishops beat the Pride 2-0 on the way to a perfect 6-0 regular season mark in the conference. But Greensboro avenged that loss with a 2-1 victory in the conference title game in Rocky Mount. That match ended in a fight between opposing players.

This year Fuentes scored from about 12 yards out to win the game in double overtime against the Pride. Despite the bad blood from the past two seasons, NCWC's two-time conference coach of the year Jason Kilby stated that, "I give props to both teams because the game never got out of hand."

With the Bishops playing so well, Coach Kilby was quick to point out that nobody is really the "star player" on the team. Freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors alike all battle for starting positions day in and day out. Kilby noted that, "we have consistently played 20 guys almost every game; we like to wear opponents out."

This is possible to do against weaker opponents but not always against stronger teams. In the Greensboro match, NCWC used 16 players. "It's great when you have players that can go in and play for 45 minutes and then you can throw another one in who is just as talented for the next 45," Kilby said.

With a perfect record, Kilby does not seem worried about his players getting too big headed about their first-half success. That's because of last season's loss in the conference title game.

He said that his team is hungry to make it to the NCAA Tournament this year, and eventually, try to win a championship. If the Bishops are to bring home a National Championship this season, NCWC is going to have to play 90 minutes against the many talented teams it would face along the way.

With that said, Kilby is doing everything in his power to prepare players for that kind of competition. "We need to improve our speed of play and our overall work rate," he said. "This is our job, and we have got to step up and take it (winning it all)," exclaimed Kilby.

When the Bishops have finished dominating teams, watch for Kilby to call his team to the sidelines and make them run. When asked about this, Kilby stated that, "it isn't punishment, we do this to help the guys get ready for the tougher opponents, because I'm going to need some of those guys, who are only going to play 45 minutes against weaker opponents, to play 90 against championship caliber teams."

This year's Bishop squad looks poised and determined to win it all.