

# THE DECREE

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March 14, 2008

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

## After Seven Years at NCWC, Newboulds To Depart for England

Dr. Ian D. C. Newbould will step down as president of NC Wesleyan on June 30 to accept the position of President of Richmond, The American International University in London.

Wesleyan's board of trustees will meet soon to plan for the transition to new leadership. It may consider naming an interim president while conducting a full-blown search.

Since his arrival in 2001, Dr. Newbould has overseen numerous changes to the college—construction and expansion of facilities, the establishment of a football team, and a significant increase in the number of full-time faculty. In 2002, he helped steer the college through its successful accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. During the 2006-07 school year, the college observed its 50th anniversary and gained statewide exposure while it was considered for possible integration into the UNC system, a move that the study committee rejected last spring.

Dr. Newbould is excited about the move to England, where he earned his doctorate at the University of Manchester.

"This will be a fabulous opportunity for Carla and me, and we were excited to accept it," Dr. Newbould said. "I wish to thank the board of trustees for the opportunity to serve these past seven years. We leave the college and Rocky Mount with both sadness and excitement. We have wonderful friends in the community, and will remember Rocky Mount with great fondness."

Thomas A. Betts, Jr., former chairman of Wesleyan's Board of Trustees, praised Dr. Newbould and his wife for their service to the college.

"I had the good fortune to serve on the committee that recruited Ian and Carla Newbould to North Carolina Wesleyan College," he said. "It was the best decision the college ever made. They took to the town and the town took to them

immediately; they were an instant hit, and they were well received by all. Mrs. Newbould immediately became involved with campus life and city life. She began by having students in the President's home often, and with great enthusiasm, and with warmth. Dr. Newbould briskly rolled up his sleeves and tackled the many issues facing the college back then."

Richmond is an international and intercultural university with 1,100 students from 100 different countries. It has



Dr. and Mrs. Newbould on campus in 2001

PR Photo

campuses in Richmond upon Thames and Kensington in London, and in Florence and Rome in Italy. It is recognized as one of the leading U.S. institutions of higher education abroad, with business and international relations among its areas of expertise.

Dr. Newbould is an expert in 19th Century British history; among his publications is a book, Whiggery and Reform 1830-1841: The Politics of Government. He has been elected a fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Great Britain. He received his bachelor's

degree from the University of Western Ontario and master's from the University of Guelph.

A native of Canada, Dr. Newbould came to Wesleyan from Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, to begin the college's 2001 fall semester. Dr. Newbould served Mount Allison as President and Vice-Chancellor for 10 years.

During the next several months, Dr. Newbould will be completing a new five-year strategic plan for Wesleyan. He also looks forward to taking part in the groundbreaking for a 12,000-foot addition to the College's Elizabeth Braswell Pearsall Library that will nearly double its size and make the library a focal point of the campus.

### Interview

Just before publication deadline, The Decree conducted a brief email interview with the president.

**Q:** What accomplishments at Wesleyan give you the most satisfaction?

**A:** First and foremost the reaffirmation of the accreditation in 2002. It is not widely known, but SACS had expected us to lose our accreditation and it was very complimentary of what took place in the 16 months that Lee Riggins (then VPA) and I had managed to accomplish. Full marks go as well to Fred Grissom and several others.

Other highlights include the raising of close to \$10 million thus far in a financial campaign; improved relations with the Rocky Mount community; an almost 50 percent increase in full-time faculty members; completion of the field house and recreation center projects and a new library about to be built; and success and acceptance of the football program.

**Q:** What will be your fondest memories of Wesleyan?

**A:** The people that Wesleyan has—all of the employees, whether faculty or staff, and students. There is nothing more gratifying than seeing the faces of the graduating students as they walk across the stage at graduation. Wesleyan really does make a difference in its students' lives.

**Q:** What are the most significant challenges the college faces in the next, say, three years?

## Rousing Speech Caps Black History Month

By Joyce Collins  
Campus Life Editor

"Martin Luther King has been dead 40 years and lived 39; he has been dead longer than he has been alive, but look at the blessings he has left. It is about being a blessing to someone else." — the Rev. William Turner

The Rev. William Turner, the first black football player at Duke University and now an associate professor of homiletics, visited NCWC to deliver an empowering speech in honor of Black History Month.

Along with Turner's speech, there were many other programs on campus. The "Black Affair," sponsored by Sisters of Distinction, was a party and dance held in the Hartness Center where guests were encouraged to wear black in light of the Black History Month. The Black Alumni Panel was an event led by NCWC graduates: the founder of Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), Davon Davis, and Petteway Resident Director Jasmin Spain; both alumni discussed success after college (see story on page four).

The "Real Deal Crazy Game Show," was a program where students had the opportunity of winning prizes by correctly answering questions relating to black history. "These weren't usual questions about MLK," said Student Activities Coordinator Jennifer Evans. "These were questions like, 'Who wrote Thomas Cabin?' We always hear about MLK and Malcolm X, but they had help."

"Once on This Island," a musical directed by visiting artist Melvin Tunstall III, saw a successful three-day run at the Dunn Center. And the final major program was held on February 27th when student organizations participated in a black history performance. This show included modeling, dancing, singing, as well as a skit.

Turner gave his speech in the Leon Russell Chapel on Tuesday, February 26. People poured into the chapel quickly filling seats. The audience consisted mainly of football players, with a few staff and faculty members.

In introducing the speaker, Wesleyan Chaplain Barry Drum credited Turner for a revelation. "It was not until I studied Pentecostal that I realized that I might as well be black too," said Rev. Drum. "I am black too because I had the honor of working under this man of such caliber."

Turner's words were poetic. He stressed

**A:** Enrollments—There is still work to be done to overcome the negative effects of the mid-90s tuition reduction—and retention. Long term is the endowment, but that really takes time for deferred giving to appear, and a longer history than Wesleyan has had. Enrollments and retention will solve budget issues, and for a tuition-dependent school, that is the basis for sustained economic and therefore academic health.

Close behind is an understanding of what is necessary to increase enrollments. Wesleyan cannot sit still in its programming. Without new programs and program delivery innovations, no

institution can thrive. As someone said to me the other day regarding my own move to England, it's good to seek out new challenges: "If things don't change, things don't change." The same can be said for colleges, and the successful of our competitors have embraced constant programmatic change. NC Wesleyan must keep pace.

**Q:** What traits do you think Wesleyan should seek in your successor?

**A:** That would be up to others to say. Walking on water is the usual joke that one hears.

(Public Relations contributed to this article)

## Ginn Gone, Henninger Takes Helm

By Trevor Seibert and Jarad Brown  
Decree Sports Writers

Jack Ginn spent enough time at NC Wesleyan to see his first graduating class finish four years of college football, compile a 23-17 record, claim their first USA South Conference and pull a stunning upset in the NCAA playoffs. Now, like the original members of the school's first football team, the former head football coach is leaving.

Ginn has accepted a position as assistant head coach/wide receivers at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan—one of the premier Division II football programs in the nation.

In four years as the Battling Bishops head coach, Ginn brought the team to national prominence. In 2007, the team finished the year with a No. 23 national ranking, an undefeated conference record and a win over number one-seeded Washington and Jefferson College. The win gave the program its first ever tournament victory and marked the first time in the history of Division III football that a No. 8 seed upset a No. 1 seed.



Jack Ginn

In light of Ginn's departure, Wesleyan's Director of Athletics John Thompson promoted defensive coordinator Mark Henninger to head coach.

Coach Thompson said that Henninger's familiarity with the college and players on the team made it an easy decision. "There are many reasons that Henn is the right man for the job—his experience, his personal preparation to be a head coach and how integral he was in the development of the program and its current players."

A native of Indianapolis, Henninger joined North Carolina Wesleyan in 2004 after a four-year assistant coaching stint at his alma mater, Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. The winningest Division III football program in the nation, Wittenberg produced three NCAA Division III playoff appearances and a record of 41-7 during his tenure.

Henninger hopes to continue the winning tradition at NC Wesleyan. "Coach Ginn laid a solid foundation for our program here at NC Wesleyan," Henninger said. "I'm honored to be chosen to build on his success, and I'm excited to start a new chapter of Wesleyan football."

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## Audiences Wowed by 'Once On This Island' Performances

By Julianne Cyr and Kimberly McCorkle  
Decree Staff Writers

One of the best performances at Wesleyan, "Once on This Island" combines the classic Romeo and Juliet swooning and crying with a rollercoaster of senses. Highly revved emotions and a give-all cast made this production a joyful and tearful experience for all.

"Once on This Island" started off with a bang, or rather, several bangs and a storm. Ti Moune (Brittany Richardson), whose name means "little orphan," is the main character, who is dropped off in a tree during a storm manifested by Agwe (Malcolm Armwood), the god of rain. Ton Ton (Gregory Spence) and Mama (Dionne Luckett), an older childless couple, happen upon Ti Moune. And, with the help of Erzulie (Chalstin Cooke), the goddess of love, they decide to finally take in the little girl.

Filled with odd circumstance predetermined by the gods, Ti Moune finds her true love, Daniel (Stuart Briscar). Sadly, she discovers him after a car accident in a storm several years after she was orphaned. Fighting for his life and going against the will of Papa Ge (Antonio Rowland), the god of death, Ti Moune tends to Daniel night and day to save his life. This sparks a controversy between Papa Ge and Erzulie. What is stronger—death or love?

When Daniel is taken back to his rich village on the other side of the island, the poor Ti Moune, unbeknownst to herself, sets out to fulfill her fate. She travels through unknown wilderness with the help of Asaka (Nicole Louisius), Mother Earth, and reaches the gates of Daniel's village. After she manages to get past the guard, she finds her love, still suffering from pain and illness. Ti Moune dances for, cures, and makes passionate love with Daniel, only to soon meet his beautiful, yet arrogant fiancée, Andrea (Jamie Hummel).

Needless to say, a broken heart is never a pleasant experience. Daniel and Andrea are married and, in their village's custom, they throw coins to the peasants at the same gate Ti Moune once traversed to find her love. As Andrea leaves the gate, Daniel hands Ti Moune a few coins in what feels like

payment for past services. Ti Moune, there at the entrance of Daniel's world, dies of a broken heart.

This musical, with all its ups and downs, must not have been an easy task for the cast and crew. And despite some minor flaws in lighting, sound, and a few forgotten lines, they pulled it off beautifully. Dressed to impress and paired with voices to inspire, the deities and other main characters set the stage for a wonderful show. And when Asaka declared that she "will provide," she wasn't kidding. She provided a musically brilliant and lively performance along with Papa Ge, Agwe, Erzulie, Daniel, Andrea, and Mama.

Melvin Tunstall III was brought to Wesleyan to direct this year's tribute to Black History Month. When asked what he believed was the most inspirational moral offered

by the story, Tunstall responded that "love is blind." This story truly inspires all individuals to disregard race, religion, riches, and all other inhibitions so that we may truly follow our hearts.

And, in speaking of the play's romance, everyone seemed thoroughly impressed. Polly Medlin, a 4-year-old play critic and sister of one of the child actresses, Lauren Medlin, remarked that the romantic scene between Daniel and Ti Moune made her "blush" and "cover her eyes." Polly wasn't the only one to have her emotions stirred by the storyline. When the audience realized that Daniel would forsake his true love for tradition and what was to be expected of him, many audience members let off gasps and groans.

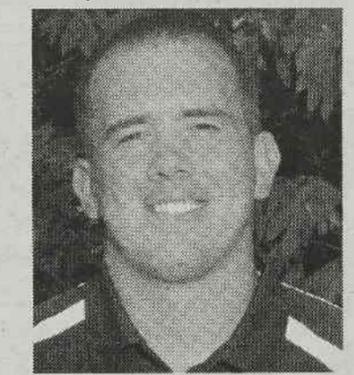
But the play did not end in total sadness. The gods cheerfully turned Ti Moune into a tree that would bear down on the gate that kept her and Daniel apart. She cracked open the gate of segregation, forever allowing two once-separated worlds to coexist in happiness. And in a twist of fate, she sheltered Daniel and Andrea's little boy, who she made sure fell in love with a peasant girl not unlike herself.

In closing, the play offers some words of wisdom. Remember, as Mama said, to "choose your dreams with care." Love one another, for Erzulie reminds us that we are all "part of the human heart" that beats as one. And, as Papa Ge found out, you can't "prove death is stronger than love."



Brittany Richardson, left, and other cast members perform a scene from "Once on This Island."

Photo by Penrod



Mark Henninger Sports Information Photos

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