

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

Cost of Wesleyan Education To Rise 6.88 Percent

Leila Heinonen
Decree Staff Writer

NCWC will increase tuition and room and board 6.88 percent for 2011-12, pushing the total costs from \$30,940 to \$33,070 per year.

Total educational fees will rise 8 percent, with 5.17 percent of that increase going toward tuition and 2.83 percent financing a new textbook program. Room rates will increase 3.43 percent and board, 3.9 percent, college officials announced.

The increase is the highest in three years. President Gray said he was not happy to announce the increase but believes that it will improve the college and the student learning experience. "Our mission is to provide a better school every semester," he said.

According to President Gray, NCWC is going through many changes and improvements to become the "America's next great college." One of the big changes next year is to include the cost of books in the tuition fee. Wesleyan is going to purchase books for students and rent them each semester. "It has become a problem that students don't buy books or they get them too late," said President Gray. "It's our responsibility to provide tools to learn." The book charge per semester is \$325, calculated into the tuition increase.

President Gray emphasized that NCWC is not the only school that has increased tuition. Mount Olive College and Barton College both are increasing the tuition as well, he said.

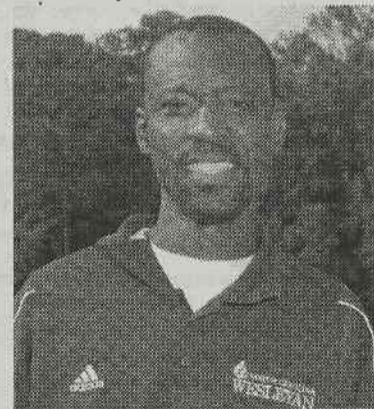
According to Jazmine Wheeler, a Barton College admissions counselor, the tuition will increase 5.2 percent next year. And according to Tiffany Grandi, Mount

Taal Appointed Soccer Coach

By Decree Staff

Frankie Taal has been named men's soccer coach at NC Wesleyan following the announcement that Jason Kilby has accepted the head position at Mary Washington University in Virginia.

"He'll do a tremendous job. He knows the ins and outs. He's been instrumental in building our program," Kilby said of Taal, adding that his long-time assistant has been "like a family member. I'll miss him."



Frankie Taal will now lead the NCWC men's soccer team. SI photo

Taal, a native of Gambia, has been an assistant for the past seven seasons. Prior to joining Wesleyan, he was an assistant coach for the Bethany College men's team. He served two seasons as head women's coach at Bethany, his alma mater in West Virginia.

During his playing career, Taal was a two-time Presidents' Athletic Conference all-conference selection. He was a member of the Bisons' 1994 national championship team.

Kilby leaves after nine seasons at the helm of the Bishops. His teams have posted a 120-43-13 overall record. Last season, the Bishops won the regular season USA South championship with a 5-0-1 record, including a 3-2 upset victory on October 13 against rival Christopher Newport, which was then ranked number one in the country. The Bishops lost to CNU, 3-1, in the conference tournament, and failed to gain an at-large bid to the NCAAs despite its 13-4-2 overall record.

Under Kilby, the team's most impressive season was 2007, when the Bishops—ranked number two in the nation for most

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Olive College admissions counselor, their tuition will increase 5 percent.

President Gray noted that the national recession is still affecting Wesleyan and its students. "Our cost goes up every year, and we also want to improve the campus," said Gray.

According to President Gray and Vice President of Finance Loren Loomis-Hubbell, the school will improve in many ways. The plan is to replace carpeting and conduct other renovations to some sections of the residence halls, improve the cafeteria, upgrade technology, enhance class room environments, as well as providing textbooks.

Some Wesleyan students were not pleased about the tuition increase. Some international students said that they will now face problems with financing their studies next year. "I'm already struggling to pay the tuition this year and I don't know if I can afford to come back next semester," said junior Kristin Seidel,

Students Receive New Option in Wesleyan Villas

By Leila Heinonen
Decree Staff Writer

The pink Wesleyan Villas sign welcomes you to the new clean neighborhood, north of campus. The front sides of the light yellow and beige townhouses are packed with students' cars. I ring the doorbell while admiring the fresh light yellow paint on the walls and the beautiful front porch. Melanie Rhodes welcomes me in. I am facing the large open space with a chestnut colored hardwood floor and a new big kitchen with granite countertops. The big windows on both sides of the house create natural bright light to the kitchen and living room area. The furniture was still missing but the baby grips and car seats catch my eye. Rhodes tells me that there are six students and two babies, 9- and 18-month-old girls, living in this townhouse.

According to Steve Myszak, director of residence life, there are 17 students living at Wesleyan Villas. There are three different townhouses: one is housing six male students, the second has six female students and two babies, and the last one consists of five female students. There were more than 35 applicants but only 17 of them were chosen. "We didn't really have any particular criteria but we emphasized the GPA, number of credit hours, and their classification," said Myszak. "We wanted to get the commuters back to campus area."

Commuters Rhodes, Jessica Jackson, Nicole Drake, and Malaika Mussa moved back on campus for a number of reasons. "I moved here because of the easy access to school, work, and everything I need," said Rhodes, "and it is cheaper to live here than renting an apartment alone in Rocky Mount, and paying utilities." Mussa agreed with Rhodes: "I moved here because I lived in Goldsboro and it was really expensive to drive back and forth or rent an apartment alone." The commuters were also promised \$1,000 towards their financial aid if they return to campus. "The townhouses are nice because it's included in financial aid and you do not necessarily have to cough up money every month," said Drake.

Jakob Aronsson, Morten Granan, Kieran Bertsch, and Brittany Holiday agreed that the Wesleyan Villas are better compared to dorms. Bertsch wanted to move away from the dorms but still be able to socialize and have fun with roommates. "And of course to get away from the caf food," he said. The students at Wesleyan Villas are required to get the commuter meal plan of 50 meals for \$260 instead of the full meal plan for \$2,050 which is mandatory for the dorm residents. "We save a lot of money because we don't have to pay for the full meal plan at school," said Bertsch. Holiday was glad to move out of the dorms. "Dorms were noisy

and full of drama," she said. "I couldn't study or eat at the caf."

The town houses have two and a half bathrooms, one master suite, and three bedrooms upstairs. They are spacious and bright because of the open floor plan and big windows. There are two different types of rooms: single rooms that cost \$2,635 and double rooms for \$2,550 per semester, including utilities. For the dorms, the single room rate is \$2,350 and double room rate is \$1,895. Even if it looks like living in the villas is more expensive, the students save a lot of money when they are not required to take the full meal plan.

Rhodes is sharing the master suite downstairs with Drake. "I really like my room, and especially the bathroom including the hot tub," said Rhodes. Bertsch also enjoys the master room in his place. "I love our room. It's spacious," he said, "and the walk-in-closet is really big but I guess it's more important for girls than for guys."

Jessica Jackson and Malaika Mussa wanted to have the single rooms because they both have baby girls living with them. "I have an 18-month-old daughter so I wanted to get the single room for us," said Jackson. Mussa is also happy that school provides the opportunity for the mothers to live with their kids. "It would be great if we could have one whole house for students who are also mothers," she said.

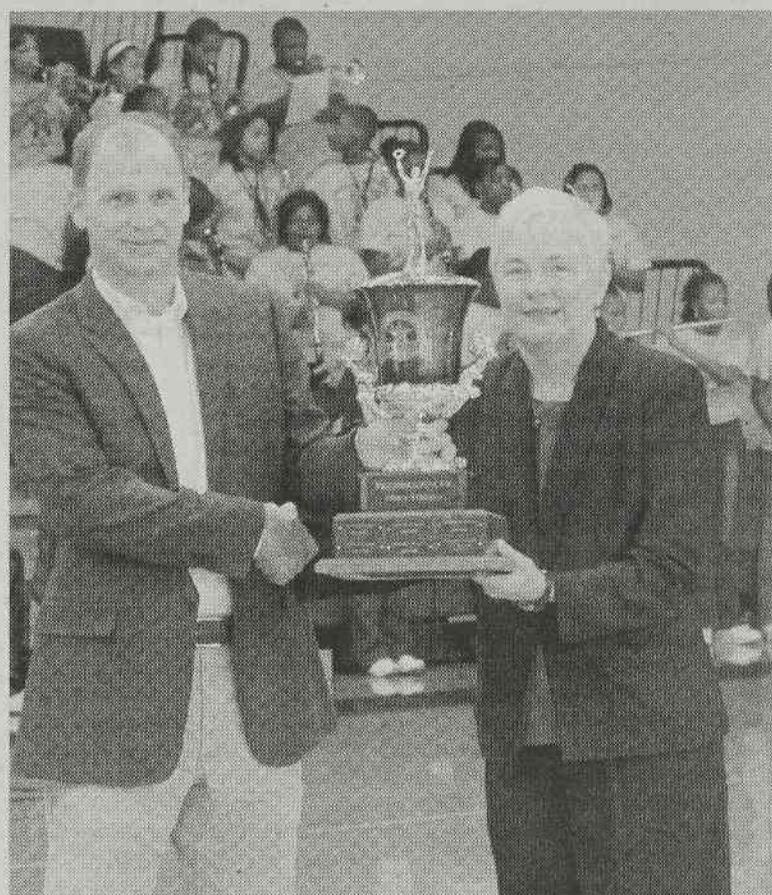
It is not a surprise that all the students enjoy living at Wesleyan Villas. "I really like living here," said Rhodes, "especially the home feeling." Rhodes is also happy to have polite and friendly roommates. "I really like the girls, and especially the kids," she said. "I have grandchildren so I love to be around kids."

All the students were excited about having their own kitchen, where they can cook and hang out together. "We cook a lot in this kitchen," said Mussa. "Sometimes we cook and eat together with our friends." Bertsch, Aronsson and Granan emphasized the flexibility. "We have more flexibility when to eat and what to eat," Bertsch said. "At the caf there are strict eating times and not that many dinner options," he said. Granan added, "We also have a great group of guys living here and it makes it more fun."

Even if the life at Wesleyan Villas looks new and exciting, there have been some problems with the houses, rules, and the neighbors. As late as mid February, students were complaining about the missing living room furniture and appliances.

In a more recent interview, Myszak reported that it took up to eight weeks to obtain the custom-designed furniture needed for the town houses. He said that he was notified late last semester of the finalized plans to move Wesleyan students into the Villas.

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Carl Lewis, NC Wesleyan's faculty athletic representative, accepts the college's first ever All-Sports Trophy for men's athletics from Rita Wiggs, commissioner of the USA South Athletic Conference. See article on page 3. SI photo.

Bishops Take USA-S Tourney, Season Comes to End in NCAAs

By Kevin Quicker
Decree Sports Writer

One member on the USA South all-conference first team, two members on the all-conference second team, conference coach of the year, regular-season conference champions, conference tournament champions and a trip to the NCAA championship. This was the impressive resume of the NC Wesleyan men's basketball team for the 2010-11 season.

The team finished with a 21-7 record over all and an 11-1 mark in the conference. The Bishops took advantage of their home court, winning all 14 of their games at Everett Gymnasium. But their hopes of a NCAA championship ended in the first round against Franklin and Marshall as the team lost by a score of 69-56 in Norfolk, Va.

Junior Matt Dougherty (15.3 ppg) was selected as a member of the USA South all-conference first team, juniors Alex Murray (12.4 ppg) and Domarius Thomas (14.1 ppg) were on the second team, Ric Yarbrough was placed on the all-sportsmanship team, and head coach John Thompson was the USA South coach of the year for the second consecutive season. Thomas was chosen the MVP of the conference tournament.

Coach Thompson saw the potential in his team early on. "As soon as the first practice began, I knew we could become the team we were," said Thompson. "We were always evolving and getting better every

Contested Elections For Wesleyan's SGA

SGA elections are in progress, with winners to be announced by April 1, current board members announced.

Running for president are three juniors—Jamie McCrease, Megan Simpson and the current SGA secretary, John Williamson.

The winner will succeed Jacob Strickland, who has served an unprecedented three consecutive years in office.

The other contested race is for vice president, with Erick Higginbotham and Marcus Wright as the declared candidates.

Unopposed are Vivian Brown for treasurer and Sharise Jones for secretary.

day and we became a great team by the end of the season."

This Wesleyan team achieved two "firsts"—the first Wesleyan men's hoops team to win back-to-back regular season champions and the first to claim both the regular season and the conference tournament titles.

It was not an easy road for the Bishops. The preseason poll predicted Wesleyan would finish fifth in the conference. On hearing that, Murray wanted to prove the doubters wrong. "I knew we had a good team before the season started," he said. "With the great teammates I have, I knew we could play against anyone." And that they did, beating last year's tournament champions Christopher Newport twice and beating preseason-favorites Ferrum two of three times. After losing their first meeting with Ferrum on the road, the Bishops claimed the regular season title by winning their season finale, 74-71, as Dougherty hit a last-minute three-pointer from the left flank. Then, in the conference tournament title game, the Bishops vanquished the Panthers in overtime, 74-70, after the team blew a fourth-quarter lead.

The Bishops' dream season ended in the first round of the NCAA tournament to Franklin and Marshall. "It's always tough to lose your last game of the year," Thompson said. "Franklin and Marshall was a solid team and we weren't as sharp on offense like we were all year."

Murray believes that nerves affected the Bishops early in the game. "Being in the tournament was very exciting," he said. "Adrenaline and nerves affected our young team but we were able to settle down as the game went on. What we gave just wasn't enough."

Next year, with all their starters and a total of nine juniors returning, the Bishops look to repeat as conference champs and play farther into the NCAAs. There is plenty of optimism. "We have high expectations for next season," Thompson said. "We will come back better next year than we are now. We are very determined and hungry to make that next step."