

THE DECREE

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VP Naylor Wanted to Be Part of 'Something Bigger'

By Katie Beeman
Senior Staff Writer

Edward Naylor has returned to his first calling, education, after working as a lawyer in Rocky Mount for over 22 years. As Wesleyan's new Vice President for Student Affairs and Legal Affairs, Naylor wants to be an advocate for the students.

Naylor, 49, started in his new position before the 2014 fall semester. He is in charge of security, residence life, food services, student activities, the health center, and student discipline.

When Naylor started his new job—he's commonly known as Dean of Students—some students were unsure about approaching him, according to SGA President Isaiah Morrow. "I kept encouraging students to just go and talk to him," Morrow said. "As soon as the first few saw how personable and caring he was, more and more students were going to see him."

Both Naylor and Morrow stressed that it's important for students to voice their concerns. "I have to know their concerns, so that I know how I can best help them," Naylor explained.

Student Aubrey Motley emerged from a recent meeting with a positive vibe about the dean. Motley went to his office to talk about some problems on campus. "He gave really good input," said Motley. "He cares about the students."

Junior Chavonne Jones shared a similar opinion of Naylor. "I see him around campus all of the time," she said. "He's always involved with what the students are doing."

Starting this position, Naylor found no major problems within his division. "Student Affairs was left in really good shape by Dean Williams," he said, referring to his predecessor Dr. Randy Williams who left the college to take a position at Elon University.

Naylor stated that he viewed his first year as an evaluation period and not for making major changes. After the start of this semester, Naylor began to compile a list of goals that he wanted to achieve.

Student safety is at the top of Naylor's plans. "This is their home and students need to feel safe here," he said.

Around campus, the college has already placed new security lights, which are a lot brighter than the old ones. Naylor wants to install more. He also plans to add more security cameras and, eventually, emergency boxes. Mounted on poles, the emergency boxes would include a button that members of the Wesleyan community can press to call police.

Along with safety improvements, Naylor would like to see a greater number of students involved in activi-

ties, like clubs and student government. "I want to improve upon the existing clubs and add a wider of variety," the dean said. Also, Naylor will strive to increase job and internship opportunities for students on and off campus.

As for long-term goals, Naylor noted that the administration hopes to have 1,000 students enrolled at Wesleyan in three years. With this number, Wesleyan intends to build two new residence halls and new classroom spaces, according to Naylor. Increased enrollment should not mean lowering admissions standards, he said. "We want to maintain quality as we grow," he said, reflecting the ideals of President Clark, whose philosophy for the college is "consistent improvement."

Naylor came to Wesleyan after working as a lawyer, primarily in litigation. He feels that his law background is an asset in his new job. "Getting a law degree is like a liberal arts education," said Naylor. "It encompasses a lot of different areas."

His law background helps him when it comes to law enforcement matters, contracts with outside companies like Sodexo, and student conduct. "The student conduct hearings are basically a mini court system," said Naylor.

Together with his student affairs responsibilities Naylor will be handling the college's legal affairs.

Before receiving his juris doctor degree from North Carolina Central University, Naylor's passion was education. He earned his undergraduate degree in business education from East Carolina University and then taught and coached baseball at Edgecombe County schools.

Naylor said that he had missed education and decided to return. "I wanted a field where I was a part of something bigger than myself and would help people on a large scale," said Naylor. He expressed his excitement at working with college-aged students. "I was surprised at how engaged the students here were," he said. "They really have a passion for this school and their futures."

As for Naylor's daily schedule, he stated that there is no typical day. The dean said that he spends a good amount of time answering various emails and telephone calls, as well as attending meetings with students, staff, and other members of the Wesleyan community.

Naylor and Morrow meet every Wednesday. The SGA President brings the students' concerns to the dean and the two try to find the best solution.



Dean Edward Naylor meets with student Karishma Patel. G. Wallace photo

Morrow explained that sometimes the administration might not be aware of particular student concerns. As an example, he noted that the college is now working to install coin machines in the residence halls to help students do their laundry, after the issue was raised in one of his meetings with the dean.

Naylor has been connected to Wesleyan for years through his wife, Sheryl, who graduated from Wesleyan in 1992. Back in high school, Naylor was even accepted

here with plans to play baseball, but he decided instead on East Carolina University. The Naylor's have two children. His daughter is a high school senior in Rocky Mount at Faith Christian School and his son is a senior at ECU.

Naylor still likes to coach and watch baseball and he enjoys spending time at the beach. He is an active member of Rocky Mount's Englewood Baptist Church, where he serves on the board of directors.

New Chinese Student Talks about American Education, Asian Food, Taylor Swift

Zhijie Liu is one of five Chinese students who have enrolled at Wesleyan for the 2014-2015 school year.

Nicknamed Zelia, the 19-year-old Nantong native is majoring in business administration and accounting. Back home, her mother is a court official and a former judge, while her father works for the State Taxation Administration.

Last month she was interviewed by Decree staff, over email, about life in America and her impressions of Wesleyan.

Q: Describe your hometown, the climate, and the residents.

A: Nantong is a city near Shanghai. I usually tell Americans that I live in Shanghai because it just takes one hour to drive there and it's much more famous than Nantong. It has about seven million residents. The climate is just like the weather in Rocky Mount, which is a main reason I chose to study here. Residents have different occupations in Nantong. I know that there are some cities where most residents have the same occupation, but people in my hometown do not. They work in diverse areas.

Q: How did you discover NC Wesleyan?

A: My mom has a friend in Rocky Mount who also came from China. She is working in education, so I applied to NCWC on her recommendation.

Q: Why did you elect to pursue your college education in the U.S. and not at home or in Europe?

A: The reason is very complicated. First, in China, I was in the best high school in my city, so I experienced great competition. China's high schools are known to be very hard. Everyone wants to attend a better college and the only chance to achieve that



Freshman Zhijie Liu is one of Wesleyan's first Chinese students. G. Wallace photo

goal is to get a high grade on the Gao Kao, the final college entrance examination, which follows the three years of senior high school. There is a saying in China: "One exam determines one child's life." Unlike the SAT, the Gao Kao can only be taken one time per year and most students will take it just one time in their life. The Chinese population is so great that not everyone can get into the college they want to enter; some even fail to get the grade that would qualify them to apply to a college, and the number of good colleges in China is very limited. The competition is too intense. Like many parents, mine hold the opinion that rather than let me put so much effort into getting accepted at a decent college in China, they were willing to send me to the U.S. Many Chinese believe that an American college education is better. And many Chinese students choose to study in the U.S. to improve their English, since English is becoming more and more important in the global economy. It's best to be around native English speakers, immersed in the language. As a final point, I have relatives in the U.S., and none in Europe. My parents will feel relieved knowing they have people they can trust to take care of their child.

Q: How much previous training did you have in speaking, writing and reading English?

A: Chinese students take English classes beginning in primary school. We have English

classes throughout our educational career. But what we're taught in the classes is very basic and the English education in China focuses more on grammar and spelling but not so much on speaking or listening; I think this is a shortfall of English education in China. If a Chinese student intends to study in the U.S., she will stop going to her high school and find other educational institutes where the only focus is on improving speaking, listening, reading and writing in English without other subjects. I studied in this kind of institute for about seven months. English has become the mostly wide used language in the world. In China, an employer will be more likely to hire an applicant with English communication skills over one without those skills.

Q: What are some of the differences between the Chinese and American education systems, in the ways teachers run their classes, etc.?

A: I don't know how the Chinese college teachers run their class. If I were to compare Chinese high school teachers and the American college professors, I would say that what the Chinese teach in class is based more on the textbook. They're supposed to explain every specific point in the textbook. It seems like American college professors are more likely to let the students learn most of the information by themselves. In class, they like to hold activities, like debating and presentations, which can help students to communicate with each other.

Many Americans think Chinese college students are cleverer than Americans. I don't agree with this (When we discussed cheating in a recent English class, an American student said that Asian students don't need to cheat, because they're so clever.) I think the Chinese primary and high school students are challenged more in their classes, especially math and sciences. In China, a teacher may teach "1+1=2" in class, but then give a more difficult question—"What is 34+65?"—on the test. American teachers seem to give test questions on the same level as the ones in the lesson. When the Chinese students come to America, they're much better prepared, at least in some subjects, than many of their American counterparts. The Chinese students have been trained to think about more difficult problems than Americans. And before college, the Chinese students face a large amount of homework every school day, which helps them figure out math and science problems much faster than others. At the same, Chinese students have many more tests in their senior and junior high schools, which allows them to get better grades in college.

Most Chinese students learn well in their high school (I say most because China also has many students who are very poor at studying, and they come to the U.S. because their parents are wealthy enough for them to study abroad and it's easier to

enter a decent college in the US than in China). Most Chinese students don't need to spend much time in American college classes to pass the exams because what they have learnt in high school was already much more difficult than what the American teachers are teaching in the class. As I say, many Americans say Chinese students are so clever that they can get a better grade on a test, but these Americans don't know about the Chinese high school life. This leads to a question: Since the education in China can make a better student than the U.S., why is there an increasing number of Chinese students who opt to study in America? This is because most Chinese recognize the true practical abilities of the American college graduates. This is shown in their workplace and social life, much better than with a student who graduated from a Chinese college. We attribute this success to the ways of the American education, to be specific, the way American teachers run their classes. We think that it's better to let the

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Science Club Initiates Recycling on Campus

By Decree Staff

The reaction has been positive so far to the campus recycling program instituted by the Wesleyan Science Club.

According to club officers, 12 sky-blue bins have been placed around campus, one on the first floor of all five residence halls, five in academic buildings, one in the Hardees Student Union and one in the Hartness Center. The cardboard bins were obtained with the help of local businesses and painted by club members.

Club member Lucrezia DePascalis reported increased usage of the bins as the semester has progressed. In one recent week, she said, the collections yielded two large bags of soda bottles and other plastics.

"We've been getting a lot of positive comments about the recycling bins," DePascalis said. "The staff and faculty love the idea and they're using the bins regularly. The students received the change well."

Recyclable materials include aluminum and steel cans, paper, newspaper, cardboard and plastic with the numbers 1-7.

Science Club President Karishma Patel said that several inappropriate materials have been found in the

bins; such materials include napkins, paper towels, wax paper, paper lined with plastic, groceries bags, plastic tableware and Styrofoam containers. Patel said it "was disappointing" to find garbage—such as chewing gum and discard fruit—in the bins. "It would be nice if the recyclables would be somewhat clean," she added. "Bottles should be emptied before putting them in the bins: it makes it easier and faster to sort them and it doesn't ruin the cardboard bins."

Once a week, club members empty the bins and sort the recyclables into paper, plastic and cans. The materials are then deposited in a large container located near Boddie and Centura halls. From there, the City of Rocky Mount picks up the materials.

Dr. Daniel Stovall, a first-year biology professor and the Science Club advisor, said he's proud of the work done by club members. "They've shown tremendous initiative and dedication with this project that fulfills a much-needed service to the school," he said. "I'm excited to see how far they'll take it."