

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

Wesleyan Community Wants Experienced, Goal-Oriented President

By James Randolph
Decree News Editor

During the midway point of Dr. Stanley P. Caine's term as interim president, Wesleyan has intensified the search for a new leader.

As the committee continues to push forward with finding potential candidates, members of the Wesleyan community weighed in on what qualities they think the new president should possess.

Chief among all the qualities mentioned was experience. When asked what would be a turnoff if she were reviewing applications, freshman Courtney Baggett said "(lack of) experience would be a big turnoff; we don't want a newbie."

Other students and staff agreed with Baggett's claim that experience should be at the top of the priority list when choosing the new president. "We need someone with a good track record as

far as previous students and staff are concerned," said junior Keith Bertrand.

NCWC Reference and Instruction Librarian James Parrigin offered a number of insights from the position of a former member on a search committee at another institution. Parrigin also noted that he would like to "see evidence of real past successes. When I was on (the search committee at his previous school), I served with a man who had entered the position of president at a small institution much like Wesleyan with an enrollment of slightly over 800 students. When he left, the enrollment was nearly 17,000 students. I would like to see a track record that shows someone capable of stepping in and stimulating the growth of an institution."

Interviews with more students were met with similar responses. Junior David Avsby and sophomore Crysta Pearse both declared that experience is a "necessity" for the position. Pearse said "we need someone who is not a newcomer, someone with evidence of success."

Aside from experience, the Wesleyan community suggested looking for everything from a sociable extrovert to a fundraising genius. The new president's relationship with the college community and his or her improvement of Wesleyan's reputation were key concerns.

"The students should be able to socialize and make a real connection with him," said Baggett.

Bertrand agreed that approachability is vital. "This is a small college," he said. "We need someone who is willing to walk around and meet students and really sell himself."

NCWC Student Account Representative Allison Moss said "I'd like to see a people person, one who takes time to get to know faculty and staff and students."

Parrigin added that the Wesleyan search committee should look at the policies of the candidates and choose the candidate whose vision for Wesleyan most matches their own. Parrigin said "(the new president) should be dedicated to helping the college reach financial stability. And increasing the endowment of the school and communicating honestly with the faculty and staff are important."

Parrigin noted that not all presidents have been willing to share information

with the campus community in order to keep up appearances to the outside community. "Transparency is essential to trust," he said.

Junior Ivan Butler declared "trustworthiness, relationships (with students), and accountability should be the new president's top priorities."

The consensus within the Wesleyan community was that the new president should be a visible, experienced professional whose goals include growth in the endowment and improvement of Wesleyan's image within the community.

Dr. Kim Martin, faculty chair and an associate professor of psychology, explained that the search committee was appointed earlier in the summer by the school's board of trustees.

Dr. Martin is a member of the committee along with Associate Professor of Business Dr. Stan Smedley, Student Government Association President

Jacob Strickland, Dunn Center Director Sheila Martin and NCWC Trustee Board Members Nana Mah'moud, Thomas Betts, Dr. Paul Leeland, Dr. Will Pitman (committee chair) and Vel Johnson (vice chair).

The search committee is assisted by RPA Inc—a company that specializes in aiding higher-learning institutions with acquisition of resources and personnel. "(RPA) has provided assistance in helping (the committee) to decide which are the most important qualities that we're looking for in a president," Dr. Martin wrote in an email. "There are many characteristics that are important for the next president to hold, but I think there's a consensus in the committee that chief among them is commitment to creating and implementing a coherent vision for Wesleyan, and energetically articulating that vision for the purpose of community relations and develop-

ment of resources for the institution."

Dr. Martin explained that the search committee was still really in the earliest stages of beginning to narrow down the field of potential candidates. "Right now," she said, "the search committee is in the process of reviewing candidate's resumes and will go through several stages to reduce the number to those that are the closest match to what we are looking for. After that, we will begin interviewing candidates. I am very optimistic about the potential of many of the candidates."

Current Interim President Stanley Caine offered his insights in choosing his successor. "The new president should be someone who believes in a small liberal arts college and has a commitment to the community and region," he said. "We have a great relationship with the community and the next president needs to maintain that relationship."

Six Chosen For ODK

By Decree Staff

Six students have been inducted into the local chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honorary leadership fraternity, it was announced at recent Founders' Day activities.

The new student members include Tiffane Bustos, Meredith Hester, Brandon Jones, Amanda Landi, Juliana Richardson and Jacob Strickland. Rachel Dix, NCWC store manager, and Dr. Bill Yankosky, associate professor of mathematics, were selected as well.

A senior history major, Bustos has been involved in a number of campus activities, including Wesleyan Singers, the Music Club, Club Dramatica, and the Cinematography Club. She has served as a peer academic leader (PAL) and volunteered with the college's disabilities coordinator.

Associate Professor Jonathan Sarris praised Bustos' work in the classroom. "Tiffane is a bright, creative student," Dr. Sarris said. "She goes out of her way to tackle difficult assignments and seems to relish the challenge of dealing with complex issues. She genuinely enjoys learning more than any other student I've encountered at Wesleyan. She wrestles tirelessly over challenging issues or sources, working them out in her mind and with other students. And when she has one of her frequent "aha!" moments in class, the light bulb doesn't just go off over her head, it illuminates her entire personality."

Hester, a junior exercise science major, is a member of the college's honors program. She has excelled on the soccer field as a midfielder/forward, scoring a team-high 12 goals this past fall, and as a team captain.

"Meredith has been a captain since her sophomore year here which is an extremely high honor coming from her teammates," said her coach, Beverly Biancur. "I take pride in our program because of its "blue collar" work ethic and I believe Meredith exemplifies this quality. Each practice is at game pace and Meredith leads this by example. The respect that she has earned from myself and her teammates is because each day she gives 100 percent. A very competitive player, she was the reason the team as a whole never gave up and ultimately beat teams in many overtime matches. She is not afraid to put the team on her shoulders and guide them to success, which sometimes is not necessarily found on the scoreboard. I can ask Meredith to fill a role on the field and she will do it without question."

Jones, a senior, has been a writing center tutor and a history tutor and he's the current president of

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Students Exult in Election of Obama

By Jade T. Johnson
Decree Staff Writer

With the election drama dying down throughout the nation, the results bring a wide range of emotions out of Wesleyan students. For months the nation was captivated by the possibility that the first African-American president would be elected. With that November night came the hope that for the first time in history everyone in this country could truly be seen as equal and capable of accomplishing anything.

On election night, a crowd of elated students jammed the road in front of Collins Hall in celebration of the new president-elect. The victory for Obama seemed to resonate with all black students; there were shouts of "we did it" for days after the election.

"I feel that it was important to a lot of African-Americans because he is the first African-American to become President," said junior Earnest Richard. "He is a nice change to what we have now."

Dissatisfaction has been hanging over the heads of many Americans for the past eight years of the Bush Presidency.

"If ever there was a doubt about the importance of exercising the most

fundamental right of citizenship, it became clear when Obama won," said junior Moses Kanga.

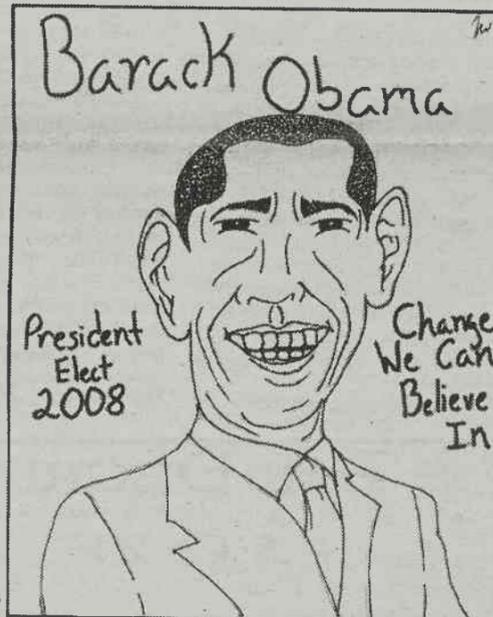
"I think that it's great that I was able to witness a great change and I hope that the future holds great outcomes," commented freshman Matthew Ellis. Not all students felt the same about the results.

"I wasn't really surprised by the outcome of the election. Personally, I don't like Obama, but I'm kind of excited to see what he does in office," senior Jimmy Vincent said. "Hopefully he comes through on a lot of his political promises."

A few still feel that the election of Obama will cause nothing but attacks on the nation because of Obama's

race.

Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) has been chosen as secretary of state by the Obama camp, so voters who were once divided in the primaries can now have the best of both worlds.



NCWC Political Scientist Reflects on Obama Win

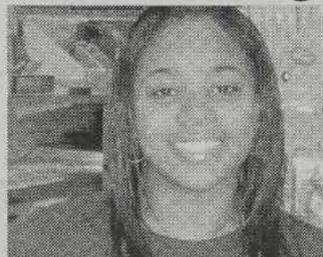
By James Randolph
Decree News Editor

In a decidedly lopsided election, Illinois Senator Barack Obama earned 365 electoral votes which was more than double that of his opponent, Senator John McCain with only 173.

Although many were amazed at the result, experts including Wesleyan's own Dr. Cameron Matthews were not at all surprised to see the Illinois Senator elected the 44th president.

In an interview after the final presidential debate, Dr. Matthews made several predictions that turned out to be

Homecoming Queen & King



Latoya Pilgreen-Little and Quinderra Spellman were honored as NCWC Homecoming Queen and King on a day that saw Spellman and the Bishops football team dominate Greensboro College. For sports, see pages 4-5.

Decree staff photos.

realistic way for Senator McCain to get to 270 (electoral votes)," Dr. Matthews said.

When asked about the few swing states he called incorrectly in the last interview, states that included North Carolina and Indiana, Dr. Matthews replied, "I said I was likely to be as wrong about North Carolina as I was right. It was fifty-fifty either way, so I chose Republican because of the state's history." Dr. Matthews said that the fact that the state went Democratic was not really surprising at all. "It will be interesting to see if this is a long-term trend or an Obama-caused outcome."

In the long-time Republican state of Indiana, Dr. Matthews admitted that he was not expecting Indiana to turn blue. "I was surprised about Indiana," he said. "It is a Republican state. The fact it didn't go for McCain right away (and eventually not at all) meant he was going to have trouble with working-class voters. He needed them to win, so Indiana was an early sign of Obama's (national) win."

Dr. Matthews compared the current election to the election in 1980 when the "in-party" was replaced by the "out-party" in a landslide election where economics was the paramount focus of voters.

With the current administration moving out of the White House and the new one attempting to stabilize itself in preparation, Dr. Matthews also weighed in on the challenges facing the new president-elect.

Dr. Matthews identified several issues he would like to see Obama tackle in the early going. "Personally, I'd be unhappy if he did not address the budget deficit and the national debt, which is around \$10.6 trillion dollars," he said. "I'd also like to see him address the trade deficit while embracing free trade. Deficits, debts and trade imbalances are all inflationary and there are few things worse than inflation, especially for the poor and working class."

When asked what he looked forward to most in the executive cabinet, Dr. Matthews said "fresh blood and fresh ideas...he did promise change, after all."

Officially, inauguration day is Jan 20th, 2009, when one executive reign will end and another will begin. When asked if there were any final words he'd like to share about the incoming or outgoing presidents, Dr. Matthews replied "Don't write President Bush off yet. If, in 20 years, Iraq and Afghanistan are functioning democracies friendly to the US, history might vindicate him."