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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804



Freshman Luke Williford and the Bishops headed into a weekend series with Christopher Newport on April 8 and 9th with a chance at a title and an invitation to the regional tournament. See sports coverage on pages 4-5.

Photo by Grace Wallace

Sirois Declares Candidacy For President of SGA

By Jessica Bowen
Decree Managing Editor

Sophomore Tina Sirois is running unopposed for SGA President. Wesleyan students can vote from Monday, April 10 through Wednesday, April 12 during regular lunch hours in the cafeteria.

Sirois and current SGA President Kelvin Clark were nominated at the March 27 SGA meeting, though Clark has since decided against a second run. Clark said in a recent interview that he plans to throw his support behind Sirois. Since the nomination, Sirois has obtained the required 100 signatures needed to place her name on the ballot.

Clark and Sirois were the only ones nominated at the SGA meeting, but senior Kristin Hurd expects to run again for secretary. According to Hurd, junior Amber Huggins has expressed interest in treasurer. As of April 3, there were no candidates for vice president.

In a recent interview, Sirois said that she

wants to meet three goals as SGA President. One is to create additional office space for SGA organizations, an idea she attributes to student Mike Fernandez, a coordinator of the college's intramural program. She noted that the groups need space for storage purposes. "If you're a leader of an organization, you end up with signs and posters thrown in your room," Sirois said, adding that the lockers located by the grill are inadequate.

A second goal is improve campus life. She wants to see more compromise between the administration and the students. Sirois said "there are so many rules that students get suffocated."

She believes that NC Wesleyan's "traditional rules" are inappropriate for students "living in modern times." For example, she would like to see the administration compromise on the rule about overnight guests of the opposite sex. She said students should be allowed overnight guests, even if it's just on weekends at first.

Sirois added that she would like for the administration to lessen the number of credits required for students to move off campus.

Her final goal is to continue the improvement of the cafeteria atmosphere and food items. Sirois said that "students get tired of eating the same food, especially at dinner." She says both the cafeteria and the grill are "doing a pretty good job, it just needs to continue."

Sirois would like to see students get more involved in activities. However, she said that part of the problem with the lack of student involvement is the timing of the activities. "Since we're a small school, we only offer activities one time," Sirois said, "and often students have other plans during that time." She would like to work at activity scheduling in an effort to increase involvement.



Decree Photo by Jessica Bowen

Tina Sirois has been nominated to run for SGA president

A Maryland native, Sirois is an Honors Student, with a major in English and a minor in accounting and justice studies. She is an SI leader for biology 101.

She has served as president for the college's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, a captain of the cheerleading squad, secretary of Alpha Phi Sigma and a member of Phi Eta Sigma. She believes her experience would make her an effective leader for NCWC's student body.

"I get really involved in activities," she said. "Being SGA President would be a chance to make a bigger difference. I'm very motivated and determined. If I have to stay up until 5:00 in the morning to get something done, it's going to get done."

If elected, Sirois would take office on May 11.

During the voting period, each student must present a valid student ID in order to cast a ballot. Votes will be counted within 24 hours of the end of the election (April 12).

College To Determine Future of Yearbook

By Shannon Williams
Decree Editor

NC Wesleyan's yearbook, the Dissenter, is currently under review by the administration. The college has been receiving input from faculty, staff, and students on ways to improve the yearbook overall to avoid its elimination.

Peter Phaiah, Dean of Students, has been consulting with several of the college's faculty and staff, as well as SGA representatives on ways to make the yearbook more cost effective. According to Dean Phaiah, the yearbook has received a substantial amount of money for production over the years, but the book lacks the organization and creativity he feels is appropriate for the amount of money being spent. The yearbook receives approximately \$20,000 for production and distribution costs.

Several reasons have been cited for the book being put under review. At a recent meeting, SGA voted 12-1 to keep the yearbook and make improvements. The action came after President Kelvin Clark presented information given to him by Phaiah, stating that the lack of student involvement was the main reason for the review.

Phaiah discussed the lack of an organization to run the yearbook. A distinct organization had existed in the past, providing continuity from year to year and semester to semester. Now the college offers classes, Communications 197 and Communications 297, in which students receive two hours of credit while working on the yearbook staff.

Maurice Dawson, a senior and Dissenter staff photographer, said few students will sit for their photographs. "That's one of the main problems," he said. Dr. James Traer, Vice-President of Academic Affairs and Interim Dean of the College, commented on the lack of student interest as well. "Lots of students decline to be photographed, so it is not a complete record of a year at the institution," he said.

Grace Wallace, staff advisor for the

Dissenter, disclosed information on the number of students, faculty and staff who sat for photos during 2005-2006: 67 seniors, 23 juniors, 23 sophomores, 49 freshmen, and 28 faculty/staff members. According to Wallace, "Seniors and freshmen have always supported the book the most. I guess that's because it's the seniors' last year and the freshmen's first year."

An additional problem, according to Clark, is that there is an insufficient number of yearbooks for distribution to all students. "So much money is spent on producing these books," he said. "Then they're distributed based on seniority, and as a result, some freshmen, who pay activity fees like everyone else, aren't able to get one." Even with the books being distributed based on seniority, he said, "there is no sign-up sheet, so

International Student Profile: Dorcas Ndomale

By Shannon Williams
Decree Editor

North Carolina Wesleyan College has welcomed many international students over the past few years. One of those students is fast approaching the end of her career as an NCWC student.

Dorcas Ndomale has been in Rocky Mount for the past four years, living with a sponsor family and attending NCWC. Ndomale is originally from Bangui, the capital city of the Central African Republic. This is not her first time residing in the United States. When she was about six years old, her father attended a theology seminary in Indiana, so she and her family had to live in Indiana for four years. Including Indiana and North Carolina, Ndomale has visited 13 states in the U.S., most of them along the East Coast. Ndomale actually met her sponsor family, the Parkers, in Newport News, Virginia. They were brought together through the help of mutual friends. The husband and wife were both doctors at a hospital in Newport News, where friends of Ndomale also worked.

Just like her father was many years ago, Ndomale is an international student, which makes her a legal U.S. immigrant while attending the school of her choice. Ndomale is a senior majoring in pre-med

it's basically first come, first served."

According to Wallace, it costs \$17,600 to print 500 copies of the typical 144-page book. Other expenses include fees for the portrait day photographer, art supplies, shipping and distribution, as well as costs associated with the ad solicitation letters sent to parents.

Wallace said the college could save money by reducing the number of total pages in the book and using a more basic cover design, which has been done in the past. This year, in fact, the staff has cut back to 128 pages and plan to simplify the cover design.

Phaiah noted that the college could take the opposite approach: invest more money in the production in order to make a more attractive book that, in

See "Yearbook" on page 6

biology, with hopes of graduating in December upon completion of a few more chemistry requirements.

Her sponsor family told her about NCWC. "I like it here," said Ndomale about Wesleyan. "I can easily get the help I need, as far as tutoring. I can also get help from my professors with my English." Along with English, Ndomale speaks French and Sango, the official language of her homeland.

Ndomale noted several differences in her country and America. "We're a poor country," she said. In the Central African Republic, one American dollar equals 500 francs, which is the type of currency used there. The country of about 3.8 million people is actually rich in diamonds, but does not have the proper equipment to process and export the material. "Foreigners come over to process it for us, but we don't receive just compensation," she said. "So basically, they just take it and leave."

Unlike the average four seasons found in America, the Central African Republic only has two, which she described as a rainy season and a dry season. In the northern part of the country, the dry season lasts longer, but in Bangui, farther south, the rainy seasons last longer. "We have a lot

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