

THE DECREE

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

November 16, 2007

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

NC Wesleyan Works through Budget Crisis in '07-08

By Chris Ochoa
Decree Staff Writer

Wesleyan is suffering a budget deficit of \$450,000, said President Dr. Ian Newbould.

Originally, the deficit was \$1.3 million, but with a full effort from the administration it has been decreased. Though Wesleyan is in a period of financial crisis, students should not fear a drastic rise in tuition, Dr. Newbould said.

"Tuition will rise as it does naturally every year," said Dr. Newbould. "The college is not going to raise tuition for a solution [to the financial problems]."

In an effort to diminish the budget problem, the administration is making several changes in hopes of minimizing the effects on academic programs.

"Student numbers are down and this means lower revenues," said Dr. Newbould. The base amount in expen-

ditures did not decrease and therefore the lower revenues have created the deficit. The administration has already cut almost \$900,000 in expenditures to help climb back on top, according to the president.

"We have to tighten our belts, it's not ever fun," said the president.

Dr. Newbould has planned to cut administrative costs. These include postponing bigger ticket items, delaying

replacement of retiring professors, and delaying several appointments and major work to the physical campus. While making these decisions to cut the costs, Dr. Newbould said, "We are determined to not cut academic programs."

There has not been a department in the college that has been unaffected, Dr. Newbould said. The budget crisis should have a minimal effect on students in the academic and student life areas. When asked about student activities, Dr. Newbould said, "This is not going to affect student life."

"One downside is you cannot improve quality by making cuts," stated Dr. Newbould. Also, according to the president, another downside to the budget crisis is that it creates morale issues.

Several visiting professors may not be returning after the spring semester. Music Director Gene Heavner said, "Our employment situation is uncertain right now, and it will be sometime before we get definitive answers." Heavner also said that the music program may be jeopardized if the current budget crisis isn't resolved in time.

"It would be unfortunate to cut programs when one of the college's main goals, now, is to improve student retention," said Heavner.

Another casualty is the lacrosse program, which began in fall 2005 under coach Lorin Smith-Titus.

According to Athletic Director John Thompson, the program has been discontinued, leaving the college with six teams for both men and women. Despite losing the lacrosse team and its athletes, Thompson said that the college remains in compliance with

Title IX, a federal regulation designed to ensure equal access to sports.

Budget crisis '07-08 has its roots back in 2004, when Wesleyan's freshman class increased from 200 incoming students in 2003 to 321. This large increase can be attributed to the new football program drawing in a larger group of students. The problem originated from the large number of the first year students who did not come back for another year. The Office of Institutional Research reveals that of the 321 freshmen in 2004 only 54% attended at least three semesters. Student retention is still around 50%, said Dr. Newbould. The college has a steady incoming freshmen class, but the sophomore, junior, and senior numbers are low due to lack of student retention.

The only department that is actually receiving money instead of making cuts is admissions. The president intends to hire another student recruiter.

Budget deficits are anything but new to Wesleyan, which experienced financial hardships during the 90's. "Budget deficits come and go," said Dr. Newbould. "Small colleges have always been close to the edge financially." He stated big schools have a larger endowment, and that helps them maintain financial security. "It takes a long time to gain a large endowment," said the president. Wesleyan, founded in 1956, is still a young college compared to other schools like East Carolina, which was founded in 1907.

"By the end of next year we'll be through this," said Dr. Newbould. "I have complete confidence."

Men's Soccer Team Loses in USA South Semi-Finals, Wins First Two in NCAAs

UPDATE: NC Wesleyan will host Loras College Saturday after it won two matches last week-end in the opening rounds of the NCAA Division III tournament in Baltimore.

On Sunday, Maryland native Danny Jones scored the game winner on a header, and Marco Kirsch added an insurance goal as the number-two ranked Bishops (18-1) advanced to the Sweet 16 for the second year in a row.

In the opening game, Alimamy Gargbo led the Bishops with two goals and an assist in a 4-3 win.



Greensboro contained the potent Bishops attack in the USA South Conference tourney, but Wesleyan's strong performance this season earned an invitation to the NCAAs. Decree Photo by Kathleen Penrod

CONFERENCE TOURNEY

The NC Wesleyan men's soccer team has accepted an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III playoffs, after it was eliminated from the conference tournament by Greensboro College at home.

Ranked number two in the nation after the regular season, Wesleyan joins Greensboro as the sole representatives of the USA South Athletic Conference among the 57 teams invited to the NCAAs. The Bishops travel to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore for first and second round action on Saturday and Sunday, November 10th and 11th. The Bishops (16-1-0) will face Franklin & Marshall College (15-3-0) on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

If it advances, Wesleyan will play the winner of Johns Hopkins (17-3-0) and DeSales (10-3-2) on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

In the conference tournament, Greensboro marred the Bishops' undefeated season and prevented them from playing host in the first round of the NCAA tourney.

In an odd way, the loss may work to Wesleyan's advantage as it allows banged-up players a chance to recover from nagging ankle injuries. Coach Jason Kilby noted that the USA South title match was a physical contest that took its toll of both teams, Methodist and Greensboro, the eventual winner. "There were tough tackles in that game," Kilby said. "You don't want to go to the national tournament after a game like that."

This is the third consecutive year that Greensboro knocked Wesleyan from the USA South Conference tournament, beating the Bishops on "a soft goal," 1-0, in a Friday afternoon contest at Scaff Field.

Kilby expressed disappointment at the loss.

"I didn't feel like we played as a team," he said, noting that team play was the key to a regular season win at Greensboro in late September. "That game we played fast. We played together. This time, the team wasn't clicking. We had players focused on their individual performances and that won't work in a team sport."

Greensboro scored the only goal of the game at the 68th minute. Kilby said that there was a miscommunication between Bishops defender Jason Bottani and goalkeeper Alberto Faisca, who bumped into each other while trying to intercept a crossing pass by the Pride's Troy Mellanson. The goalkeeper was unable to control the ball, tipping it to Jay Wyatt, who collected and booted the ball into the goal.

After the goal, Kilby was confident, at first, in the team's ability to mount a comeback, pointing to earlier victories against Barton and Jersey City College.

See SOCCER on pg 5

Six Wesleyan Students Tapped for ODK

By Decree Staff

Six Wesleyan students were selected for Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honorary leadership organization, during the recent Founders' Day ceremonies at the Dunn Center.

"We had lot of applications," said ODK Faculty Advisor Steve Ferebee, a professor of English. "We had hard decisions to make."

The new members include Joshua Allen, Joshua Cain, Julianne Cyr, Jenna Davis, Joshua Jenkins, and Travis Krivett.

The following faculty members were tapped for ODK: Lisa Kirby, assistant professor of English; Mark Stevens, associate professor of Justice Studies; and Gail Stafford, associate professor of mathematics

Following is a short profile on each student honoree:

JOSHUA ALLEN

A double major in chemistry and math, Allen is a senior and a member of the Honors Program who hopes to pursue graduate studies in chemistry and then a career as a laboratory manager or research chemist.

He has impressed his professors during his time at Wesleyan.

"Josh is a great student," said Dr. Bill Yankosky, associate professor of mathematics, who is directing Allen's honors project. "He has done exceptionally well in my mathematics courses, and he always keeps class lively and interesting."

Allen has been a supplemental instruction (SI) leader for general and conceptual chemistry courses. He has been active in the college's music club. And he has served as a resident advisor and a member of the Student Judicial Review Board. Among his many honors, he was listed in Who's Who among Students in American Universities and College.

Dr. Pamela Meadows, assistant professor of chemistry, noted that Allen has maintained a high GPA and immersed himself in the life of the college, all while he's been employed

at Hospira Pharmaceuticals, job experience that will prove valuable in his graduate studies.

"I've always been amazed at Josh's ability to balance school, work and extracurricular activities that have really helped the college community," she said.

JOSHUA CAIN

Joshua Cain is a justice major noted for his intelligence, maturity and leadership abilities.

"Josh is a 21 year old in a 35-year-old's body," commented Susan Autry, Cain's supervisor at the Dunn Center.

She praised the faith and patriotism of Cain, who has been involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Refuge Campus Ministries and has been fulfilling an eight-year commitment in the U.S. Army Reserves. In addition he's been active as a volunteer in youth organizations in the Rocky Mount area. "His enthusiasm is unbelievable," Autry said. "His faith in God and his country are shown by the way he presents himself."

Dr. Jay Stubblefield, associate professor of English and associate Dean of the College, echoed Autry's sentiments. He's observed Cain's leadership within Refuge.

"From my perspective, he's very humble, mature, intelligent, and well-organized," Stubblefield said. "He works from a solid spiritual foundation."

Chaplain Barry Drum described Cain as a "dynamic president" of Refuge, adding, "he has a level of maturity far beyond the average undergraduate student. He's a devout Christian and he has a genuine love for all people. Over all, Josh is one of the most outstanding students I've known in the seven-plus years I've been here."

Among his other activities, Cain has participated in the Future Alumni Association and the Wesleyan Players performance group. He's been a recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Scholarship and the Christopher S.

Cash Memorial Scholarship. He's been a tutor for justice studies courses.

"Josh is very deserving of this honor," said Stevens. "He's an exceptional student. He's always willing to help others. He really portrays a positive image of Wesleyan."

JULIANNE CYR

Dr. Fred Grissom has been a fan of Julianne Cyr since she was a freshman.

"When Juli was a first-year student," he recalled, "I was asked to recommend an honors student to speak to the annual gathering of scholarship donors and recipients. I recommended Juli. Her remarks were clear and to the point and delivered with poise and confidence. I have seldom been as proud of a student as I was of Juli that day."

A member of the Honors Program, Cyr is pursuing a double major in psychology and religious studies, with a minor in biology. She would like become a sex therapist.

"Juli is a fascinating person," added Dr. Grissom, who heads the Honors

Program. "She's a bright, dedicated student who asks interesting questions about almost everything."

Dr. Fred Sanborn, assistant professor of psychology, made similar comments about Cyr. "Juli's an exceptional student," he said.

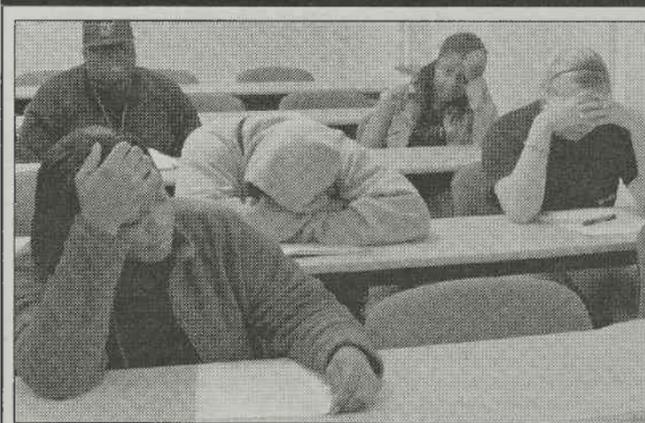
Grissom called Cyr an effective leader who is passionate about the causes that interest her. One such cause is Wesleyan's chapter of the Gay-Straight Alliance, which she helped found last year.

Among her other activities, Cyr has been involved in Wesleyan Singers and the Dunn Center Ambassadors. She's been an SI leader for chemistry, a tutor in the Writing Lab and a freshmen orientation PAL.

"I've been impressed with Julie's commitment to the Wesleyan community as evidenced by her co-founding of GSA," Dr. Sanborn said. "She's a valuable member of the Wesleyan community. I think we need more

See ODK on pg 3

SEE INSIDE



Has sleeping in class become an epidemic? See story on page three. Decree Staff Photo

For new student fiction and poetry, turn to pages 6 and 7.