



The Decree

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JUDGE PHIL CARLTON INSTALLS DR. GARNER AS WESLEYAN'S THIRD PRESIDENT

Dr. Garner inaugurated as president

By MIKE BROWN

Dr. Leslie H. Garner Jr. was inaugurated last week as the third president of North Carolina Wesleyan College.

The inauguration capped two days of celebration and discussion of the future development of Eastern North Carolina, with a number of state and business leaders participating.

At the 2:30 afternoon ceremony, Garner in his inaugural address pledged the college's resources to preparing Eastern North Carolina for a prosperous future and to preserving the region's native culture. "We are in the midst of the most profound economic transition of this century," Garner said. "Yet, all of us should

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Garner hopes to lengthen shadow of Wesley

(The Decree appreciates permission by Dr. Garner to reprint Dr. Garner's Inaugural Address in its entirety.)

By LESLIE H. GARNER, JR.

Thank you, Judge Carlton. It is an honor to have been selected as President of North Carolina Wesleyan College. I appreciate and am humbled

by the trust placed in me by the Board of Trustees. Thank you, Dr. Flowers, Ms. Freeman, Rev. Horne, and Bishop Minnick for your warm greetings.

It was a year ago tomorrow that I visited this campus as a Presidential candidate. Once an offer of the Presidency was extended, I accepted because I had the confidence that the faculty, staff, students and alumni

possessed the wisdom, skill and commitment to make Wesleyan a college of distinction. I have not been disappointed. You are a truly fine group of people. The future of the college is embedded in your spirit, not in my potential.

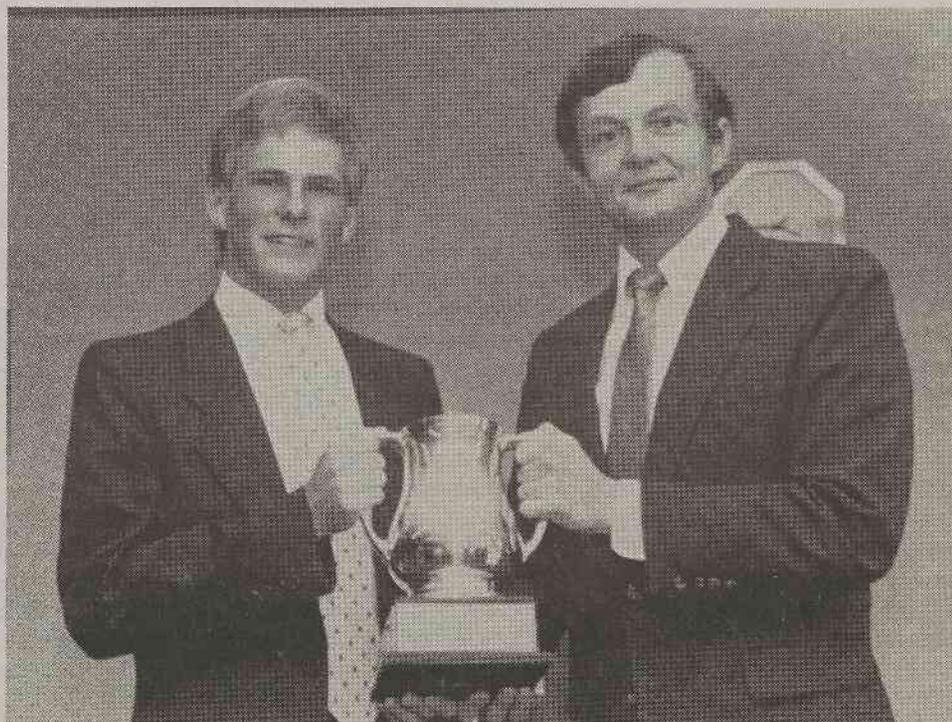
I should note that the campus visit of a year ago was not my first to Wesleyan. My minister brought me here in the 1960's to show me with

pride what this conference was doing in higher education. The campus is as beautiful now as it was then, and it stands as testimony to the commitment of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church to higher education, to the people of this region and to the obvious fact that education is a matter of faith as well as of the intellect. There is a reservoir of good will toward this college and

toward education in this Conference, and, Bishop Minnick, for what you and others in this conference have done for Wesleyan, I and others here today are very grateful.

When I visited this campus a year ago, several of my meetings with faculty and staff were held in the Trustees Room. There we talked

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Awards

Lori Blackburn (left photo) receives the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award and Tom Rivers (right photo) is presented the President's Cup Award by President Les Garner during the annual Honors Convocation ceremony April 10 acknowledging the highest degree of academic achievement, service, and leadership of Wesleyan students. A complete list of award winners will appear in the next issue of The Decree.