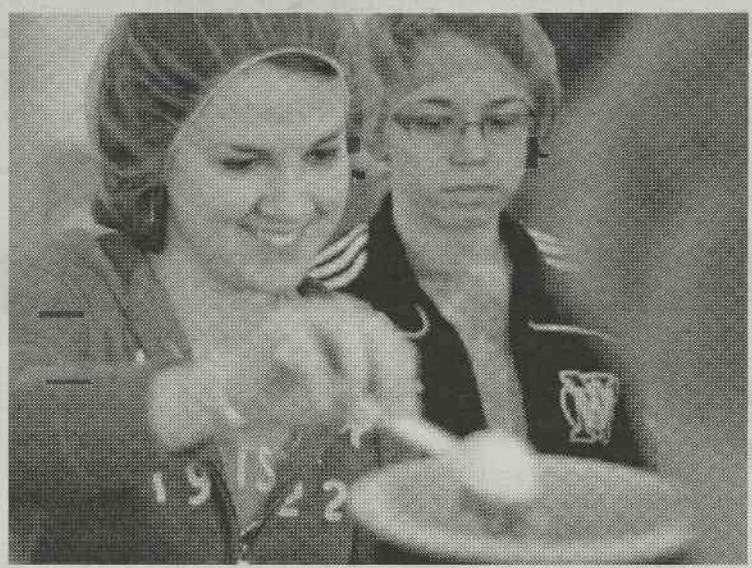


THE DECREE

since 1960 "of, by, and for the Wesleyan community."

May 10, 2012

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804



Student Sarah Livesay was one of more than 100 members of the Wesleyan community to participate in the Stop-the-Hunger service project earlier in the semester. The group assembled packages of food for the disadvantaged.

C. Lewis Photo

Cain, Hooks Elected to Lead NC Wesleyan Student Government

By Anna Hart
Decree Staff Writer

Rebekah Cain has been elected Student Government Association president, while Terrance Hooks, a fellow junior, was elected vice president in recent student balloting held at the Blue and Gold Café.

Other new officers include Secretary Rajon Ward, Treasurer Deontae Swain, and Senior Class President Samantha Urquhart.

The official vote tallies were not made available by SGA election coordinators.

SGA is a student-based committee at Wesleyan organized to give the students an opportunity to communicate directly with the administration. Members of SGA are responsible for addressing student concerns, allocating funds, and supervising the association's committees.

"Rebekah will make an amazing SGA president for many reasons," said senior Jesse Southerland, a fellow member of Refuge, who added that Cain is one of the most self-motivated people he has ever met. "She is very encouraging, responsible and organized in all she does."

Cain said that one of her main goals is to improve communication between the student body and the administration. She also plans to work closely with her fellow officers, students, faculty, and staff to make everyone's time at Wesleyan count.

"We're beginning to create a stronger route of communication by utilizing new methods," Cain stated, adding that, "if someone has a problem or sees an area that needs improvement, they should have two well-thought-out suggestions for such improvement." Cain hopes this fresh outlook will result in a healthier and more productive student body.

Cain intends to achieve her goals as SGA president by continuing the work that has already been accomplished by previous leaders, while bringing new ideas to the table. "I want to see everyone's experience at Wesleyan become brighter through more service, school spirit and academic activities," the new president said.

Hesitant about joining the association at first, Cain said she is now glad she decided to run for president. "Initially I wasn't positive about SGA but after several fellow students asked me to consider running, I decided to do it." Cain believes her previous leadership positions at Wesleyan will help her effectively serve the student body. "I feel that I can learn and adapt pretty well, but with the help of my peers and the faculty, staff and administration, we can all help create a more efficient SGA and have a great impact," Cain said.

As president, Cain plans to represent the student body by having direct and honest meetings with the college administration, the board of trustees, department chairs, and leaders of campus organizations. Through these meetings, Cain recognizes that she will have the

Student Costs to Rise 3.37% Next Year

North Carolina Wesleyan's price tag will rise 3.37 percent for the 2012-13 school year, President James Gray has announced.

The increase will cover tuition, books, and room and board, the president said.

Last year, the first for its books-in-tuition program, the college raised total costs by 6.88 percent.

President Gray said that this year's hike is slightly lower than the increases announced by most of NCWC's small-college competitors in Virginia and North Carolina. "We are especially pleased that we can include all of a student's books in this lower-than-average increase in tuition, room, and board," he said. "It puts us in a good competitive position with our peer schools and it's reflective of the concern we have for the finances of our students and their families."

Loren Loomis Hubbell, vice president of Finance, explained the 3.37 percent hike will cover an across-the-board rise in expenses, but that next year's budget includes provisions for financing of some new initiatives and/or moderate increases in spending for the following areas: student support/advising, faculty and academic programming, coaching and the athletic program, administrative services to ASPIRE students, and admissions/marketing.

opportunity to be the voice of the student body. "I promise to be honest, respectful and dedicated to represent our students," Cain stated.

In an attempt to keep students involved with SGA, Cain would like to see awareness rise through other clubs. Cain thinks it is important for students to recognize the vital role that SGA has on the campus and student life, in general. "I feel like students should know how important their opinions are and how they need to be heard," she said. "If they have dreams and aspirations for what they want out of their college experience, SGA meetings are the perfect time to share."

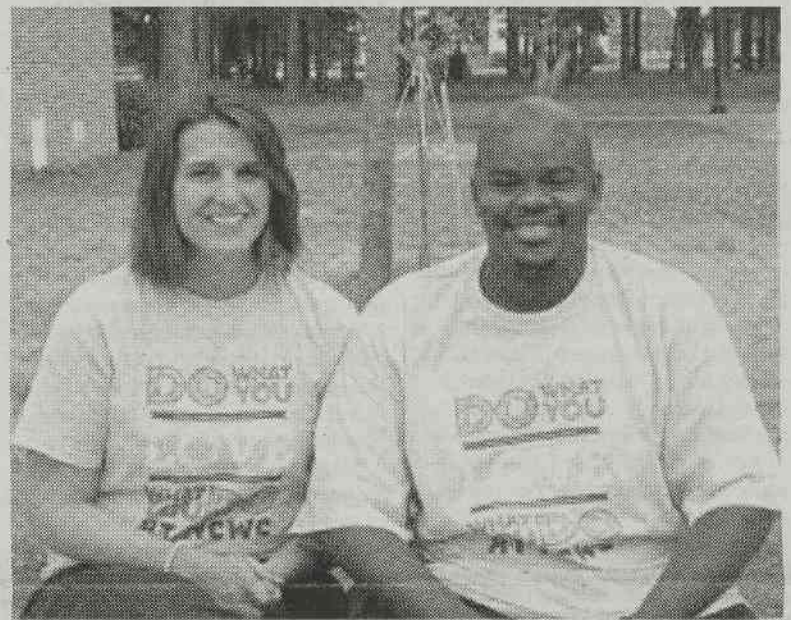
Cain shared her excitement about being elected president. "I am honored

goals he wishes to fulfill. "I'd like to bring religion back to the campus."

Hooks stated, stressing that it is crucial to get more students involved. "It's all about having a voice," Hooks said. "I want every student involved."

Not a stranger to being involved with school organizations, Hooks is a member of the Psychology Club. "Terrence has a very positive presence," noted Dr. Fred Sanborn, the club's advisor. "He's good at connecting with all kinds of different students. He genuinely cares about people."

Another goal for Hooks is to elevate use of the Hartness center. "The Hartness is a recreational building that's supposed to draw in students," Hooks stated. "I want to improve it." Hooks



New SGA President Rebekah Cain and Vice President Terrance Hooks

G. Wallace Photo

that my peers chose me to represent them," Cain said. "I understand that there is a lot of responsibility that comes along with this position but I'm very excited to work with the other SGA officers. It will be an adventure for everyone!"

Although she will be very busy, Cain is looking forward to serving the student body as SGA president. "Big things are coming for our campus," Cain stated. "Morale is picking up and it will continue to exceed expectations. We're only here for a short time and we need to have the best Wesleyan experience possible."

As the new VP, Hooks has similar

plans on revitalizing the Hartness by organizing more social events there.

To keep students engaged and aware of SGA activities, Hooks intends to send out mass e-mails, texts, and Facebook messages about upcoming meetings and events. In his new position, he oversees the residence life, security, and food committees of SGA and openly welcomes all complaints or suggestions from the students.

As vice president, Hooks hopes to bring the Wesleyan community together. "As a leader, I'd like to unite students so we can come together as a family."

Police Investigating Thefts, Five Ex-Students Charged

By John Kostet
Senior Staff Writer

Rocky Mount police arrested and charged a former Sodexo employee and five former NC Wesleyan students in connection with several thefts on campus dating back to October.

The culprits were identified by police while they were investigating the latest series of thefts, which struck the Collins residence hall during spring break. City police are continuing to investigate the spring break thefts, according to Randy Williams, vice president of Student Affairs.

"Thefts aren't something new on our campus, and unfortunately it's a problem on most college campuses," Williams said, as he explained how the spring break thefts were unique. "They were done without force and clustered."

While Dean Williams would not disclose the names of the students who had been charged, he did acknowledge that four students have been expelled in the wake of the earlier incidents.

In its March 24 edition, The Rocky Mount Telegram reported that the following individuals had been arrested: Malcolm Dwayne Swinson, 20, Christopher Dan Gutierrez, 20, Jimmie Lee Glaspie Jr., 23, Sterling Armand Smith, 20, Quinton Lamont Joyner, 21, and former Sodexo employee Jared Blake Elliot, 24. According to The Telegram, Gutierrez, Glaspie, Smith and Joyner were each charged with felony breaking and entering, felony larceny after breaking and entering, and felony obtaining property by false pretenses. Swinson was charged with felony

possession of stolen goods and misdemeanor breaking and entering, while Elliot, the former Sodexo employee, was charged with two counts of second-degree trespassing and one count of misdemeanor larceny.

The college registrar's office confirmed that Swinson, Glaspie, Smith and Joyner were not enrolled as of April 15. It said that Gutierrez was enrolled last fall, but that he had withdrawn during the first week of classes in January.

The most recent thefts occurred during spring break in Collins Hall. Dean Williams reported that three rooms were hit on the second floor, and three on the third.

One of the victims was freshman Noah Huff, who was traveling with the baseball team at the time of the incidents. "There was nothing we could have done to prevent it. The door was locked," said Huff, who said he lost an Xbox, two controllers, two hard drives, three games, as well as several textbooks. "Our room was completely trashed when we got back."

Paden Dietrich, Huff's roommate and baseball teammate, said that they returned to his residence hall on March 1 around midnight. He found his room locked. When he entered, he said, "the drawers were pulled out and there were clothes all over the place, and my blankets were thrown around. I looked around in disbelief. I'm thinking 'Really. What the F?'"

Dietrich estimated that he lost \$2,000 worth of belongings that included an Xbox,

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Graduating Seniors Look Forward to Next Step

By Sara Sims
Decree Staff Writer

Graduation is what all seniors are anxiously waiting for this spring.

Mackenzie Tingle, one of 186 set to graduate, is anxious for the May 5 ceremony at the Dunn Center. "I'm ready to start the next chapter of my life, but I know there's more to do here and to get ready to move on," she said a few weeks before the end of the semester.

Of the 186 students, 79 come from the Rocky Mount traditional program and 107 from the three ASPIRE sites: 47 from the Triangle campus, 26 from the Goldsboro campus, and 34 from Rocky Mount.

A lot of seniors plan to further their studies in a graduate program. Tingle, a Winchester, Virginia native, is a sociology and psychology double-major with aspirations to be an occupational therapist. NCWC's Female Athlete of the Year, she plans to use her education this summer while in an internship at Womack Hospital in Fayetteville. She intends to apply to three graduate programs.

Tingle reflected on her time at Wesleyan as a member of the volleyball team all four years. "One of my favorite memories was winning rookie of the year, 1st team all-conference and freshman athlete of the year," she said. "I was so surprised and honored to receive all of those awards and I couldn't wait for volleyball season next year."

A couple of Maryland seniors, RJ Bass and Justin Wolf, share the same favorite memory as Battling Bishops on the men's soccer team. "It was freshman year when we beat CNU at home, 3-2, to win the conference," Bass said.

The pair shares a second great memory from a Virginia Wesleyan game. "When we came back to tie VA Wesleyan in the final minute, that was a great game," Wolf said.

Bass, an exercise science major, hopes to play rugby after graduation. He will be living with Wolf in Myrtle Beach for a while before trying to play rugby in New Zealand. "Since rugby is only semi-pro here, I couldn't make it a career," he said. "If I was offered a spot over there, I would accept in a heartbeat." If not, Bass plans to get his masters in exercise science and would like to be a strength-and-conditioning coach.

Wolf, a business major with an accounting minor, said he would like to pursue a job in banking. "But my dream job would be a professional poker player," he said.

Dani Abbey also plans on attending grad school and has applied to Virginia Commonwealth University. The Dinwiddie (Va.) native is completing an exercise science degree and hopes to work as a physical therapist technician until she completes her graduate program. Abbey then wants to be a physical therapist for wounded soldiers. She admitted the same nervous feelings about graduation as other seniors. "I'm excited to move on with my life," she said, "but I have so many memories here and I'm nervous about grad school and what will happen next."

Devin Nichols views graduation with a sense of urgency. "I'm happy

to graduate but reality is setting in that it's really time to grow up," the Fayetteville native said.

A Wesleyan hooper, he is applying to law school at NC Central and Elon and is graduating with a major in criminal justice and sociology minor. Nichols is also considering joining the military to help pay for his education. His favorite memory was traveling to New York City with the men's basketball team. "It was my first time going to Time Square," he said, "and it was bigger and more exciting than I was expecting."

April Pfeiffer is planning on taking some time off after graduation before getting her master's degree. The Goldsboro native's number-one choice for graduate school is North Carolina State University. As a psychology major, she is still unsure what to study if she does attend a graduate program. But first she plans to move to Raleigh and begin searching for a job.

Many of the Wesleyan seniors found themselves reflecting on their years here as a Bishop. Nichols offered some advice that he will also be using during his post-graduate education. "Don't procrastinate when it comes to school work!" he said.

Likewise Tingle offered some words of wisdom for underclassmen: "Stay on top of your work and have fun. These four years flew by for me. You should enjoy every minute." Bass provided similar guidance: "Make the best of every day you have 'cause it flies by."

Besides the U.S., six foreign countries will be represented among the graduates: Canada, Russia, England, Finland, Sweden and Iceland. From the United States there will be 165 from North Carolina, 10 from Virginia, nine from Maryland, and one from New York State.

The commencement speaker will be Chancellor Holden Thorp from UNC Chapel Hill. Thorpe is the 110th Chancellor for Chapel Hill and has many accomplishments that will help him to inspire the Wesleyan graduates.



Athletes of the Year: Robert Kjellberg, men's tennis, Mackenzie Tingle, volleyball, seen here with AD John Thompson.

SI Photo