

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

General Shelton Delivers Inspiring Address at Fall Commencement

By Decree Staff

Retired General Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1997-2001, delivered a brief but inspiring commencement address to the 120 NC Wesleyan graduates and their families and friends December 10 at the Dunn Center.

Referring to the hometowns and countries of the graduates, the general said: "The six countries, four states, and 44 North Carolina cities and villages will be better because of your accomplishments."

The Tarboro native quoted thinkers as varied as Albert Einstein and Larry the Cable Guy, in a crowd-pleasing address that outlined his four keys to a successful life.

Acknowledging that most attendees of graduation ceremonies appreciate a succinct commencement address, he opened by saying, "Let's 'get her done.'"

Here's an overview of the general's message to graduates:

1—"You're never defeated unless you personally accept defeat." To illustrate his point, General Shelton recalled several incidents from his youth. He mentioned that as a high school senior he was, at first, rejected from North Carolina State, his

top choice, because of a low math score. At the time he was given the option of taking a correspondence course and then retaking his entrance exam. After working diligently that summer with his high school math teacher, Shelton retook the exam at the end of the summer and earned high enough marks to gain admittance to NC State, where he earned a degree in textile engineering.

Later while in training at Fort Benning,

Georgia, Shelton was determined to enter the Army Rangers, one of the military's most elite forces. But there was one problem. According to the Army, Shelton was color blind, which disqualified him from joining the Rangers. Not satisfied with the Army's ruling, he insisted on retaking the exam. This time he passed. If he had not been persistent in asking for a re-test, the general told the graduates, "I'm convinced I would not have become the

14th Chair of the Joint Chiefs."

2—"The harder you work, the more opportunities you'll find." Shelton noted that opportunity does not "come knocking like the Publisher's Clearing House." He urged the graduates to be courageous. "I'm not talking about the courage to be the first man to drive an electric car through a car wash, or even the courage that's needed in battle," he said. "I'm talking about the courage to achieve your goals."

3—"You can't be great without being good." General Shelton stressed the importance of possessing "a strong ethical character," adding: "Try to make the world a better place to live. Be an example for others to emulate." Then, quoting Albert Einstein, he said, "'Become a person of value.'"

4—According to General Shelton, the three most important aspects of one's life should be "faith, family and friends. They should be your highest priority."

General Shelton received a standing ovation on receiving an honorary degree from the college.

Of the 120 new graduates, 39 came from the traditional day program while 81 were from the three ASPIRE programs: 32 from the Triangle campus, 27 from Goldsboro, and 22 from Rocky Mount.

Business was the most common major among the graduates with 48 degrees awarded. Other majors break down as follows: criminal justice/justice studies (30), psychology (19), accounting (13), computer information systems (9), elementary education (7), religious studies (7), exercise science (5), sociology (3), biology (2), history (2), political science (2), entertainment (1), chemistry (1), and special education (1). There were 26 students with double majors, and one with a triple major (in justice studies, psychol-

ogy and religious studies).

In the days before the ceremony, some graduates reflected on their time at NC Wesleyan.

Criminal justice major Antonio "Squirrel" Harris said that success on the football field made it all worthwhile. "I loved my time here, you know," the former standout linebacker said. "I played football and enjoyed that."

One highlight, he said, was "making history on the football field" and participating in the division III playoffs in 2009. Harris intends to pursue professional football next year in Finland.

Asked about his time at Wesleyan overall, he replied, "It's like they say: It's what you make of it. I had a good time while I was here."

Teammate and criminal justice major James Carter said that he hopes an internship will help him find a full-time position. He thanked new Career Services Director Tiffany Alexander for helping him get ready for the job market. "With her help I feel very prepared for what lies ahead," Carter said.

Not all the graduates were happy with their experience at Wesleyan. New York native Tene Griszell-McAllister, a psychology major, said that she feels somewhat unprepared for life after college. Medicine is one field she's considering.

"I don't know if I'm ready because I don't know what the next step is," she said. "I also don't know how to get my foot in the door with my career path."

When she was asked if she would change anything about her college experience, Griszell-McAllister responded: "I would go to a completely different college with more money so there can be more things to offer to the students, like a study-abroad program."

(Staff writer Kristina Hill contributed reporting.)



Two New Grads: Jessica Poindexter (left) of the day program and Alicia Nance-Leigh of the Triangle ASPIRE program. Photo courtesy of NCWC Advancement.

Why Do Many NCWC Students Lack Spirit?

By Joshua Meeks
Decree Sports Editor

North Carolina Wesleyan College is fighting an up-hill battle. Departmental budgets have been cut. Retention rates are low and admittance numbers continue to fall from previous years. Around campus, the vibe is gloomy.

On most college campuses school spirit thickens the air to a point where it is difficult to breathe. Students pack into gymnasiums and stadiums and take an active role in Greek life, student government, and intramural sports. But at Wesleyan students are disinterested in what is going on around them.

"Everyone seems miserable here," said Mackenzie Tingle, a senior. "It's like people are ashamed of the school. Whereas when you look at ECU or (North Carolina) State people are proud to be a part of that school, whether they're a student, parent or fan."

Tingle's assessment is one that is shared by many. A lot of students feel that nobody wants to go to Wesleyan and would rather be somewhere else.

Tingle was one of 100 students who completed a brief survey for this article, and several students participated in follow-up interviews.

When asked whether he is proud to say he goes to Wesleyan, junior Tyler Clark responded with a chuckle of uncertainty.

"For baseball and trying to get other new recruits, I say I'm proud to go here," said Clark. But if I was talking to somebody who goes to UNC or State, I wouldn't. I wouldn't say I'm ashamed or not proud. I just wouldn't say I go to Wesleyan and 'we're better.'"

But not all students feel the same way as these two upper-classmen. Chelsea Colucci, a freshman cheerleader, says she is trying to move school pride in a positive direction.

"Being a cheerleader, I'm always trying to enhance our school spirit," Colucci said. "On campus here, students are very close-knit and supportive of each other and their teams, and this is one of my favorite things about this college. From what I've witnessed as a student and a cheerleader, I'm very pleased by our school spirit."

Junior Class President Terrance Hooks has observed that the atmosphere this year seems different than in the past two years. "I think that the clubs are trying to do more this year to get students involved in the school," he said. "I think the freshmen are buying into some of the things the school is doing and I think that there's a big change. I won't be here much longer but I think that in a few years we'll see a change because freshmen here now care."

Sporting events are the biggest social events on campus and often correlate with school spirit. But at home games the men's basketball team has averaged just 242 fans, which includes players' parents as well as the parents of the opposition, who hiked to Rocky Mount to watch their sons play.

On occasion, students show some spirit at the game when they collectively stand to

cheer after a dunk or when cheerleaders lead the "Bishop Rumble." But it is rare that an opposing rival, such as Christopher Newport or Methodist, is daunted when it walks into our gym because of a deafening crowd of students who have covered themselves in blue and gold.

Some students believe game attendance is low because athletes make up about half the student population and they are preoccupied with their own sport. Their free time is used to complete homework assignments, watch television, or hang out at the grille.

"Athletes are only focused on their own sport," Tingle said. "They want everyone to come to their games and support them but there are no reverse actions. Somehow we need to find a way for the school to build some pride."

Robert Bass, a defensive back for the men's soccer team, sided with Tingle and believes that there are not many athletes who care to put time into the other sports.

"We barely have many fans at our games and the women's teams get the least amount of support," Bass said. "Everyone cares about their own individual sport and not much for the others. It may sound corny, but I think the best way for the school to raise its spirit is for the sports teams to come together and show their support for each other."

A tradition is one way for students to demonstrate school pride, but by most accounts, Wesleyan is lacking in this area. Students will make bubbles in the water fountain on occasion, and every Friday the cafeteria serves fried chicken but there is no single tradition that stands out to most students. If you are on the football team, you may touch the triangle before practice or slam the sledgehammer before a game, but those types of traditions are limited to the athletes in particular sports.

Dean of Students Randy Williams feels that it is the responsibility of the students to build pride and tradition at the school. Williams, a graduate of tradition-rich Hampden Sydney and William and Mary, said that when he took his job in 2009, one of his main goals was to get students to take ownership in their college experience.

"There's plenty of room for growth here at Wesleyan," he said. "Traditions come from the students, not the faculty or staff. I want to empower the students so that they can be proud of Wesleyan."

Students often fail to realize that they are the ones who make Wesleyan tick, many interviewees commented.

Every Monday morning, the Student Activities department sends out an e-mail that describes "What's happening at Wesleyan" for that week. But the Decree survey showed that only 48 percent of students read the e-mail. Clark explained that he rarely reads the e-mails because he does not see anything that interests him.

"I don't really hear about anything that is going on around school," Clark said. "All I hear about really is intramurals from the signs around school and the e-mails that I never

read. I only look at my e-mail hoping to see if a professor has canceled class."

Clark offered a solution for clubs and groups trying to get word out about an event they are hosting.

"Even if it sounds bad, if they put invites of Facebook, I'd probably pay more attention to it," he said.

Another reason students believe that school spirit is down is the lack of participation in the clubs and other organizations on campus. President Megan Simpson said that

see SPIRIT pg 2

New Tennis Complex Nears Completion

By Gummi Palsson
Decree Staff Writer

The North Carolina Wesleyan tennis program has gone through successful changes in recent history, such as the introduction of the current tennis head coach, Tebogo Dominic Modise. Before the South African took control, the tennis program had not been doing well, but with some quality recruits and strict training regimens, the program has seen new heights.

"I really got lucky somehow with my recruiting even though at the same time I worked very hard," the coach said. "We've done the unthinkable as a team in a short period of time. It has been a great experience and I have to give credit to the ladies and gentlemen that have been part of our program since I started coaching here. Their work ethic has paid off and it has put North Carolina Wesleyan on a national map."

To take the next step in making NC Wesleyan one of the finest DIII tennis programs, the college is expanding its existing facilities and building new ones. According to Loren Loomis Hubbell, vice president of finance, the project cost is \$815,000, with funding coming from private donors and the City of Rocky Mount. The city has

partnered with the college with an eye toward establishing youth tennis and other community programs.

The project involves the resurfacing of the six existing courts, plus the construction of six new ones. A tennis field house will house offices, locker rooms and an equipment storage area. A grandstand will accommodate 270 spectators—all in all, a fantastic move by the college, Coach Modise said.

"We're already one of the top programs in the country without a state-of-the-art facility, but for sure it will make some additional impact with recruiting, exposure, and tennis in the community," said Modise, who has led the men's team to the national playoffs three years in a row.

Marcelo Prata is among many team members who believe the new complex will have a profound effect on the success of Wesleyan's program. It will improve training and increase competition among the squad, he said, while raising Wesleyan's profile, both within the community and nationally. It will now be possible for the college to host NCAA tournaments, Prata and Modise noted.

"With more courts, we can play more matches, and enjoy longer prac-

tices and more individual practices," said Prata, a native of Brazil. "The level of tennis will definitely improve. And the new facility will bring more spectators to watch our matches. In the past we didn't even have benches for fans to sit and watch us."

Modise and his players expressed excitement about the installation of new playing surfaces, pointing out that the old courts caused excessive wear and tear on tennis balls, which cost the coach 60 percent of his equipment budget. "We had a lot of problems in the past with the old courts," Prata explained. "Our tennis balls were finished really fast because of the old surface."

Prata added that he and his teammates welcome other new features of the complex. "Most of the nets were broke and we didn't have windscreens, which makes it harder to play with some weather conditions."

Loomis Hubbell expects the contractors to finish new construction by March 1, ten days before the men's and women's teams open conference action at home against Averett.

Said Prata: "Our tennis team is really thankful for the new complex."



The new tennis complex should be completed in time for the spring season.

Photo courtesy of L. Loomis Hubbell

NEWS & OPINION

Opinion: After Turnaround in the Middle East, Now What?

By John Kostet
Decree Opinion Editor

The year 2011 will go down in history as a major turning point in the Middle East. The world's most wanted terrorist, Osama Bin Laden, was killed by U.S. troops in Pakistan. A wave of revolutionary demonstrations and protests overthrew governments in Tunisia and Egypt. A full-blown civil war in Libya led to the capturing and killing of Dictator Muammar Gaddafi. But most remarkable from a U.S. perspective is the withdrawal from Iraq on Jan. 1, 2012. All military personnel but the embassy guards will be pulled out of Iraqi territory.

At the same time, one of Iraq's neighbors, Iran, is developing a suspicious nuclear program. Israel and the Republican Party want to see an immediate move to prevent any further development, while President Obama takes a careful approach so as not to repeat his predecessor's fatal mistake.

Leaving Iraq will formally bring an end to the Second Gulf War and an exhaustive occupation. "After nearly nine years, America's war in Iraq will be over," Obama said at the White House, adding that most U.S. troops will be "home for the holidays." The invasion was launched in March 2003 as Operation Iraqi Freedom, with the goal to remove Saddam Hussein from power and enforce democracy. Fictional intelligence on weapons of mass destruction was presented and used as justification for the attack. The operation was expected to be over within a couple of months. Instead, the invasion led to a long-lasting occupation war with suicide bombings and torture. Close to a million lives later, the war is finally over. But the question of whether the world is a safer place remains for time to show.

The Iraqi people are now facing challenges to create a free democracy, a tough transition phase to which the Americans will still contribute. "With our diplomats and civilian advisers in the lead, we will help Iraqis strengthen institutions that are just, representative and accountable," Obama said. "We'll build new ties of trade and of commerce, culture and education that unleash the potential of the Iraqi people." But for these ties to become reality, the Iraqi people will have to forgive the Americans for the countless killings of civilians. And since Iraq is far from the country it used to be—now with a severe humanitarian crisis, ethnic splits and millions of refugees—the delight of freedom will certainly take generations to appreciate.

On the U.S. home front, the

criticism has grown strong against the military engagement that began after the terror attacks on Sept. 11. In comparison to the Iraqi sacrifice, the lives of 5,000 American soldiers and an estimated 100,000 wounded might not seem as vast, but their contributions have crushed numerous hearts and have reminded the American people of the human costs of war. In May 2007, the New York Times released results of a poll in which 61% of the participants believed the U.S. "should have stayed out" of Iraq.

Financially, economists argue that the \$800 billion spent on the war drastically increased the national debt and contributed to the recession in 2009. Former President Clinton economic adviser Joseph Stiglitz and Harvard University public policy lecturer Linda J. Bilmes put the total cost to the United States of the Iraq war at \$3 trillion, an estimate

that accounts for both government expenses and the war's broader impact on the U.S. economy. "The war didn't just contribute to the severity of the financial crisis, but also kept the government from responding to it effectively," Stiglitz said. Before Operation Iraqi Freedom was launched, former President Bush's chief economist, Lawrence Lindsey, predicted that the war would cost \$100 to \$200 billion. As things turned out, the estimates were far too low because nobody had expected the involvement to last nearly nine years.

Today Iran poses a much more severe threat to the U.S. than Iraq did in 2003. Iran's nuclear program and evident potential to construct nuclear weapons have become a major headache for U.S. and Israel, whose prime minister presses for a decision to strike a uranium enrichment facility at Natanz, the centerpiece of Iran's nuclear-

fuel production. UN weapon inspectors make a "credible" case that "Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear device." Iran simply seeks a military-nuclear capability equal to their neighbors Israel, Pakistan, India and Russia. The Iran situation is therefore not only similar, but more severe than the circumstances prior to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. But the American tone is different now with a less warmongering U.S. president, who wants to avoid another war.

Another variable that changes the approach towards Iran has been the sudden call for democracy in the Middle East. People's questioning of their authorities has spread quickly throughout the Muslim world and has put pressure on oppressive governments, including Iran. The new wave of demonstrations and revolutions has showed that change can happen without

the military involvement of foreign powers. Some countries have been more successful than others in establishing democracy, but usually countries with a strong desire for freedom progress better by themselves rather than when democracy is forced upon them. The U.S. plan to deal with Iran should therefore involve patience. New York Times columnist Roger Cohen suggested a "contain and constrain" strategy rather than bombing nuclear facilities. The latter operation would unite Iran and have "unintended consequences," he said.

Hopefully, President Obama has learned the tough lesson from Iraq and seeks more effective and cautious methods in dealing with Iran. A majority of the American population would like to avoid another war at any cost, but there are representatives with an opposite view. Republican presidential candidates propose more drastic approaches to prevent Iran from developing an atomic bomb—everything from funding armed rebel movements to launching military attacks. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich called for "maximum covert operations to block and disrupt the Iranian program" and backed fellow candidate Mitt Romney's call for possible military action. But the recent statements from the president forecast a more careful approach and less active role in the Middle East, as he argues for continuous U.S. and international sanctions against Iran, in part because he wants to channel energy to reviving the economy. "After a decade of war," he said, "the nation that we need to build — and the nation that we will build — is our own."

Students Decry 'Dry Campus' Policy

By Joshua Meeks
Decree Sports Editor

Across North Carolina Wesleyan, students have begun to voice a strong opinion about the dry-campus policy.

Many students feel that the administration has taken away an opportunity for the students to make this an ultimate college experience. One unnamed student believes the school suffers because the dry campus keeps people from coming together.

"I think the student's inability to drink alcohol on campus is a big problem," she says. "School activities don't involve alcohol and I think that turns other students away to do something else. It's college and students want to drink."

The U.S. Surgeon General has reported that four out of five college students consume alcohol.

Kevin Quicker, a December graduate, sees the dry campus as a problem as well. He believes that it forces students to travel elsewhere to have a good time, which increases the risk of drinking and driving.

"When most people want to go out on a Thursday or Friday, they normally go to Greenville or Raleigh," said Quicker. "We're in college. If we're 21, then we should be allowed to have a drink with our friends on campus and not have to go somewhere else."

A sophomore echoed Quicker's response about the policy, saying that it is not fair for responsible students who are 21.

"It already happens regardless of the policy," she said. "Those who are able to drink should be allowed." Like Quicker, the sophomore noted the potential for accidents when students drive out of town for parties.

Other students do not find it necessary to go to Raleigh or Greenville if they want to have a good time. One student admits that he breaks the dry-campus rule and drinks in his dorm room because resident advisors tend to look the other way.

"It's a college campus," he said. "If you want to drink, you'll find a way. There are several liquor stores around town." This student added that most RAs have the same policy: "if they don't see it, and they don't hear it, it's not there."

He explained that drinking in the dorms has not become a major issue because students normally act relatively civilized when they do drink.

"Most people who drink on campus don't get caught because they don't act like a fool," he said. "As long as you aren't raging in your dorm room, or wandering the halls belligerently drunk, (the resident advisors) aren't going to knock on your door on a Friday night to see whether you have open containers of alcohol. They're too wrapped up in whatever it is they are doing to care if we're drinking in the dorms."

In the eyes of some students, Wesleyan's residential advisors have become stern and begun taking their jobs more seriously.

When asked what RAs did when they found people drinking, the sophomore said it all depends on the person.

"My old RA was never there so we always got away with it," she said. "Our new RA, though, would write us up in a heartbeat."

In a recent interview Dean Randy Williams said that he believes that the students need to show "reasonable ownership of themselves, their peers and college property" for the school to consider lifting the dry campus policy. Williams said students are not "exemplifying the right amount of care or exhibiting the proper level of responsibility" for the policy to be changed.

"When I came here, one of my goals was for students to take control of the college life," said Williams, "but so far, although improvements have been made, I just don't think we're there yet."

A second unnamed sophomore thinks the school already puts enough rules on the students and the drinking policy should be lifted because it is not that big of a deal.

"We're in college," she said. "We have enough rules as it is, like being forced to live on campus. All of our 'rites of passage', like visitations and having people stay the night, have been taken away. The school is taking away too much."

In a recent survey of 100 students, 98 percent reported that they drank on campus at some point during their tenure in the dorms. Of that total, all reported being underage when they first drank on campus.

Drinking was not confined to the dorms, as 66 percent of students reported that they drank in a number of places around campus—everywhere from areas among "The Pines," to the gazebos, to their cars while parked in the different lots. Some students even drink while attending home basketball and volleyball contests, the survey revealed.

Wesleyan is not the only dry

campus in the area. Louisburg College maintains a strict policy that states no member of the school should have alcohol on campus at any time.

George Morris, a recent Louisburg graduate, said that students overlook the policy there as well.

"Students drink there all the time," Morris said. "They drink at games and have small drinking parties in the dorms. The RA's there don't really care what anybody does so students normally don't have to worry about anything."

Although Wesleyan students want big changes fast, Dean Williams believes that the college needs to take smaller and strategic steps before it can even consider revisiting the alcohol policy.

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SGA meetings average about 20 attendees per meeting. Of those 20, most are required to attend because they head clubs that receive funding from SGA.

Simpson's predecessor, Jacob Strickland, rebuilt SGA from scratch when he took over in 2008. Last year, his third as president, only about a dozen students would attend meetings.

"The only time we got a real turnout was when the bookstore policy went into effect," said Strickland. "Students don't want to do anything unless it affects them directly. They would rather go to their dorm rooms and watch TV or play XBOX."

According to the survey, eight percent of students reported that they have ever attended an SGA meeting during their tenure here and, of those, half said that they attend on a regular basis. While 82 percent knew that SGA stood for Student Government Association, only 65 percent understood the actual functions of the organization.

Tingle believes that the small turnout at school activities outside of sporting events is because students like to stay in the comforts of their rooms and their social cliques.

"If you want students at this school to do anything, most of the time you have to bribe them," said Tingle. "There aren't large social events that get all of the students together to do something."

Clark compared the school spirit here to that of his high school, Northern Nash Senior High. He said that there was much more school spirit there than here and part of the reason may be because the NCWC football team plays so far away from the school.

"In high school," explained Clark, "all the students went to the football game on Friday. Football brings out the most school spirit," but with so few at Wesleyan's games, "I think it takes away from the school."

He added that, of the students in attendance, "Most are there just socialize and couldn't care less about the game itself." Clark and others noted that a new stadium on Wesleyan's campus, together with a winning program, would create a "buzz" among the study body.

Bass cited another compelling reason for the low school spirit: the college's poor retention rate. He argued that students are not enrolled at the school long enough to create a sense of unity.

"The students don't stay long enough for friendships to grow," the senior said. "No one is going to care about our sports teams if they aren't here long enough to call themselves Bishops."

According to data provide by the administration, Wesleyan's retention rate

from last spring to this fall was 51 percent. Its graduation rate was 18 percent for students who entered the college in 2004.

Bass believes that the school will not grow "spiritually" until the administration finds a way to retain students. He thinks that problems at the school start from the top and trickle down.

At the same time, Bass and others blamed students themselves for much of the negative attitudes and apathy. Bass acknowledged that many students, after their arrival on campus, develop a negative view of the college due to the quality of the cafeteria food and conditions of the residence halls. But, saying that they "don't always see the good parts of Wesleyan," he believes students should focus more attention on what's important: establishing life-long friendships.

Offered a full scholarship to play rugby at the University of Sydney in Australia, Bass elected to attend Wesleyan because of the opportunity to play soccer and stay close to his home in Maryland. He feels that he may have missed out on a great opportunity but because of the friendships he has made at Wesleyan, he does not regret his decision.

"I still get to play rugby in the spring with the (Raleigh) Vipers," Bass said, "and I've made some great friends like (Justin) Wolf, (Kevin) Quicker, and Berto (Faisca). That's what this college is about, and the small stuff should be overlooked because of it."

Clark agreed with Bass that students often overlook what is important here at Wesleyan because they do not have an open enough mind.

"Since we don't have the big frat houses, students get discouraged. And I've heard students say that the rules in the dorms are too strict, which also discourages them because they feel the school is taking away their freedom," he said. "But I think students try to get out of here without giving the school a chance."

Although most interviewees recognized the problems at Wesleyan, few offered concrete solutions.

"The school needs a jumpstart somehow but I'm not sure where that's going to come from," said Tingle. "It's upsetting that I'm a senior now because I want the school to come together more and there isn't enough time for me to do anything."

Correction

In the November issue, Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian Steve Bahnaman was interviewed for an article on Starbucks coffee coming to the library's Internet Café. His quotes were incorrectly attributed to Interim Writing Center Director Nick Frankenhauser.

THE DECREE

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

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SPORTS

Women's Hoops Team Takes Maryland Tourney, Begins 3-3

The women's basketball team (3-3) is already within one win of last year's victory total after capturing The Jim Crawley Tournament at Frostburg State College (Md.) and beating a conference rival.

Tiffany Bell scored 13 points to lead NCWC past host Frostburg, 52-49, in the first round of the tourney and then three Bishops scored in double figures as the team defeated Grove City, 56-47, in the title game.

The Bishops have split their early conference match-ups, winning 79-65 over Peace College, and losing 93-82 at Meredith. The other losses came at the hands of Virginia Wesleyan, in the season opener, and NN Apprentice.

In 2010-11, NCWC finished 4-20 overall, one year after finishing 1-23 in Coach Artina Trader's first season. The Decree conducted a recent email interview with Coach Trader to talk about her team's improvement.

Q. Your team is 3-3 so far, including an impressive tournament victory in Maryland. Even though the touney was non-conference, comment on the effect that title will have on the team the rest of the year?

A. The tournament win shows the team that when we work together and play team defense, we will win games. Those two games were close and when we needed defensive stops, we did it with our team defense.

Q. Already you're within one win of last year's total. To what do you attribute the team's dramatic improvement?

A. We're a young team with a year of experience under our belts. We're playing hard every possession, which makes up for mistakes. I also believe that we have a bit of a chip on our shoulders because last year we didn't quite live up to our talents. But with the experience, we have a better understanding of team defense, shot selection, and taking care of the basketball. We've been more consistent with our perimeter play and improving with our post play. We're one of the smallest teams in the post, so it's important that we play team defense and have consistent help-side to force opponents to make the perfect pass into the post.

Q. Can you pinpoint a particular moment in the early going that let you know that this team would be better than your first two squads?

A. During the Jim Crawley tournament, we built a lead against Frostburg State. The Bobcats tied the game late (maybe with a minute to play), but we executed offensively and remained calm and were able to make it to the championship game. In the championship against Grove City, we struggled offensively for most of the game, but then we started to get defensive stops and that translated into added momentum offensively. Also we're doing a better job of understanding our roles. We're lucky enough to have consistency coming off the bench, which will make it harder to defend us as a whole.

Q. How would you characterize your team's overall style of play?

A. That's a good question. I really have no idea. I think that in the three wins, we were a defensive team but as I say that, you can look at the stats and see that we lead the league in fouls per game. We're aggressive and like to put pressure on the ball, which can lead to the opposing team getting a lot of foul shot attempts. The three losses were high-scoring and we didn't play our best defensively but got the shot attempts that we wanted. Some just didn't fall. I'm told by most opposing

coaches that we "play hard and have a heck of a team." We always get more shot attempts than our opponents do, which means we have more possessions. This lends itself to forcing turnovers and creating opportunities with offensive rebounding.

Q. Your 13-member teams draws heavily

from up north. Besides one New Yorker, you boast six players from Maryland and four from Virginia. Can you explain the attraction of MD and VA players?

A. I guess because I was born and raised in Annapolis, MD, so I know the DMV (DC-Maryland-Virginia) area. I graduated

from NC Wesleyan, which was the perfect distance from home. I'm doing a better of job of trying to get local (North Carolina) talent to attend Wesleyan. We have two young ladies from NC (Elizabeth City and Raleigh) this year.

Q. In what part of their game do your players have the most room for improvement?

A. Free-throw shooting and shot selection. When our jump-shots are falling, then it's great but when we're having an off-night we need to work for lay-ups (which we don't always do). Yes, shooters need to keep shooting, but my high school coach always said, "when your shot's not falling, work for some lay-ups so you can see the ball go through the hoop. Then you start making your jump-shots again..." It worked on us in high school, so I just stick with that frame of mind.

Q. I know coaches do not like to single out individual players, but I'll ask anyways: which players have played particularly well and who has really stepped her game since last year?

A. We're fortunate to have some good team players. Samantha Urquhart is our returning All-conference selection and



Veteran Men's Team Looks to Repeat

By Kevin Quicker & Brandon Taylor
Decree Sports Writers

With seven returning seniors, the NCWC men's basketball team expects to successfully defend its USA Conference title, but realizes that much work needs to be done.

Completing their fall season with a 6-4 record, the Bishops have already faced some tough competition, beating Guilford and Hampden Sydney, while losing to Mary Washington, Maryville, and Virginia Wesleyan, ranked number five in the nation at the time of their matchup.

Led by 2010-11 all-conference performers Matt Dougherty, Alex Murray and Domarius Thomas, the Bishops resume play January 2 and open conference action January 7 at home against rival Christopher Newport.

"We have a tremendous group of seniors," said Head Coach John Thompson. "They're hard working, dedicated and committed, but most importantly, they are all really good people."

The Battling Bishops earned a preseason ranking nationally at #20 and in the November issue of the Basketball Times a ranking of #25. Coach Thompson acknowledged the rankings during the preseason by saying "As always, we appreciate the consideration and being included among the top teams in the country. We have lots of work to do, and we hope that we prove ourselves worthy over the course of the season."

On the last day of November the North Carolina Wesleyan Bishops took on the Guilford College Quakers in Everett Gymnasium. Some 330 fans filled the bleachers at 5:30 to watch the showdown, and Wesleyan seized a 36-25 lead at the half. The big lead was ignited by intense team defensive pressure that led to 13 points off of ten Quaker turnovers. Sophomore David Gurganus caught fire and sparked the Bishops on the offensive end, hitting back-to-back threes that started a Bishop run.

Thomas led all players at the break with nine points and seven rebounds. As the 2nd half started, the Bishops sat on a comfortable lead, but the Quakers made a comeback, cutting the lead to three points on four occasions. Fortunately, every time the Quakers questioned the lead, the Bishops would answer back which included them going five for six from the foul line.

The game ended with the final score of 65-61, with the Bishops winning in an exciting matchup. Thomas finished the game recording a double-double with eleven points and eleven rebounds. Dougherty scored 16 points, while fellow senior Murray scored 13. The Bishops hit 18 of 23 free-throw attempts to lock up the fifth win on the season.

NCWC vs. Virginia Wesleyan

In the most anticipated game of the early season, the Bishops lost, 99-76, to Virginia Wesleyan on Sunday, December 4 at Everett Gymnasium.

The Marlins' athleticism and speed proved key as their smothering defense and fast-break offense took an early toll on NCWC. Virginia Wesleyan created turnovers and open shots early on but they could not find the bottom of the net.

The Marlins came out pressing and making sure Dougherty got limited touches. Dougherty finished with 7 points on 3-7 shooting.

Half way through the first half, the Bishops had a 10-0 run to give them their first and only lead of the game, 20-19. NCWC's confidence was noticeably higher at this point and they began to realize that they could play with the Marlins.

But after an electrifying alley-oop from guard Gurganus to Thomas with 3:01 to go in the first half to cut the Marlins lead to 32-30, VA Wesleyan began to pull away.

The Marlins took advantage of NCWC's miscues by going on an 8-1 run to end the half, and had a 40-31 lead. Devin Nichols led the way for the Bishops in the first half with 7 points.

In the second half, Virginia Wesleyan pushed the tempo even harder, being more

aggressive on fast breaks, creating more open looks, and this time, the Marlins were making these shots. VA Wesleyan's DJ Woodmore made five shots in a row, four of them 3-pointers to help his team take charge. Woodmore finished the game with a game-high 26 points.

NCWC was plagued by turnovers and gave up too many offensive rebounds in the second half, allowing VA Wesleyan to stretch its lead.

For NCWC, a second-half highlight came with 2:16 left, when, with game out of reach, fan favorite John Kostet, the Swedish senior, drilled a three-point shot from the corner. This ignited the crowd momentarily, something that did not happen during the rest of the second half.

The Marlins didn't ease up until the final horn sounded, beating the Bishops 99-76.

The Marlins shot an impressive 64 percent in the second half and 54 percent from behind the 3-point line, while the Bishops shot 48 percent, and 25 percent from 3-point range.

Thomas, Nichols, and sophomore Josh Morrison led the scoring for NCWC with 11 points each.

The loss left the Bishops' overall record at 5-3. The next week the team split two games on the road, beating Covenant in Georgia before losing to Maryville College in Tennessee.

Coach Henninger Reflects on Rare Losing Season

By Decree Sports Staff

The NCWC football team just completed its worst season in its eight-year history, losing the final four games en route to a 2-8 overall record, one year after tying for the conference lead and two seasons after earning a berth in the Division III playoffs.

The Decree staff conducted a recent email interview with Head Coach Mark Henninger, who reflected on the season and looked ahead, with enthusiasm, to next year.

Q. What was going through your mind immediately after the last game of the season, against Shenandoah, and in the ensuing days?

A. Immediately after the Shenandoah game all I was thinking about was the seniors and what they accomplished during their four years here. They're a great group of young men and I'm going to miss seeing them on a daily basis. In the ensuing days, on my mind was nothing but recruiting and 2012. We've set a level of expectation around here to compete for championships and be great, and we fell way short of that during 2011. And the 2012 season starts now as we hit the road recruiting.

Q. What was the turning point in your season?

A. It's hard to say exactly when things turned. I think in many ways it started with our tough loss at LaGrange. We've never started the season off 0-3. We've been 1-2 every season here and I think, in many ways, we thought we were right where we have always been after we started 0-2. I think we felt we were destined to win that one, start the year off 1-2, roll into conference play and then go win another. But when it didn't happen for us down in Georgia, I think we were in a different place mentally.

Q. As you reported earlier in the season, you played this year with a smaller roster. What effect, if any, did that have on the team's overall performance?

A. It had an effect on overall depth. We had great depth at certain positions and not enough at others. We were short of being where we need to be to have great depth and competition in November when injuries really start taking a toll on the roster.

Q. After the season, a player told me that he felt there were too many "me's" and "I's"

has been my most consistent player (she's been near career double-double for three years). But the sophomore class has done a good job of improving on their overall games. Specifically, Tiffany Bell, Shanice Goree, and A'leisha Henderson have all stepped up their games. Henderson and Goree are taking the "wildness" out of their games and are really keeping the defenses honest. Goree is becoming the ultimate "6th man" coming off the bench, giving us real firepower off the bench. She's our "Jason Terry," the guard who comes off the bench for the World Champion Dallas Mavericks.

Kourtney Salisbury and Jaleesa Honesty are doing a better job of taking care of the basketball from the point guard position. Monet Edwards and Leann Breeden are doing admirable jobs playing out of position this season. Edwards is a guard who is playing more in the post this season, and Breeden has the offensive skills of a guard but the physical build (our tallest player, at 5'9") of a post. Both have the ability to be the "X" factor for us. Breeden has the ability to really stretch the floor for us, as she hit 5 threes off the bench in our win against Peace College, and Edwards has reached double figures in two games and does a lot of little things for us that don't always show up in the stat column. The first-year players—Aljah Brown, Derreon Cole, NeTaih Davis, and Shelby Jackson—have all fought through early-season injuries and are now starting to get some game experience.

Q. What teams will be particularly competitive in the conference?

A. The entire conference is tough from top to bottom. Greensboro and Ferrum were selected pre-season #1 and #2 with Christopher Newport at third. Greensboro is returning four of their five starters which included All-American selection Danielle Duncan. And they also have returning last year's Conference Rookie of the Year. Ferrum is also returning most of their firepower from the starting rotation. Christopher Newport is always a top competitor in the league and this year is no different. I think right now Greensboro and Christopher Newport are ranked nationally by d3hoops.com.

Q. What will it take for your team to win the conference championship?

A. Continued hard work on both ends of the floor with a huge commitment to team defense. We have to out-work all of our opponents and never take a possession off.

on this year's team and not enough "we's."

What's your reaction to that comment?

A. There was some of this and I believe it developed from losing. We've never lost here like we did this year. Our players expect to play for championships, and to a degree this is a good thing. However, when you're out of the race for a conference title, you have to shift your focus to playing the game for your pride and for your teammates that have worked all this time with you. The goal this off-season is to build the sense of team and commitment to one another. The championships come from this feeling of "one-ness", not the other way around.

Q. You changed quarterbacks about halfway through the season, from Jackson to Paris, and then back to Jackson again toward the end. How would you characterize the overall play of your QBs? And would you say that next year's starting quarterback is on the current roster, or that you intend to bring in some new freshmen to compete for the starting job?

A. We struggled on offense, not just the QB position. We were so young and inexperienced on the offensive line that it really limited what we could do. That group is going to be great as they mature, but we paid for it this season. Our QBs struggled right alongside the rest of the offense as it seemed like we were searching all season for a rhythm. When we got good play out of our QB, we would have a breakdown somewhere else. As for next season, the QB position is the same as every other position on the field—we will compete.

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All-Conference Picks: Female Athletes
Setter Mackenzie Tingle (pictured) was named first team USA South All-Conference for the third time in her four-year career. She led the Bishops to a 20-11 overall record in 2011. Middle hitter Meredith Smith earned second-team recognition. In soccer, freshman Rebecca Staylor was a third-team selection, after scoring a team-high 10 goals, with 4 assists. Teammate Kasie Edwards was an honorable mention.



SI Photos



All-Conference Picks: Male Athletes
Fullback Justin Wolf (pictured) and forward Owen White, both first-team selections, headlined a list of NCWC men's soccer players who earned USA South All-Conference honors. Second-team selections were Omar Kanten, Vinnie De La Cueva and Alberto Faisca. In football, linebacker Tazmon Foster was the conference Defensive Player of the Year, while defensive back Dwayne Hollis and punter Kevin Quicker joined him on the first team.

CAMPUS LIFE

Second Annual Banquet Opens Eyes to Hunger

Reported by Staff Writer

Melanie Rhodes

Hunger, both worldwide and in the Rocky Mount area, was the focus as the NC Wesleyan community gathered for its second World Hunger Banquet November 16 at the Dunn Center.

More than 100 attended the event, which featured a dinner and talks by several homeless Rocky Mount citizens. David Joyner, a member of the board at the Boys and Girls Club and My Sister's House, served as emcee.

Once again, each attendee participated in an exercise to illustrate the plight of the hungry and malnourished. On entering the Dunn Center, they were randomly assigned to one of three groups: upper class, middle class or lower class. When dinner was served, the upper class dined on chicken, rice, beans, rolls and sweet tea, while the middle class meal consisted on rice, beans and water. The lower class group ate rice or beans, served on a paper plate, and water.

Freshman Danielle Jackson, a member of the "lower class," said: "I realized that I'm fortunate to have a way of surviving every day."

As part of the event, attendees heard about homelessness from local citizens who have experienced it first-hand. Among the speakers was Willie Mason, director of United Community Ministries. Because of alcohol and drugs, he lost everything and became homeless. He told the audience that for a while he ate out of trash cans and ditches, and spent time in jail as a result of stealing just to eat.

Due to his experience, Mason offered wisdom that helped him endure the tough times. "I believe it's important to take responsibility when you do something wrong. It's important to make good decisions and try to help others," he said. "I'm now very fortunate to be in a situation that I can make intelligent decisions to lead my life to more success."

April Pfeiffer, a psychology major and a member of student group Refuge, was struck by Mason and the other speakers. She was impressed by their strong desire to help others less fortunate. "I felt their comments were not only surprising but eye opening," she said.

Like many students in attendance, Jillian Hauf, the college's new coordinator of Community Engagement, was moved by the speakers.

"My heart grew heavy when a homeless citizen of Rocky Mount told the crowd that he felt as though he needed to do more himself to combat hunger," Hauf said. "Here's a person who has so little making a pledge to give more. That alone was motivation for me to step up, and I hope the audience felt the same way."

Besides the testimonials from local citizens, organizers presented a slide show that documented world hunger. Hauf said that she was shocked by the number of children affected by hunger and malnourishment. She found the "images flashing throughout the slide show difficult to watch."

During his talk, Joyner offered the following statistics about hunger:

*An estimated 15 children die every minute and close to 22,000 children die per day, a number, Joyner said, that is greater than the number of children in

the Nash-Rocky Mount school system.

*According to StopTheHunger.com, more than 10 million have died from hunger worldwide so far in 2011. And it is estimated that 915,000 million are undernourished.

*Up to 50 percent of the food in the U.S. is wasted.

Joyner said he hoped "to send a message that it's our responsibility to fight world hunger. We all need to be held accountable. We all need to do more and we can do better."

The event was organized by Hauf and two students groups, Refuge and SIM-W. Students helped in recruiting guests, promoting the event, and volunteering at the banquet.

Hauf said that students will get an opportunity to combat world hunger next semester when, for the second consecutive year, Wesleyan will partner with Stop Hunger Now, an international hunger-relief organization based in Raleigh. Students will help put together packages to send to crisis areas both locally and around the globe.

Of NCWC's second annual Hunger Banquet, Hauf said: "I hope that the attendees left with a sense of urgency to do their part to end hunger, as well as realize that each one of them has a responsibility to end the senseless wasting of food."

NSA Staffer Chronicles History of Cryptology

By Emily Bower
Decree Staff Writer

National Security Agency historian Betsy Smoot came to express to cryptology and math students the importance of early cryptology in the United States.

Cryptology—the science of secret writing—was the focus of an honors class at Wesleyan this past fall. According to the course instructor, Dr. Bill Yankosky, professor of mathematics

and director of the honors program, cryptology consists of code-making (called cryptography) and code-breaking (cryptanalysis).

Appearing at the Carlton Boardroom on November 8, Smoot was one of two guest speakers brought to campus this fall by the honors program. The other was Dr. Neil Sigmon of Radford University, who discussed the Navajo Code Talkers from WW II.

Dr. Yankosky said that the course was interdisciplinary in nature because it was not only heavy on the math involved in cryptology but incorporated a lot of background from American history.

Twenty students took the course, with several taking part in an October field trip, which featured one day of the NSA-sponsored National Cryptology History Symposium as well as a visit to the National Cryptologic Museum.

Speaking to keep students "aware of the connections between technology and cryptology through the ages," Smoot wants to promote the understanding of our nation's cryptologic history. It is important because "as the technology for communication changes, technology for making codes and ciphers, and for breaking those codes and ciphers, change," Smoot said.

In her presentation Smoot began with the invention of the telegraph and covered the use of radio in the military. Both were "major changes in communication," Smoot said. "They changed the way government and military communicate, and when you change your communication, you start to think about protecting what you're communicating."

Transmitting messages was not as easy as many of us would think today. "Ground telegraphy intercept was one of the most difficult tasks in World War I," said Smoot. Intelligence agents had to get a stake and wire planted in 'no-man's-land,' and run that wire back to the trenches to intercept messages.

The Signal Intelligence Service was formed for "making codes and ciphers, and preparing to break codes and ciphers," said Smoot. The direct predecessor of the National Security Agency, the SIS laid the groundwork for what we now use to decode messages from foreign countries.

Very few know that the United States monitored not only the transmissions of other nations, but our own as well, Smoot noted. The country had to be sure that no secrets were leaked to foreign nations.

Even Prohibition saw cryptology being put in action. The Rum Runners brought alcohol into the country, and code breakers "worked with the Coast Guard to intercept the radio," Smoot said. "Teams would break the messages and capture smugglers when they were coming into port."

Not all codes were used in military arrangements. Commercial codes were put in practice by businesses. Because the telegraph had become so widely used, it was



NC Wesleyan will exhibit the oil paintings of local artists and educators John C. Gay and John W. High at the Dunn Center Mims Gallery from January 13 to February 12, 2012. The college will hold a reception for the artists in the gallery from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, January 20. Shown here is Gay's "White Cow in Herd." Photo courtesy of E. Adelman.

Duo Wins Talent Show Performing Songs By Lil Wayne and Usher

By Gloria Arizpe
Decree Staff Writer

The 2011 NCWC Psychology Club talent show, held November 15, ended with a bang as senior Denver Nixon

and sophomore T.J. Vesce landed first place after performing an amazing duet.

The "Brothers" played a mix of Lil Wayne's "How to Love" and Usher's "Make Love in This Club" to their acoustic guitars. The two were last in the show and obviously made a lasting impression on the audience.

Second place was claimed by junior David "Devonte Divo" Douglas, who did a challenging and very impressive performance of Beyoncé's "Best Thing I Never Had." Third place was Andrew Baptiste for a beautiful number he sang to a lovely lucky lady on stage.

When asked about how long the "Brothers" have been playing together, Vesce said "We've been playing together and being best friends forever."

He said they chose to do the songs they sang based on the audience's preference in music. It only took them a surprising one day and one night to fully prepare for the talent show. "We just love playing music," Vesce said.

The "Brothers" performance was amazing. At first the duo got their guitars and equipment ready, and started to charm the audience with their southern talk and smiles. They strummed a few chords and then surprised the audience with an acoustic version of Lil Wayne's "How to Love." Needless to say, the crowd went wild. To top it all off, they switched it up with "Make Love in This Club," which was met by a roar of cheers. They drew a standing ovation and ultimately first prize.

Douglas's performance was very well planned and performed. He had two backup vocalists and started the show with a few words of inspiration and motivation. His voice boomed out into the audience, with excellent projection and presence.

For all of his performances, Douglas said he practices a little more than do the "Brothers." In most cases, he takes a month or more to prepare for a show. The current Mr. Wesleyan, Douglas received second place for an impressive and inspiring performance of the Beyoncé tune.

Third-place winner Andrew Baptiste was just as wonderful, leaving a lasting impression on the audience. The audience loved his deep voice; as soon as he began to sing, everyone cheered and yelled his name. He had a female student sit on a stool in the middle of the stage while he sang to her. Quite animated in his performance Baptiste grabbed the audience's attention as well as their heart. His performance was very emotional and audience members fell in love with him.

The show featured a variety of student talent, from dancing and singing to baton twirling. Among the other impressive performers were interpretative dancer Jalysa Reye and singers Danielle Spann-Haden and Alia Thomas.

Prizes were \$50 for first place, \$30 for second, and \$20 for third. All other performers were given \$5 Wal-Mart gift cards, according to Samantha House, coordinator of the show for Wesleyan's Psychology Club.

When asked what they did with their money, Vesce said, "we went to eat at Bojangles and bought some (guitar) strings!"

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When we get to camp next fall, every position is open for competition and we will play the best 11 on both sides of the ball.

Q. What were three specific areas where your team played below expectations?

A. Offense, defense, and special teams. I say this half jokingly, but we struggled all season long on capitalizing on momentum created by the other units on the field. When the offense puts together a scoring drive, it's imperative that the defense go out and get a stop. If that doesn't happen and the opponent drives down and scores, all the momentum created from the offense's drive is lost. Same thing on defense; when the defense sets up the offense with great field position by forcing a turnover, a 3 and out is a killer. We battled that all season. Even in the Averett game, our best performance of the season, we never fully had all three phases of the game clicking at the same time.

Q. What were three bright spots from last season?

A. We had some individuals really rise to the occasion. Coming immediately to mind is the play of Taz Foster being named defensive player of the year, great play out of our kick-off return team, and development of some of the young players on the team.

Q. In your playing and coaching career, have you ever seen a defensive performance to match Foster's?

A. I played with a guy that was named AP Little All-America his junior and senior seasons. He was not very big (like Taz), played sideline to sideline (like Taz), and wore the number 50 (like Taz). Not since that guy have I seen anything like him. Taz plays so fast and so consistent.

Q. What are your recruitment goals for next year? And please summarize the recruitment process over the next few months.

A. I've never been more anxious to get out on the road and into these high schools than I am right now. Our recruiting goals are the same as they always have been—to find the best athletes we can find that fit the mold of what NCW is all about. It's a long and tedious process, but one that is the life-blood of our football program. It all starts this month as our coaches hit the road and visit with prospects and their coaches in the high schools. During this phase, we will contact approximately

750-800 prospects as we visit nearly 300 high schools in eastern North Carolina and Virginia.

We'll take a week off for Christmas and then we begin the phone-call phase where each coach spends eight hours a week on the phone contacting and building a relationship with their recruits. Beginning in January and running up through the end of February, we begin the visit phase, where we'll invite 300-350 prospects to visit our campus and speak with the admissions office and view our football program from the inside. These visits occur Monday through Thursday over the span of seven weeks leading up to spring break.

After spring break, we begin spring practices and we reduce the number of visits, as most recruits are beginning to make decisions. We'll go back out on the road to revisit our top recruits and collect information on next year's seniors. Recruiting is like a math formula: If we get 300 visits, we should have between 65 and 75 freshmen when we start camp in the fall. With chasing these guys around trying to collect applications and transcripts and pushing the FAFSA for financial aid packages, our football coaches are like admissions counselors that understand the intricacies of man-to-man coverage rules and blocking the outside zone.

Q. Give fans three reasons the Bishops will rebound next year.

A. Just three? We will rebound next season. Our goals here have not changed: win the conference and compete in the NCAA playoffs. Our off-season will be extremely challenging and the players want it that way. We'll work so hard this offseason that losing is unacceptable and failure is not an option. Already, our recruiting efforts look to be outstanding; there seems to be a lot of great Division III-type players available this year in the areas we recruit. And there's a lot of very talented football players with strong academic qualifications. Last but not least, we have great support. The administration, the faculty, the staff, the students—the support we received this fall was outstanding and we're excited about 2012 and the home opener against Ohio Northern. There's going to be a great crowd, a tough opponent with a great tradition, and everyone will see a tremendously hungry football team in blue and gold.