

ARTS & STYLE

New Activities Coordinator Plans 'Fun, Exciting Events'

By Decree Staff

Jennifer Evans, a 2007 alum, has been named NC Wesleyan Coordinator of Student Activities, the third staff member to fill that position in the past year.

Based in the Hartness Center, Evans oversees the Campus Activities Board and the Student Government Association. She reports to the new Dean of Students, Robert Perkins.

"Jennifer is very bright, enthusiastic, and professional," Dr. Perkins said, noting that Evans' work ethic paid dividends in the classroom and helped her gain solid leadership experience.

Her appointment was hailed by other members of the Wesleyan community, who believe that Evans brings the right skills and experience to the job.

"Jennifer is very passionate about this school and the students," said Susan Autrey, a former supervisor of Evans, who worked in the Dunn Center Box Office. "She's smart, organized, energetic, and excited about new projects and events."

Associate Dean Jay Stubblefield, one of Evans' professors in the English Department, agreed with Autrey's assessment, adding that Evan is articulate and

responsible and possesses a fine sense of humor, characteristics that will help her in a challenging position. He said that her experience as a Wesleyan student will allow her to identify and organize the right activities for students.

Evans said that her primary responsibility is to organize "fun and exciting events for the students. I don't want any of the students to say, 'There's nothing to do around Wesleyan.' I want them eagerly waiting for the next big event! My goal is to have so many fun events on campus, the students won't want to leave. I want them to say 'Wesleyan is

the place to be!'"

The new SA coordinator believes there is room to improve in planning and publicizing events. "As a student," she noted, "we were always told to plan in advance and for the most part, we tried to do that but it was usually a few weeks in advance. I want the students to plan so far ahead they can tell other students and staff members what they're doing next spring. Next spring, I want them to be able to say what we're doing next fall."

She underscored that involvement in campus activities can complement the learning that takes place in the classroom. "I want the students to understand being in an organization is an opportunity to learn about leadership and how to effectively communicate with peers and administration," she said. "As a student, I took every opportunity I had to interact with faculty and staff. I wanted to absorb all the knowledge I could about being a strong leader."

A Wake Forest native, Evans majored in English at Wesleyan. Beginning with her freshman year, she was involved in a wide range of campus activities, from

Student Ambassadors, to the Student Government Association and the Campus Activities Board. She served as president of Refuge Club and secretary of Club Dramatica and has performed in more than ten productions. For her efforts, she won the Sarah Alexander Tullos Award in 2005-06 and in May the college conferred on her one of its highest honors, the Sydney Alergnon Award.

In her new post, Evans succeeds Sarah Ashworth, who held a dual post in Student Activities and Athletics as assistant lacrosse coach. Until September of 2006, Student Activities was directed by Gabriel Raynor. His sudden departure caused a furor among many students, who saw him as a mentor.

Evans assumed her duties on July 30. "My primary challenge is to prove that I am able to do my job above and beyond everyone's expectations," Evans said. "I feel I accomplished a lot as a student and now as an employee I want to everyone to say, 'Wow! She's only just begun.'"

(Staff writers Jenna Davis and Chris Ochoa contributed reporting for this article.)

Capsule Reviews of Major Summer Movies: 'Pirates' Is 'Tiring', 'Simpsons' a Blast

By Sean Riccio
Decree Staff Writer

'Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End'

Synopsis: Davy Jones and the forces of the East India Trading Company are tightening the noose, and it's up to Will Turner, Elizabeth Swan, and a resurrected Barbossa to save the high seas. But first they must brave the weird waters of World's End to rescue Jack Sparrow and gather the Pirate Lords for a final battle that will decide the fate of the Golden Age of Piracy.

Review: 'At World's End' is the cinematic equivalent of trying to run in a snowstorm: slow, confusing and tiring. An action movie should aspire to exhilarate, but I don't like feeling exhausted after I've watched something, and that's exactly the first thing I said when I got up from this movie. There was simply so much going on, both visually and story-wise, that I felt overwhelmed. The plot was confusing at best, contrived most of the time, with things happening and information given with little explanation.

The 'Pirates' movies peaked on the first installment, and this (hopefully) last installment shows the continued decline. The reason it worked so well was because of the whimsical, light-hearted nature it took with its subject matter. The story had a fairly small scope and it worked perfectly. Then the series started to shift to a sort of epic, drawn-out, and self-important tone. Pirate Kings and ancient gods and the fate of the world...it just all seemed like too much. Not every movie has to be a three-hour "Lord of the Rings"-like affair.

There were positive aspects, though, mostly anything that involved Jack Sparrow, and the swordplay is some of the best seen in cinema outside of Asian martial arts movies. The character of Davy Jones and his story were intriguing too, at least until the addition of all the pseudo-Greek mythology. There's rumor of a fourth installment, with forces working for and against, and personally I hope it gets canned. Even an all-Jack Sparrow adventure would be hard pressed to put this franchise back in my good graces.

'Spider-Man 3'

Synopsis: It's been some months since the events of "Spider-Man 2." Peter Parker is about to propose to Mary Jane and the Webslinger is the toast of New York City. Life seems to be looking up for once. But a vengeful Harry Osborn, a rampaging Sandman, an unscrupulous rival reporter vying for Peter's job, and Peter's own growing arrogance all threaten the peace. Enter a mysterious new suit that seems to have more effects than just enhancing his

powers. As the tension builds and danger encroaches from all sides, Spider-Man will have to face the greatest adversary of all: the darkness within himself.

Review: Oh, Spider-Man movie franchise. You know I love you, baby. Why you gotta make me hit you? On the whole, I liked 'Spider-Man 3,' I really did. But I realize a good part of that is because I wanted to like it so very badly. The movie has deep flaws that simply can't be ignored. First, though, let's look at what works.

The action is tight, as is par for the course on these movies. Sam Raimi proves once again he's the right man for the job of bringing Spider-Man to the silver screen, having a sense of visual kineticism that the character's all about. Likewise, his ability to weave offbeat humor even in a somewhat somber and dark narrative matches the Spidey lore perfectly. Many derided Peter's dance number and cocky strutting as he sank deeper into temptation from the symbiote. Frankly, I think it worked with the character of Peter Parker wonderfully. He's a wiseacre and a nerd... of course he's going to think he looks cooler than he actually does.

Coming to the symbiote, though, we have to discuss where this movie not really fails, but falls short. Venom, one of the most shallow and really uninteresting characters in the Marvel canon, is given a great rendition here through Topher Grace's turn as Eddie Brock, the symbiote's host and Spider-Man/Peter Parker's foil. It's probably my favorite version of the character in any medium, save for one issue. He just isn't given enough time. Likewise, Peter's relationship with Gwen Stacy (in comic lore his first girlfriend before Mary Jane) isn't explored enough, or his struggle with the rage-enhancing "Black Suit."

It seems like there was great story in all these things, but even at three hours there's no way they can all get their due. And unlike the past movies, where characters were tied into the plot, it seems here like they spring up from the mud (in some cases literally!) with little explanation. The only one exempt from this treatment is Harry Osborn, whose ongoing dialogue gaffs hampered my enjoyment of the movie. And speaking of dialogue, what was going on with the summarizing news report before the final battle? That kind of device doesn't even work in comics.

At the end of the day, it seems Raimi and team made the same mistake as Peter Parker. They got cocky from their past successes and became brash, over-extending themselves and suffering for it. However, they manage to tie it all together, a bit rough around the edges but still enjoyable. If there

is a "Spider-Man 4," I'm confident it will mark a return to form for the creative team.

'The Simpsons Movie'

Synopsis: After almost two decades of misadventures, Homer Simpson has finally gone too far. When he tips a teetering environmental disaster over the edge and gets Springfield quarantined from the rest of the world, it falls to him and the family to save their not-so-beloved hometown from being destroyed by the EPA.

Review: Pound for pound, I think this was my favorite movie of the whole summer. A lot of people are surprised when I tell them that, saying that they really didn't expect that much from a movie based off a 19-year-old animated series. Neither did I, but that's probably part of the reason why it worked so well. I haven't watched "The Simpsons," at least the new seasons, for over seven years now. When they started having the sons of one-off characters come in, I figured they had drained the well. Apparently not; all the energy has just gone into making one of the funniest movies I have ever seen.

From opening titles to closing credits, the movie had my best friend and I going non-stop. The humor was vintage Simpsons, witty and silly and enjoyable on all levels. Most surprising, however, was the emotional resonance. This movie really had a heart, and it was odd to realize how much I'd grown to care about these characters, how touching their coming together as a family was, despite the fact that I'd seen it literally hundreds of times. Hopefully now that they've made such a rewarding and exemplary movie, the production team can get back to making good TV too.



Eric McRay's artwork, on display at the Mims Gallery in the Dunn Center, combines "the action painting drip of Jackson Pollock with the descriptive chromatic brushstrokes of Monet in his unique brand of American Impressionism," according to gallery curator Everett Adelman.

said, noting that he had turned down a more lucrative position in industry in order to pursue his teaching career.

He received an M.S. in mathematics from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and an M.S. in statistics from the University of Texas at Dallas. He received his Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University in applied and computational mathematics.

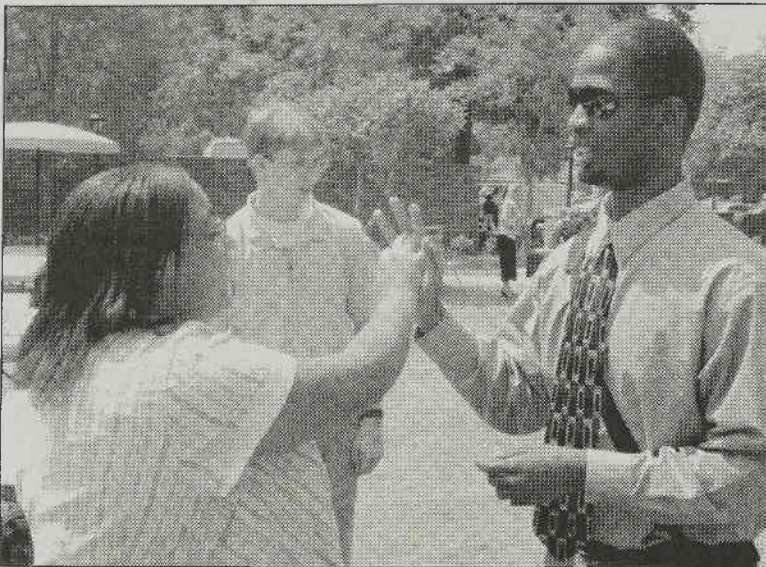
In his free time, Dr. Markos likes to visit friends and participate in the Ethiopian community in Raleigh. While most of his family lives back in his home country, his sister, Yeshi, lives in Rocky Mount and attends Nash Community College. Due to his interest in logic, Dr. Markos enjoys watching police and legal programs on TV. "I like to analyze the logic used by the judges," he said.

Dr. Mathews comes to Wesleyan after finishing his Ph.D. in political science at the University of Houston, his hometown. He holds one master's in political science and a second in

public administration. His specialty is American politics, with a focus on the presidency, which he tends "to study from the perspective of the man in office more than the formal roles of the office."

At NCWC, as the only full-time political science professor, Dr. Mathews will teach a range of courses that include the American presidency, international relations, and big business and American politics. "I came to Wesleyan," he said, "because it's a small school which gives me the opportunity to get to know and help students more than I could at a large state school."

Outside of academia, Dr. Mathews is an avid fan of the Denver Broncos and "a disappointed follower of the Houston Astros." He enjoys reading, from biographies to history to Harry Potter. He and his wife, Rosemary, a native of England, have two cats and "a big, black dog named Sirius."



Jennifer Evans is the new coordinator of Student Activities.

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Michael Clark, which would cut their lead to 17-13.

In the second half, Wesleyan was victimized by Beavers again as he scampered 82 yards on the kickoff. The Wolverines would score one more time in the third quarter, without an answer back from the Bishops, making the score 27-17 at the start of the fourth.

Wesleyan began to mount a comeback, when quarterback Cedric Townsend completed a 76-yard pass to Orlando Webb. But the Wolverines answered right back with a 6-yard dash by Alpha Koroma to seal the Wolverines win, 34-24. The Bishops added a touchdown in the last 1:30 when they returned a fumble recovery 8 yards.

Despite their loss to Wesley, the Bishops have high aspirations for the season. NC Wesleyan was picked to win the USA South Conference this season. This is the first time in the Bishops' four-year history that they have been picked for first. It seems this would bring added pressure to the team. Vaughn agreed: "There is more tension because everyone has our mark," he said. "We will definitely have to bring our 'A-game' every time." The Bishops will play two more non-conference bouts before they start their road to the conference championship.

Widener 27, Wesleyan 17

A week later Widener University opened up a 21-0 lead in the first quarter and did not look back en route to a 27-17 win at the Rocky Mount Athletic Conference.

The Pride capitalized on two Wesleyan miscues early in the game to forge a lead that they would not relinquish, spoiling Wesleyan's 2007 home opener. Widener is now 1-0 on the season, while the Bishops drop to 0-2.

Widener looked to be in control early as Pride quarterback Matt Campbell led his squad on a 14-play, 61-yard scoring drive to open the contest. Campbell was 7-of-7 in passing attempts during the drive, which was capped by a 3-yard touchdown strike to Ian Decker. Tom Laurich's point-after gave WU a quick 7-0 lead.

Wesleyan's first drive came to a screeching halt when senior Cedric Townsend fumbled the Bishops' first snap of the afternoon. The Pride recovered on the NCWC-20, and six plays later, they found themselves up 14-0.

The Bishops offense continued to

struggle on its next possession. After managing to secure two first downs on a pair of Teron Bush runs, a penalty and two incomplete passes forced Wesleyan to punt. A high snap eluded punter Joel Creef, who attempted to boot the ball down the field after gaining control. But WU's John Martorell blocked the punt, scooped up the loose ball, and dashed 30 yards for the touchdown. Laurich added the PAT for a 21-0 Pride lead with less than four minutes left in the opening period.

Townsend looked to get the Bishops on track as he connected with tight end Steven Burant for a 59-yard completion early in Wesleyan's next possession. The drive ended with senior Brian Vaughn nailing a 32-yard field goal to end the quarter's scoring.

Both defenses held strong for most of the second period. The Bishops managed to cut the Pride lead to 21-10 just before halftime as Townsend broke free for a 65-yard touchdown run.

Wesleyan pulled even closer in the third as the offense took the opening kickoff 74 yards in 16 plays. Townsend's seven-yard TD run and Vaughn's point-after made the score 21-17, and it looked as though the Bishops were gaining momentum.

But the Pride defense responded by forcing Bishop turnovers in three of their next four possessions (two interceptions, one fumble). Wesleyan did not threaten to score again, while Laurich tacked on 35-yard and 32-yard field goals for the 27-17 final.

For Widener, Campbell finished 20-of-33 for 169 yards and one touchdown through the air. The Pride amassed only 95 rushing yards on the day.

Townsend completed 8-of-22 passing attempts for 104 yards and two interceptions, and the Bishops totaled 201 yards on the ground, led by Bush's 81. Wesleyan's offense out-gained Widener's 342 to 264 in the contest, but NCWC's four turnovers proved to be the bigger stat.

On defense, Bo Brown led the Bishops with 12 tackles (five solo, seven assists), including two for a loss. Jaren Wilcox added 1.5 sacks.

The Bishops will try again to enter the win column when it hosts Emory & Henry College on September 15. Kick-off is 1:00 p.m. at the Rocky Mount Athletic Complex.

(NCWC Sports Information contributed to this article.)

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He added that he has been impressed by the Wesleyan faculty. "Through my interaction and association with faculty during my job interview," he said, "I was struck by the spirit of camaraderie and esprit de corps that characterize the relationship between the staff and faculty. As a team player myself, I believe I can add to the shared determination to fulfill the needs of the wide range of students who study at Wesleyan, and without whom, our roles as professors would be meaningless."

In his free time, Dr. Cole enjoys singing in the choir and playing soccer, the latter he called "an invaluable diversion from the monotony and tedium of work."

Dr. Markos, a native of Gondar, in the East African country of Ethiopia, said although his specialty is fluid dynamics, he enjoys teaching a range of math and statistics course and looks forward to working with Wesleyan students. "I love this profession," he