

CAMPUS LIFE



Among the participants at the recent 'Dash for Cash' benefit race in Greenville was a contingent from the NCWC softball team (from left): Carly Creef, Alexis Jones, Noodle Allen, Britany Manning, Laura Roberts, Sierra Hayden, Tiffany Manning, and leaning on table Paige Pritchett. Not pictured is Jasmine Edgren. The annual race is a fund raiser for college scholarships in memory of Christopher Cash, Sr., a 1993 NC Wesleyan graduate and service member who was killed in June 2004 at age 36 near Baqouba, Iraq. PR Photo

Internationals Return after Observing Unique Holiday Traditions

By Katie Beeman
Decree Staff Writer

North Carolina Wesleyan College has always had a significant number of international students that come from all corners of the world. This year, in fact, Wesleyan hosts students from 20 different countries.

While Christmas for Americans usually consists of a Christmas tree, presents, time with family, and religious ceremonies, for international students these traditions may vary.

Asia

Motoko Asano, a freshman from Kanagawa, Japan, explained some of the differences between how Japan and America celebrate the winter holidays. "Christmas

is not huge like it is in the United States," said Asano. She said most Japanese families have a small tree, about three or four feet tall, and some even put lights on their houses. A special Christmas treat consists of some form of cake. Christmas doesn't hold much religious significance, she explained, seeing as most people in Japan don't have a religion. "Usually Japanese go out with their boyfriend or girlfriend; it's a more romantic holiday rather than one you spend with family," said Asano, who went on to say that presents are exchanged on New Year's Day.

Sabina Paudel, of Kathmandu, Nepal, said that their version of Christmas isn't even dur-

ing December and is broken into two periods. Christmas goes from September to October. "The first period lasts for 10 days and the other for five," she said, explaining that during this time there are feasts and firecrackers as a celebration. Presents are given by parents or grandparents, but not from Santa.

Some Nepalese celebrate the English New Year as a more commercialized event, similar to what they see in American movies. "Most young people celebrate the English New Year. The Nepali New Year is celebrated the same way, just at a different time," said Paudel, noting that the Nepali New Year is in April.

Europe

Christmas doesn't come to Russia until January 7, explained senior Irakli Marutain, a native of St. Petersburg. "We're Orthodox, so we have dinner with family and then go to the church." The main celebration for Christmas is just a big dinner, he said. There are no presents for Christmas, but rather for New Year's Day.

"New Year is a bigger holiday," stated Marutain. "This is the time that we have the tree and presents."

For England native Joe Storer, Christmas means family, pubs, and football (or soccer, as we call it in the States). A resident of Alfreton in Derbyshire, Storer said that Christmas Eve is spent with family and then the younger people go out as if it were a regular Saturday night. "We get home around 2 or 3 a.m. and Santa has already been to the house," Storer said, "but we're far too drunk to even consider opening presents."

Presents are opened on Christmas morning and then it's back to the pubs in the afternoon. "We'll see a lot of people we haven't seen for a few years in the pubs on Christmas day, so it's good to catch up and chat," said Storer. Most families cook a turkey, or some other bird for Christmas dinner. "We usually have a capon (rooster) in my household," said Storer. "We all like that much better. It's a bit more expensive but we get one cheap because our family friends are butchers."

England recognizes Boxing Day as a national holiday that falls on the 26th of December. According to Storer, this is the best day to go see a football game. Most women go shopping, he said, noting that the sales are much like Black Friday here in America.

Latin America

Ewardo "Lalo" Ugaldé, a freshman from Queretaro, Mexico, talked mainly about the traditional food. "We have a special dish that is called 'romeritos,'" he noted. "It's mole, a special sauce made with chocolate and chile, with potatoes and romeros, a plant." Fish, turkey and pastas, such as spaghetti and ravioli, are also a part of the Christmas dinner in his family.

Ugaldé said that it is common for families to go to church around 8 p.m., before dinner. Families put up a tree and exchange presents. "At midnight everyone exchanges the Christmas hug and fireworks are common as well," said Ugaldé.

In Venezuela, Christmas is fairly similar to the United States, according to Ricardo "Ricky" Ciuffetelli, who's from Caracas. The family gathers at one house on Christmas Eve around 8 to talk and have appetizers until dinner is served at 10. A typical Venezuelan dinner consists of hallaca, sides of chicken salad, and pan de jamon (Venezuelan Christmas bread). "The hallaca is like a chicken pot pie, but more dry. It can have chicken, or beef and have different vegetables inside," said Ciuffetelli. "And pan de jamon is a type of bread with ham inside."

At midnight, presents are exchanged and afterward the family socializes by talking, drinking coffee, and playing games. "On Christmas morning we wake up around 11 or 12 after a long night and open more presents, the ones that Santa brings," he said. "And then we all get together again in the same house we went for Christmas Eve." The family serves turkey for lunch and stays together until night time.

Africa

Muhamadou Jallow is a student from Banjul, the only city in Gambia. For Christmas, he related, Gambians first go to church and then everyone gathers in Banjul. "Everyone comes to the city and there's a big parade," said Jallow. Participants dress in costumes with masks made out of clay. "The masks are shaped like different animal heads and some have horns," said Jallow.

Jallow explained that since Gambians return to the country for Christmas from all over the world, the style of street clothes varies from person to person during this large celebration. After the parade, Gambians go home and exchange gifts with their family or go out to clubs.

The New Year's celebration is the same as Christmas, but it is even bigger, Jallow said.

NCWC Alum Serves as New Residence Life Area Director

Shenika Harper &
Decree Staff

(Editor's Note: This is the second in an occasional series about alumni and former staff members who have returned to work at NC Wesleyan.)

Wesleyan graduate Jonathan Rice has just completed his first semester as area director for Edgecombe and Petteway residence halls, a job that he finds challenging and rewarding.

Living in Petteway, he supervises a staff of six resident advisors. In his position, he helps to keep rooms in order, mediates disputes, serves as a liaison to the administration, handles discipline problems, and assists students with academic issues.

Jessie Langley, Associate Dean of Students for Campus Life, said that Rice has shown that he's "interested in growing and

learning in his position."

Calling Rice a "positive, very caring person," Langley said that he possesses the right personality and temperament for the job.

Erma Hedgepeth, a member of the Student Success Center staff, agreed with Langley's assessment. She worked with Rice while he was a Wesleyan student and a leading member of Voices of Triumph, the college's gospel music ensemble. She said that Rice, a former president of VOT, is a true leader. "He handled the position in a very professional manner, and if he needed to put students in their place, he did so, but in a very respectful manner," Hedgepeth said, adding that Rice is "very charismatic" and effective at building one-on-one relationships.

Trying to spend as much time as possible with students, Rice said he understands how that he's in charge, while making them comfortable enough to talk to him about their needs. He said that it helps that he was once a Wesleyan freshman himself.

Rice acknowledged that his job is challenging. Dealing with plenty of first-year students, young



Area Director Jonathan Rice ('07)

men and women, he indicated that his daily schedule is variable and that he often faces long days, "depending on what's happening."

When he began his new position, Rice

said that he looked for ways to relate to students. "Since I don't play sports, I had to start building relationships by finding things that we had in common," Rice said, explaining that he builds rapport and respect with the students by getting to know their likes and dislikes, in areas such as movies and video games ("Hunger Games" is one of his favorites), not to mention music, one of his passions while he was at Wesleyan.

In his free time, Rice has continued to perform gospel music. In 2012, he toured Germany with the New York-based Glory Gospel Singers. And last month, singing "For Your Glory" by Tasha Cobbs, he finished 16th in a qualifying round of the Super Bowl Gospel Festival. The competition was conducted on-line with performers uploading YouTube videos that were rated by viewers. Had he finished in the top 10, Rice would have advanced to the next round in Atlanta, where he would have sung before a live audience as well as well-known gospel recording artists Kierra Sheard, Bishop Paul Morton and James Moss.

A Henderson native, Rice has experienced the difficult North Carolina job market first-hand. Since graduating in December 2007 with a degree in business administration, he has held a series of jobs, most of them part-time. He has been employed at the YMCA in Rocky Mount and Henderson, serving in a range of positions such as after-school and campus counselor. Most recently, he worked at Infinite Possibilities, a community organization in Henderson that supports single mothers. There he mentored teenaged students. "The program was geared toward giving students a sense of purpose," Rice said, noting that the teens were involved in community service projects such as conducting food drives and assisting local elderly citizens. "In our sessions we talked about current events, leadership, goal setting, and issues that teens face during their adolescent years. Being a facilitator was very rewarding. I'm still in contact with some of the students today."

Rice said that he always wanted to return to his alma mater as an employee. Now that he's back, he feels a sense of accomplishment.

TENNIS from page 3

"I'm honored to be given this opportunity at North Carolina Wesleyan," said Amores. "I look forward to building upon the regional and national success of the men's program, and I welcome the challenge of establishing our women's program as a yearly contender in the USA South."

Amores competed for Division I Jacksonville State University (Alabama) from 2005 to 2008, winning a pair of Ohio Valley conference titles in 2005 and 2007. In 2009, he moved to the sidelines as a student assistant coach and helped the Gamecocks secure another conference tournament crown, as well as a spot in the national rankings. After completing his degree in business administration that same year, Amores served as a professional instructor at the Anniston and Willow Oaks Country Clubs while working on his master's degree, which he completed in sports management at JSU in 2011.

A native of Quito, Ecuador, Amores was heralded as his country's No. 1 player in both singles and doubles in the Under-14 and Under-16 divisions. Additionally, he was ranked No. 1 in doubles for the Under-18 division, while representing his country in four South American Junior Circuits, as well as several European junior tournaments. At 16, Amores moved to Europe to train and play ITF and satellite tournaments, and he has since competed and trained with Davis Cup players from Ecuador. More recently, Amores has volunteered his time and efforts to work with the top junior players from Ecuador, coaching players who have been ranked in the top-10 in both Ecuador and South America.

(Article courtesy of Sports Information)

Ask Student Affairs: Handling Roommate Problems

Question: What advice would you offer a freshman who's experiencing difficulties with his or her roommate? Let's say that the problem stems from contrasting lifestyles. The student comes to you and says the following: "I like quiet, while my roommate enjoys listening to music at all hours. I like to turn in early while my roommate is a night person. I like my space to be clearly defined, while my roommate prefers a more "communal" approach, sharing clothes, food and video games, etc." How would you respond? What steps should the aggrieved roommate take?

Response by Jessie Langley, Associate Dean of Students for Campus Life:

I would say that the lack of good communication is the underlying issue to most roommate conflicts. The scenarios you mentioned are definitely common and can be resolved if both roommates are willing to have mature, ongoing communication about them. The Residence Life team and I regularly help students navigate these types of issues. Often when students come to us requesting permission to switch rooms, we find that the reason behind this is that one party has let an issue fester for far too long without speaking up about it, and then he or she just wants to get out.

The problem is that this student will very likely run into challenges with a new roommate, even if they're not the same issues. Another problem is that the students involved would miss the opportunity to learn about communication and conflict resolution, invaluable skills they will use throughout their lives. For these reasons, we encourage students to have

open communication about issues when they first present themselves. This usually allows for things to be resolved before they escalate and calm conversation becomes more difficult.

We also provide students with support to have these difficult conversations. We can role-play to help them feel more ready to have the discussion with their roommate or we can be involved as facilitators of those conversations until the students are ready to begin tackling these situations independently. The resident advisors (RAs) can even sit down with both roommates to develop a "roommate contract" that defines the "rules" of their room. For a contract to work, both parties will have to be willing to make compromises and be creative in identifying solutions. For example, a "night owl" might be willing to use a small lamp for light and headphones to listen to music/TV after 10 p.m., so that his/her roommate can maintain a sleep schedule that involves going to bed early. The other roommate might be willing to wear a sleep mask and prepare all of his or her clothes/items for the next day before going to bed so as to be quiet in the early-morning hours when the "night owl" is just getting into REM sleep.

While we're not aiming to have students create something as lengthy as Sheldon Cooper's infamous "roommate agreement" on "The Big Bang Theory," details certainly are important. Both roommates must be involved in the creation of the contract to ensure that issues of importance to both parties are covered fairly.

Cookout Wins Again

For the fourth consecutive year, Cookout was the runaway winner in The Decree's informal restaurant poll of students, faculty and staff.

Located at 1020 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Cookout racked up 25 first-place votes, 17 more than Zaxy's, the second-place finisher in the fast-food category.

The North Carolina-based restaurant is known for its low prices and wide variety of sandwiches and milkshakes. According to local store manager Daniel Barbee, its most popular items include the Cookout hamburgers and double-burgers, and chicken nuggets. The top-selling shake is the strawberry cheesecake.

In their responses, many Cookout enthusiasts noted the wide range of side items: french fries, cheese fries, onion rings, hush puppies, corn dogs, chicken nuggets, chicken wraps, bacon wraps, quesadillas, coleslaw and chili.

When he's at Cookout, student Trey Cooper favors the Cookout "tray," of course. He orders chicken quesadilla (as an entrée), a double order of cheese fries, and a sweet tea; price tag: \$4.59 plus tax. "Cookout's cheap and offers variety," he said.

Carly Creef appreciates the low prices as well. She orders chicken nuggets, fries, and sweet tea. "It's only three bucks," she said, "and the food has the homemade flavor that other fast-food doesn't have."

Like her classmates, Tiffany Joyner emphasized the value offered at Cookout. She gets the chicken strip tray with double cheese fries and a large sweet tea. "I love Cookout because they have very cheap prices and you get your money's worth," she said.

Olive Garden once again took first place in voting for

the top area "sit-down" restaurant. It garnered 9 first-place votes to edge Applebee's (8), Chili's (7), and San Jose (6).

Robert Kjellberg, a native of Sweden, voted for Olive Garden. His favorite menu item is seafood alfredo pasta. "It reminds me of the food from Europe," he said. In the survey, conducted last fall, Decree staff members asked participants to select their favorite sit-down and fast-food restaurants in the Rocky Mount area. Follow-up questions asked respondents to explain their choices and identify their favorite menu items.

While a total of 70 members of the NC Wesleyan community were surveyed, not all responses indicated a fast-food restaurant. For the purposes of this survey, the Decree defined a sit-down restaurant as one where a customer is served by a waiter or waitress.

Here is the final tally:

Sit-down Restaurants

Olive Garden (9), Applebee's (8), Chili's (7), San Jose (6), Ruby Tuesday (5), Outback Steakhouse (4), El Tapatio (3), Red Lobster (3), Texas Steakhouse (3), Golden Corral (2), Ichiban Japanese Steak House (2), Pizza Inn (2), Brian's Cheesesteaks (1), Chico's (1), Crepe World (1), Gardner's (1), Grill on Zebulon Road (1), Highway Diner (1), Hunter Hill Café (1), K&W Cafeteria (1), Madison's Seafood (1), On the Square (1), Pizza Hut (1), Prime Smokehouse (1), Waffle House (1).

Fast-Food Restaurants

Cookout (25), Zaxy's (8), McDonald's (7), Chick-fil-A (6), Bojangles' (4), Subway (4), Wendy's (4), Sheetz (3), Taco Bell (2), Arby's (1), Burger King (1), Hardee's (1), Sonic (1).

ASPIRE from pg 1

(i.e. Manteo, Wilmington, etc) and there is a need for higher education in those areas. In many cases North Carolina does have regional state universities (UNC-Wilmington, ECU) but they don't offer education tailored to working adults in an accelerated, evening model.

Q: Is the focus now on establishing more satellite campuses or growing the existing campuses? What do you project as enrollments at each new campus in the next five years?

A: The main goal now is to strengthen and increase our current locations but always being mindful of potential partnerships with other community colleges in eastern North Carolina. If it makes sense and we have the support of Wesleyan constituents, then we may entertain other instructional locations. Over the next five years, I would love to see a total ASPIRE enrollment of 2,000-2,500 students.

Q: What are some new programs ASPIRE would like to add to individual campuses?

A: At this time, I think we have some very effective and dynamic majors/minors that are offered to our adult students. We need to add more full-time faculty to support our current majors at our Rocky Mount location as well as at some of our other locations. I do think faculty and the entire school need to think about graduate programs and if that is something Wesleyan should consider for traditional and ASPIRE students.

Q: Some have expressed concern about Wesleyan's rapid expansion and that, for example, the college may lack an adequate number of qualified faculty to match the program growth. How do you respond to that?

A: I certainly understand that concern, which is one of the reasons I proposed and succeeded in hiring five new faculty members when I was Provost from 2012-2013 and why I supported the three new hires for this coming academic year. I will always support the hiring of more faculty to support our growth in traditional and ASPIRE.

Q: What do you see as the trends, nation-wide, when it comes to adult education?

A: Most of the research states that non-traditional students (adults) are growing in higher education, and by 2020, that population could be as high as 70 percent. This does take into account graduate programs, which are exclusively adult students. For undergraduate programs I would say that this number will grow beyond the 50 percent mark over the next few years. The need will only continue to grow for quality adult higher education. According to the 2010 Census data, we see for the first time that 30 percent of American adults, aged 25+, have attained a bachelor's degree or higher. While this number is growing, it demonstrates a large population of adults who still do not hold a bachelor's degree.

Q: What percentage of ASPIRE students take classes on-line vs. face-to-face? And what do you think is the ideal ratio?

A: I would say that 90 percent of the ASPIRE students have taken at least one online class on their road to completing their degree. The beauty of our structure is that we allow students to take a mix of face-to-face, online, and hybrid classes to complete their degree. I don't think there is an ideal ratio. I think each student is unique and in working with their advisor, based on their learning style and work situation, will devise a schedule that includes the right ratio that works for him or her.