

**Wesleyan Wise,
Wesleyan Strong**

**Despite COVID-19,
Commencement Convenes**

Winter 2021

FIRST MBA COHORT GRADUATES

WESsmagazine

A Publication of North Carolina Wesleyan College



WE DID IT!

#WesleyanStrong

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ON THE COVER

NCWC holds in-person commencement. Campus and students thrive in 2020 despite pandemic.

Mission Statement

North Carolina Wesleyan College, a private institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church, prepares students for professional advancement, lifelong learning and responsible participation in their communities.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Wesleyan Community,

The New Year marks a time for new beginnings, establishing priorities and optimistic thinking for the future. Many of us continue to feel overwhelmed and struggle with how 2021 can be any better than 2020. I'd say, be mindful with your thoughts and actions. As stated in my opening message to our students, faculty and staff, 2020 and the start of 2021 do not have to define our future. We can make positive and mindful decisions to ensure our community thrives and in turn, we thrive.



We can acknowledge the heartache and turmoil of the past twelve months; however, we must also turn the page to start the next chapter of our lives. At North Carolina Wesleyan College, we equip our students to meet the world's challenges head-on through coursework in the liberal arts and professional programs. It's essential that we connect what is learned in English, Literature, Algebra, Science, Criminal Justice, Management and the like, to the world around us. The outcomes in all of our programs lead students to reflect and think critically, to effectively communicate and collaborate, and to use information technology to their advantage. NCWC is a place where students realize their potential as critically engaged and informed citizens contributing to their personal successes, as well as the prosperity of their communities and society as a whole. Faculty and staff guide students as they develop a set of skills that are broadly useful, fully transferable, and widely applicable to any challenge or career.

In 2021, our goal is to stay true to our mission of preparing "students for professional advancement, life-long learning, and responsible participation in their communities." Also, to stay focused on the values of the United Methodist Church and our commitment to community, religion and discourse. This includes a place for religion in higher education, social justice and academic freedom, as well as the basic rights of all persons to equal access to education and spiritual growth within the College.

May 2021 bring you peace, joy and unconditional love.

With gratitude,

Dr. Evan D. Duff
President



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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE



THE BISHOP FOOTPRINT

With its main campus located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina Wesleyan College recently expanded its statewide footprint to 10 satellite campuses for adult students.

- Brunswick
- Manteo
- Wilmington
- Durham
- New Bern
- Winston-Salem
- Goldsboro
- Raleigh
- Greenville
- Washington

Despite COVID-19, Commencement Convenes



The College's Winter Commencement was held on the front lawn of campus for 195 graduates. This was the College's 80th graduation, with the first occurring in 1964. The closed event was open only to graduates, faculty and the platform party to allow the College to ensure physical distance and the safety of those

participating. Masks were provided to all graduates and each participant was required to wear their mask at all times during the outdoor event. There were 18 international graduates from nine countries: Argentina, Cambodia, Venezuela, United Kingdom, Nepal, Italy, France, Japan and Mexico.



*Ms. Sharon Lawrence
December '20 Graduation Speaker*

The commencement address was given by award-winning actress Sharon Lawrence. In February 2020, North Carolina Wesleyan College announced that Ms. Sharon Lawrence would be their April 2020 commencement speaker. Later, due to ongoing concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the College announced that the ceremony would have to take place virtually. Lawrence still took the time to send the graduates her congratulations and encouragement via video, with the hope that she would be able to address them in-person at the December 2020 ceremony. That hope came true. Lawrence returned in-person to address the Class of 2020 at NC Wesleyan's Winter Commencement in December.

You may know Lawrence from her multiple Emmy nominated and SAG Award winning portrayal of ADA Sylvia Costas Sipowitz in the groundbreaking "NYPD Blue" or in her numerous roles on "Dynasty," Showtime's "On Becoming a God in Central Florida," "Shameless," "Criminal Minds," or most recently in "The Christmas House" on Hallmark, the Apple TV+ series "Home Before Dark" and the film, "The Lost Husband." A native of North Carolina, she was born in Charlotte and later moved to Raleigh where she graduated from Broughton High School. Lawrence attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

"Based on her ties to North Carolina and success in the entertainment industry, we were overly enthusiastic to have Sharon Lawrence speak to our graduates in December. With our Entertainment Arts major and her ability to demonstrate that anything is possible with a solid education, she was a natural fit to be our commencement speaker," stated Dr. Evan D. Duff, President of North Carolina Wesleyan College.

First MBA Cohort Graduates

NCWC's MBA Program began its first cohort in January 2020. The MBA program received 94 applications for the Spring 2020 semester, and admitted 35 students to be in the first cohort. Of those 35 students, 22 became the first graduating class in the December 2020 Commencement.

"The MBA program has generated a lot of positive interest since it first began in January 2020. Thirty-five



Ms. Sharon Lawrence, Award-Winning Actress and NC Native

students were admitted into the first cohort, with the average undergraduate GPA being 3.5. Ninety-four percent of the 35 students admitted, received their undergraduate degree through NCWC, and NCWC's alumni are continuing to return to their alma mater to

advance their education with a Master of Business Administration," expressed Dani Somers, Director of Adult Studies & Graduate Admissions.

"The NCWC MBA program is a 33- hour, asynchronous, online program that allows our students to obtain a graduate degree while balancing a career and other outside commitments.

Our graduate faculty are

committed to meeting the students where they are to help them reach their academic goals, while at the same time imparting knowledge to enhance their skill set so the students can advance in their chosen career," commented Wendy Achilles, Faculty Member & MBA Program Coordinator.

"The first MBA graduating class not only excelled in the classroom, but also did not let the adversities of 2020 keep them from reaching their goals. The future is bright for Wesleyan's newest graduates and we wish them the very best," continued Achilles.

NCWC anticipates continued growth in interest and enrollment for the number of students joining NCWC's MBA Program. Furthermore, NCWC is investigating possible concentrations to be incorporated into the MBA program, in hopes of broadening the options for interested students.

HOLIDAY TERM OFFERED OVER WINTER BREAK

In response to the condensed spring and fall schedules, North Carolina Wesleyan College's administration and faculty incorporated the addition of a new "holiday" term during the fall semester. The fully online, six-week term began on November 30, 2020.

The fall 2020 semester at NC Wesleyan ended right before Thanksgiving, allowing students the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the new holiday term. The six-week term was offered at a reduced cost of \$325 per semester hour and was available to traditional and adult studies students, as well as visiting students.

Faculty at NC Wesleyan developed several unique course offerings, including: The Entrepreneurial Mindset, Leadership During Unusual Times: Challenges During COVID-19 Pandemic, Computer Forensics, Celebrating Christmas/Celebrating the Nation, Event Marketing, Conspiracy Theories, Professional and Business Ethics and Social Problems II - Problems of Social Inequality. A few regular courses were also offered, including: Organizational Leadership, Principles of Management, Physical Geology and Introduction to Religion.

"The College provided all students with an

opportunity to earn more credits during an unusually long winter break. COVID-19-related precautions streamlined fall and spring terms and condensed class meetings using hybrid and online meeting times into shorter periods of time," stated Dr. Molly Wyatt, Interim Provost. "This provided us with a six-week period for students to engage in special topics and common requirements over the break. It was perfect for students who want to get ahead or catch up in their degree progress."

Holiday Term Offered:

- 6-week Term
- 100% Online
- Reduced Tuition Rate
- Unique Topics/Classes

OUTDOOR LEARNING ON THE HORIZON FOR NC WESLEYAN



Concept Image

To continue providing a safe, innovative and unique learning environment for its students, North Carolina Wesleyan College recently received a \$50,000 cash gift to construct what will be known as the Marvin and Cynthia Barnes Family Fare Convenience Stores Outdoor Classroom.

"We are grateful for the Marvin and Cynthia Barnes Family Fare Convenience Stores Outdoor Classroom, as this gift will enhance NC Wesleyan's opportunity to provide unique learning spaces for our students," stated Elena Koutouzos '10, Director of Donor Relations & Stewardship.

The new outdoor classroom will be located at the front of campus near the Braswell Administration building. It will offer students a fun, safe, educational experience which will expand their perspective outside the walls of a normal class setting. The outdoor

classroom will consist of a 20 to 25-seat amphitheater.

"Wesleyan thrives, and is extremely grateful for, the relationship we have with our community partners. The generosity of the Barnes family and Family Fare Convenience Stores will have a positive impact on our students as they utilize this outdoor classroom for learning, student group meetings and small musical presentations," noted President Dr. Evan D. Duff.



(L-R): Eddie Coats '87, VP of Advancement; Marvin Barnes; Cynthia Barnes; Dr. Evan D. Duff, NCWC President and Elena Koutouzos '10, Director of Donor Relations & Stewardship

Marvin Barnes, a Rocky Mount native and his wife Cynthia, have been active in the North Carolina Methodist Church Conference for over half a century. Mr. Barnes grew up attending First United Methodist Church in downtown Rocky Mount, where he actively participated in all forms of worship.

"Cynthia and I are excited to give back to an educational purpose in my hometown just down the road from our first Rocky Mount store and where I worked as a boy and young adult," stated Barnes. "It's a real pleasure to come back and see all the positive changes, and especially witness the impact Wesleyan is making on the region. My father always instilled in me an eagerness to learn. By providing a unique space for learning at Wesleyan, I know that this legacy will be maintained in one of my favorite places."

NCWC DIRECTOR FIGHTS LOCAL HUNGER

The Mercer Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 2017 by NC Wesleyan's Director of Military Studies, Lt. Col. (Ret) James Mercer has partnered with Thornes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, The Alpha Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. and Conetoe Family Life Center to assist Nash, Edgecombe and Rocky Mount communities during COVID-19.



Lt. Col. (Ret) James Mercer

Committed to serving their communities, these groups have made it their mission to provide those in need donated food from the Eastern and Central North Carolina Food Banks and Conetoe Family Life Center.



Lt. Col. (Ret) James Mercer with volunteers

Their volunteers have assembled, packaged and distributed over 10,000 pounds of donated food to area residents.

"Sadly, most believe that hunger only affects people who are lazy, just looking for a handout or don't want to work. Many of us who are on the front-lines fighting hunger know that is not true. Over one-third of hungry people are innocent

children, members of households that simply cannot provide enough food or proper nutrition," Lt. Col. (Ret) James Mercer said.

The Mercer Foundation, Inc. seeks to create healthy opportunities for children and to provide assistance to disabled veterans. The major goal of the organization is to transform lives. They equip disabled veterans with necessary tools, education and vocational training and provide balanced meals for children in high-risk environments.

WES WINS NATIONAL MASCOT CONTEST

North Carolina Wesleyan College was recently selected by the American College of Sports Medicine as the

Judges' Pick for first place in The Exercise is Medicine® On Campus (EIM-OC) Mascot Challenge video contest. This year, a record 32 colleges and universities submitted video entries.



As the first-place winner, the NC Wesleyan EIM-OC team received a \$1,000 grant to host physical activity programming on campus. The video was created by Dr. Shannon Crowley, EIM-OC Advisor, Dr. Danielle Braxton, Health and Movement Science Club Advisor, and Health and Movement Science Club student officers Emily Ketchum, Isaiah Matta, Savion Young and Rolando Valladarez. NC Wesleyan's EIM-OC Leadership Team members, Dr. Meir Magal and Physician Assistant Jessica Brys-Wilson, also assisted with creation of the video.

BEYOND THE WALL



VICTORIA THOMPSON '21 UNDERTAKES HYBRID INTERNSHIP IN PANDEMIC

During the fall 2020 semester, senior Victoria Thompson, obtained a local internship at Baskerville Elementary School. Due to COVID-19, the first month of her internship was held through remote learning. Working with school counselor, Miss Pitts, she helped develop virtual lessons on various aspects of social-emotional learning. This included teaching children how to handle their emotions and successfully interact with other students while focusing on values such as empathy, sharing, kindness and diversity. Thompson also produced multiple video lessons on these topics and collaborated with two other NC Wesleyan interns on creating an anti-bullying awareness video.

Thompson, along with the other two interns, Isa Awuku '21 and Maria Jernandez Lopez '21, created an anti-bullying project that was a huge encouragement to the local community. In the anti-bullying video, Thompson, Awuku and Lopez emphasized that every person is beautiful and worthy of love and respect. Thompson also stated that the goal of this project was to remind the students to know that they don't have to be ashamed of who they are. The video was such a success it was displayed on Baskerville Elementary School's website, shared with many local mental health professionals in the district, and shown in various classrooms. Thompson expressed that "she was extremely happy that she was able to be a part of such an overwhelmingly positive project with such an important and timely message for children.

On September 16, she was able to return for on-site instruction and expand her role to include assisting the school psychologist, Miss Bieniek. Here, Thompson was introduced to several IQ tests and educational assessments administered to students, as well as how to score those tests. She also had an opportunity to observe special education classes.

Thompson enjoyed her internship experience, noting that having to complete it partially online brought its own set of unique challenges. Rather than typical school hours, she would often meet with Miss Pitts during the evenings via Zoom to learn more about the basics of school counseling. Despite the altered schedule, Thompson persevered and learned valuable skills. She credits Miss Pitts and Miss Bieniek for going above and beyond to make sure she had a positive and meaningful internship.

Thompson is currently seeking a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Thompson shared that her internship experience "helped ignite a passion inside her" and now she "plans to attend graduate school in the near future focusing on school psychology."

Wesleyan Wise, Wesleyan Strong!



When many residential institutions of higher education moved to remote learning in the fall of 2020, NC Wesleyan moved forward to provide students with the face-to-face, on-campus experience that they desired. Social integration has been shown to be a key component to student persistence and success. Additionally, peer relationships and interaction are important for students' overall mental health. These factors were important in the decision to open the campus to students for residential living and classroom instruction. Although a number of institutions were forced to shut down during the fall due to the virus, NC Wesleyan College worked hard

to maintain an open campus throughout the semester. The College's success was due in large part to the ability of students, faculty and staff to quickly adapt to and overcome many challenges.

Planning for an open campus in the midst of a pandemic began with a charge from President Evan Duff to be "Wesleyan Wise." The Viral Infection Response Team (VIRT), chaired by Director of Health Services and campus physician assistant Jessica Brys-Wilson, PA-C, worked tirelessly to develop and implement a plan designed to keep students on campus, in class, and safe. The plan included required COVID tests

**Only 27% of colleges
opened in fall 2020 offering
primarily in-person instruction.**

Chronicle of Higher Education

prior to arrival, mask-wearing mandates, daily symptom screening, and facility capacity limitations. Communication was one key to the success of the plan. The College maintained a coronavirus alert website which contained updated information along with the reopening plan and COVID-19 dashboard. The campus community had ready access to important, real-time information regarding the pandemic on campus.



Additionally, the VIRT sent a Friday message each week that explained the protocols and updated the campus community

on issues surrounding the pandemic. Brys-Wilson touted the cooperation from students, faculty and staff as another key to our success, noting “it was heartwarming to see how the Bishop family came together during such a tumultuous time to help one another.”

The College also established a faculty reopening committee to address specific instructional challenges related to COVID-19. “The opportunity for students and faculty to work closely together is one of the hallmarks of a Wesleyan education, so it was imperative for us to preserve as much in-person instruction as possible,” noted Dr. Andrew Stern, Chair of the Faculty and committee member. To this end, the committee developed seating capacity, cleaning, and layout plans for classrooms designed to maximize safety for students and faculty while maintaining face-to-face instruction. Garrett Barger ’21, a senior from Battleboro, NC stated that face-to-face classes have been “a real blessing. I learn better when I am in the classroom and can interact with my professor.”

Despite the challenges presented in maintaining a safe environment, many of the activities, events, and experiences that drive student satisfaction were offered. Resident Advisors modified hall programming to provide COVID-safe events such as door decorating contests and online gaming. Our student clubs and organizations found ways to meet virtually and in small groups. Since ‘virtual’ became the new buzzword of 2020, the Bishop Gaming Association (BGA) was poised to continue its programming uninterrupted. BGA held gaming tournaments for students and helped to continue the traditional “Battle of the Bishops” for our seniors. They also offered BGA news online to provide students



Bishop Gaming Association (BGA)



Students pose with their country's flag for International Education Week

with information about campus happenings and issues. Low and no-contact intramural events such as cornhole and soccer tennis were also offered. And, thanks to the efforts of our staff and student employees, we were able to safely open the Taylor Recreation and Hartness Student Centers to provide safe social spaces for students.

Our international students, who were uniquely impacted by the pandemic, also found success this fall. Many international students faced additional challenges with travel bans and quarantine requirements, but were willing to overcome these for the opportunity to study in America and in-person. Traditional events like orientation, Worldwide Welcome, and international student graduate events had to be modified, but occurred just the same.



*International Student
Luis Fernando Berber Valadez '21*

Although the College successfully navigated the fall semester, the spring holds continued challenges. However, we are prepared to meet these challenges with the same spirit of unity and care for one another that marked our success this past fall. Brys-Wilson acknowledged that “without cooperation from the entire campus, we would not have been successful at completing the semester in person.” And Dr. Stern rightly noted that “the entire Wesleyan community should feel pride in what we accomplished last semester.” What may be most beneficial, however, is what we’ve learned about ourselves. This may best be summed up by the thoughts of George Lahai ’21, a Resident Advisor senior from Chapel Hill and Sierra Leone native, who said, “we have worked toward a larger cause than just keeping the community safe. We have trained our students to live in a manner that will allow us to be safe and care for each other after this pandemic.”

In being ‘Wesleyan Wise’, we have proven that we are also ‘Wesleyan Strong’!

Wesleyan United!



The distinctive Wesleyan experience equips our graduates to make a positive impact on the world. These words from the College's vision statement are both actual and aspirational. As we prepare students for their calling, we also seek new ways to prepare them to make a difference. National events during the summer and fall of 2020 remind us that there is work to be done in achieving social justice and racial equality, and that the College has a responsibility to prepare graduates who recognize this need and embrace the necessary work to achieve equality.

The College's response in support of social justice and racial equality represented a multi-faceted approach. President Evan Duff formed an advisory council to explore and present avenues to improve diversity

and inclusion on campus and to promote inclusive programming for students, faculty and staff. The Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Advisory Council is comprised of faculty, staff, community members and, most importantly, students from multiple backgrounds. Their vision is to create and sustain a college culture reflective of respect, diversity, equity and inclusion that aligns with the College's mission, core values and The United Methodist Church.

The response also included a number of events and activities. In July, Associate Athletic Trainer Kelly Bly organized a Solidarity Walk for the



campus. In November, the College also hosted CommUNITY Walk 2020 bringing nearly 500 community members to campus. These walks were a tangible way for the campus community to show support for one another in the fight for justice and equality.

Following the election, on November 9th the Student Affairs office coordinated a forum for students to discuss the recent presidential election. Highlighted by a panel of faculty and staff, students were able to share their thoughts, feelings, and hopes about the election and the nation's future in a safe environment. They were also able to ask questions about the nation's electoral process and get insight on the political process.

Our students also rallied for the cause. Members of the Black Student Association hosted a blackout event to raise awareness about racial justice. The event included an invitation for all faculty, staff and students



to wear black as a silent, yet visible protest against racism. They also sponsored 'Letters to Mom'. This event brought campus members together to write notes of love and encouragement to the mother of Breonna Taylor. Tavon Gregory '21, President of the Black Student Association, spoke of what it meant to have these events. "Over the summer we were able to protest with hundreds of other people, but those feelings don't compare to being able to stand beside those that share life everyday with you on campus. These stories of injustice are heart-breaking, and to see so many people from different races and nationalities show support at these campus events was amazing and brought us closer together as a campus."

The Student Activities Office, in conjunction with the student-led Student Events and Activities Team (SEAT), launched the 'Say Their

Names' initiative. Designed to raise awareness of the personal nature of injustice, the name of someone who died at the hand of injustice was painted each week on a rock outside of the Student Union. This served to remind those who passed the rock that victims of social and racial injustice are real people, and to spur us all to do our part to make a difference.



While pleased with these actions, we recognize that there is more work to be done. We continue to support our students while creating graduates who understand the issues of our time and are prepared to go out and make a difference in their community, their nation, and their world. North Carolina Wesleyan College remains committed to the goals of inclusion and equality. As President Duff stated, "We all have a voice, we all can take action and we all have the opportunity to make a difference."

We are 'Wesleyan United'.

CHRIS SINGLETON SHARES HIS STORY OF LOVE NOT HATE



Former college and professional baseball player and motivational speaker Chris Singleton visited our campus in the fall of 2020 to share his story of how he overcame one of the greatest tragedies through love and forgiveness. Chris is known for his time as a college and professional baseball player, but he also experienced great tragedy as a young adult. His mother was one of the victims of the Charleston Massacre in 2015. Due to restrictions, the event was broadcast from The Dunn Center via live stream with around 80-100 attendees.



Chris Singleton, former college and professional baseball player and motivational speaker

Bishop Athletes Lead By Example!



CAMPUS COMMUNITY WALK

Despite a season without games, the Battling Bishops found many ways to stay active and support the community. Through kindness and creative thinking they communicated and physically led by example. Our student-athletes remain committed during these on-going, challenging times to continue staying wise, strong and united.

"I hope we will all continue to unite, not divide."

Coach John Thompson

In November 2020, students, faculty and staff braved the cold for our first CommUNITY Walk around campus. This event was organized by Head Men's Basketball Coach, John Thompson, with the idea that when we commit to work in unity, individuals can have different perspectives and still unite to accomplish great things. People can care for one another and engage in civil discourse even when they don't have the same perspective.

Thompson led this effort to show support for our students of color who have been impacted by racial and social injustice. Nearly 500 community members walked the campus, along with Rocky Mount Mayor Sandy Roberson and General Arnold Gordon-Bray (US Army, Ret.). Coach Thompson preaches unity to his basketball team and used the team analogy in referring to the campus community as a team that should be united against racism and social injustice, stating, "I hope we will all continue to unite, not divide."

VIRTUAL READING SERIES

The Battling Bishops also started a Virtual Book Club Extravaganza, where each athletic team participated in reading aloud for elementary students. The Virtual Book Club was developed as a fun resource that families could use for their kids to learn more about reading, sports and our Wesleyan student-athletes.

Each team put together a virtual reading video, reading books relevant to elementary-aged children. Students in grades K-5 from Nash and Edgecombe Counties were encouraged to access and view these weekly readings. During fall 2020, each week they would post three to four videos. In approximately 11 weeks, the Battling Bishops were able to create a series of 36 videos.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Many of the teams volunteered their time and efforts through the fall semester raising voter and COVID-19 awareness, honoring those who serve and actively getting involved within the community.

In honor of 9/11, many of NCWC's athletic teams visited local first responders around the Rocky Mount area to recognize them for their service and protection of our community. They also honored those who lost their lives on that fateful day in 2001, remembering their bravery, courage and fearless attitude.

In October, the Volleyball and Football teams volunteered at G.W. Bulluck Elementary School with soil preparation for their upcoming spring garden club. They landscaped, dug, mulched and helped with soil replenishing. Women's Soccer donated their time with Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation by holding youth soccer clinics for kids in the local area.

During November, many Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) members took to social media to encourage our community to vote. They also leveraged social media to communicate how important it is for each of us to do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Prompting our campus and community to remember the 3Ws: wear a mask, wash your hands and wait at least six feet from others to allow social distancing.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CONQUER FIRST-EVER D-1 WIN

The NC Wesleyan College Women's Basketball team pulled off a huge upset in defeating Division 1 opponent, UNC-Greensboro 52-37 on December 7, 2020. It was the program's first-ever win over a Division-1 program and the first time any D-3 opponent defeated a D-1 opponent on the women's side in a few years.

The Bishops were so impressive that they outrebounded the Spartans 64-42 and won 21-16 on the offensive glass led by 16 rebounds from forward Javana Jones. Wesleyan was led by eight points apiece from Jones and senior forward Myrayna Watkins. Watkins also added five rebounds and two steals while Jones had eight offensive rebounds with a block and a steal. Sophomore forward Kayrisma Harrison also had a huge game defensively, recording a career high of seven blocks along with nine rebounds and six points. Senior guard Cydney Nichols had a well-balanced game also with five points, seven rebounds and a team-best six assists, while fellow senior guard Keorra Taylor had six points, eight rebounds and two assists. Senior, Kayla Johnson, also added six points with four rebounds and two assists.



NC Wesleyan led just 12-8 after the first quarter and only 21-18 at halftime. Wesleyan then pressed on the gas in the fourth quarter to grab the big win. The Bishops shot 75 percent from the free-throw line and 29 percent overall while holding UNCG to just 18 percent from the floor and only 11 percent from the three. UNCG could only make 13 baskets all night against the stifling Wesleyan defense.

ALUM MAKES ON-CAMPUS FOOTBALL POSSIBLE



The College received a generous donation from alumnus, Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. '80 that will make home football games on campus now possible. Bradley's gift of \$150,000 was used this fall for the addition of bleachers, a scoreboard and other signage in preparation for the 2020 season. Though the season was pushed back due to COVID-19, the College looks forward to playing this spring with its first home game scheduled for March 20, 2021.

"I am so excited that the opportunity our campus and community enjoyed

last year with our first-ever on-campus football game will be expanded by Vernon's consistent and overwhelming support of the College. The impact on our student-athletes and campus community cannot be overstated," noted Aaron Denton, Director of Athletics.



New football field scoreboard

A 1980 graduate of Wesleyan, Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. is a 2007 NCWC Athletics Hall of Fame inductee and the 2016-2017 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. As a tennis player at Wesleyan, he enjoyed a solid four-year career that saw him

become one of the most decorated athletes in the program's history.

A three-time Most Valuable Player from 1978 to 1980, Bradley was the first tennis player to receive MVP accolades on three occasions. He also claimed another Bishop milestone in 1978 when he earned Dixie All-Conference honors at #1 singles. Once again, being the first Wesleyan player to achieve such honors.

Although Bradley was a tennis player while at Wesleyan, his consistent support of NCWC athletics has benefited all student-athletes. The Wesleyan community looks forward to enjoying the benefits of his generosity for years to come.

FALL SPORTS SPRING FORWARD

As we begin the spring 2021 semester, fall sports will start back up with a limited schedule for each sport. The Men's and Women's Soccer programs are set to kick off in February, while Volleyball begins in March. The Football program will also resume this spring with home games on March 20 and 27.

All schedules are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. For the latest information on all NCWC athletics, visit ncwcsports.com.

2021 Spring Sports

Football

March 6 @ Averett University
March 13 @ Greensboro College
March 20 vs. Methodist University
March 27 vs. Averett University
April 3 – Conference Tournament

Men's Soccer

February 13 @ William Peace University
February 20 vs. Methodist University
February 27 @ Pfeiffer University
March 13 vs. Averett University
March 20 @ Mary Baldwin University
March 27 vs. Greensboro College
April 3 – Conference Tournament

Women's Soccer

February 21 vs. Greensboro College
February 27 vs. William Peace University
March 3 @ Averett University
March 6 @ Pfeiffer University
March 13 vs. Mary Baldwin University
March 17 vs. Brevard College @ Winston-Salem
March 20 vs. Meredith College
March 27 @ Methodist College
April 3 – Conference Tournament

Volleyball

March 6 @ Greensboro College
March 10 @ William Peace University
March 13 vs. Pfeiffer University
March 20 @ Meredith University
March 23 @ Averett University
March 27 @ Mary Baldwin University
April 2 vs. Averett University and William Peace University
April 10 vs. Methodist University

Cross Country

February 13 – Hosting NC Wesleyan Classic
February 20 @ Mary Baldwin University
February 27 – Hosting Conference Meet

2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

NC Wesleyan recognizes and honors individuals who, through superior athletic achievements or outstanding service, have made a long-lasting, exemplary contribution to the College. The 22nd class of honorees include:

LeeRon Boykin

Boykin, a native of Warsaw, NC, was an integral part of NCWC's football foundation and helped with the program's success from 2006 to 2009. A member on two of the three Conference Championship teams (2007 & 2009), he proved to be a dominant force in the USA South Conference and South Region. Boykin was named NCWC football's first-ever All-American.



One of the most superior football players to wear blue and gold, Boykin played in a 3-4 defense as nose guard. Over his four years, the Bishops were recognized nationally in several defensive categories and he was three-time All-Conference selection (2007-2009), a three-time All-Region selection (2007-2009), a two-time All-American (2008 and 2009) and Defensive Player of the Year in the USA South Conference in 2009.

Brittany Insley-Pecora '10

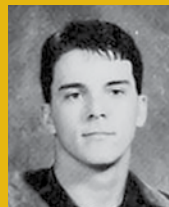
Insley, a native of Findlay, Ohio, played middle hitter for NCWC Volleyball from 2006 to 2009, setting multiple records. She was named to the All-Conference team four years, and to the first team three times. Insley was MVP in 2006, 2008 and 2009. She was named NCWC Female Athlete of the Year in 2008 and 2009, holds four of the top five NCWC records for kills in a season (539) and for career kills (1,882) and blocks (460). She is the all-time leader in career attack attempts (4,201).



Majoring in Business Administration and graduating with an MBA from the University of Findlay, Insley helped NCWC reach 20 wins in three of four seasons under Coach Robin Pietryk's leadership. Currently the Director of Marketing at Northwestern Mutual's Findlay, Insley resides in Ohio with her husband Chris Pecora '08, an NCWC baseball alum, and their three kids Blaire (6), Lyla (1) and Abram (4).

Chris Bryant '99

Bryant, a native of Wilson, NC, played first base, third base and right field for the Bishop Baseball program from 1993 to 1995. Bryant was a two-time All-American, as well as first team All-Conference and USA South Player of the Year in 1994 and 1995. He was also named as team MVP in 1995.



He was an individual champion in hits in 1994 (83, third in NCWC's history in a season), as well as doubles (19). Bryant is fourth all-time with 15 home runs in a season. In 1995, he was the leader for batting average (.469) and in total bases (149). He was then drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in the 14th round of the 1995 MLB June Amateur Draft. Today, he holds the College's record in career batting average (.405) with 208 career hits and ranks fifth all-time in total bases (353).

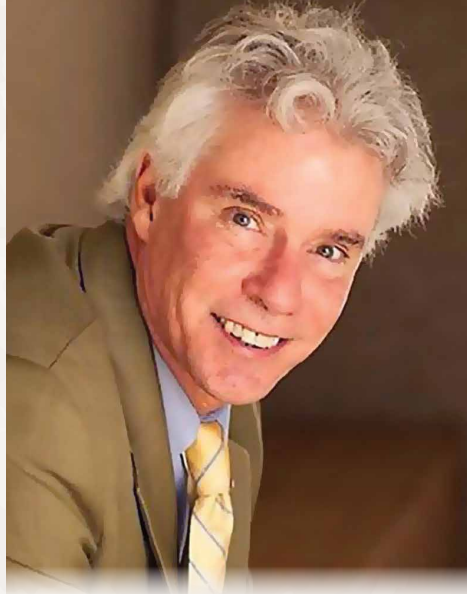
Cliff Sullivan '78

Cliff was an exemplary student-athlete. Never playing soccer, he tried out and did so well the coaches nicknamed him "Hustle" and gave him The Coaches Award in 1975. He also played baseball for NCWC being named Outstanding Male Athlete and MVP in 1976. Cliff graduated from NCWC with a B.A. in Political Studies and History in 1978. His friends said he went to North Carolina Wesleyan College and never left. From 1979 to 2013, he worked at the College in various roles, including: Admissions Counselor, Director of Academic Advising & Registrar, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Registrar & Veteran Affairs Coordinator. In April 2013 Sullivan passed away.



Cliff's love for North Carolina Wesleyan College went well beyond performing his job. He was a member of the Alumni Board and served on many committees. "Ask Cliff" was not just a phrase heard around campus, but an acknowledgment of his detailed institutional memory and keen intelligence. As a result, he was awarded the NCWC Distinguished Staff Award in 1992.

From Tunnel Rat to Neuroscientist: The Heart of a Servant



With the first classes in the history of North Carolina Wesleyan College beginning in the fall of 1960, and the Vietnam War taking place shortly thereafter, many of the students in those first graduating classes were directly affected by the war. Those Pioneer Classes, along with other alumni and friends of the College, are coming together to support a new project to honor those alumni who served during the Vietnam War. On May 15, 2021, North Carolina Wesleyan plans to add on to the existing Vietnam Memorial Wall & Marker by dedicating a new wall with plaques recognizing and honoring alumni who served during the Vietnam War.

Dr. G. Reid Lyon '73, one of thirty-seven alumni who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War, will be recognized at a May 15 ceremony to dedicate the new project.

Prior to attending NC Wesleyan as an undergraduate, G. Reid Lyon was a former paratrooper and is a combat veteran who served 15 months (1968-1969) in Vietnam with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. He served as a sergeant in a Recon unit leading "Tunnel Rat" teams and short- and long-range reconnaissance operations. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachute Badge, Bronze Star medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and Vietnam Civic Action medal.

After the war, Dr. Lyon received his B.A. in Psychology from North Carolina Wesleyan College in 1973, graduating summa cum

laude and his M.A. and Ph.D. in 1978 from the University of New Mexico with a dual concentration in Neurophysiology and Learning Disorders and Disabilities. He completed his Neuroscience fellowship in 1979 at the University of New Mexico Medical Center.

Dr. Lyon has had a wide range of professional responsibilities during his career including his contributions as a researcher, neuroscientist, university professor and national leader in the development of evidence-based education policy at the federal and state levels. From 1992 until 2005, Dr. Lyon served as a neuroscientist and the Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) where he was responsible for the direction, development, and management of research programs in developmental and cognitive neuroscience, developmental psychology, behavioral pediatrics, reading development and disabilities, learning disabilities, early childhood development, and school readiness. While at the NIH, Dr. Lyon served as an education and science advisor to President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush from 2001 to 2005 to develop evidence-based scientific and education policy. Within his capacity as a NIH neuroscientist, Dr. Lyon testified yearly from 1997 to 2005 before Congressional Senate and House Committees on scientific topics ranging from advancements in developmental neuroscience, early childhood brain development, reading disorders and disabilities to science-based education. He served as the White House representative to UNESCO and in 2006, he was named one of the top ten national leaders in Education during the 1996-2006 decade by the Editorial Projects in Education (Education Week).

Following his work at the NIH, Dr. Lyon

served as a Distinguished Research Scientist in Neuroscience and Cognition at the Center for Brain Health at the University of Texas, Dallas. Concurrent with his appointment at UTD, Dr. Lyon was an associate dean in the School of Education and Child Development at Southern Methodist University as well as a distinguished professor of education policy and leadership. Following his career in higher education, Lyon made a commitment to help fellow combat veterans at the VA Health

Center in Cape Coral Florida serving combat veterans who suffer from substance abuse disorders and PTSD. During his academic career, Lyon also served as a professor on the faculties of the University of Alabama - Birmingham,

Northwestern University, and the University of Vermont School of Medicine.

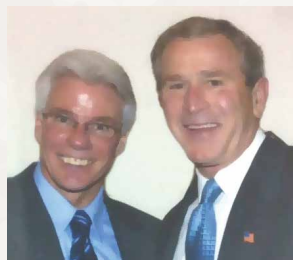
Dr. Lyon has authored, co-authored, and edited more than 130 peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and book chapters on developmental neuroscience, learning differences and disabilities, reading and reading difficulties, and educational policy.

He has received numerous awards for his research contributions from the National Institutes of Health as well

as from organizations dedicated to children with learning difficulties and disorders and for his work in developmental neuroscience. He also received the Excellence in the Sciences Award conferred by the Vietnam Veterans of America for his research in children's brain development and the neurobiology of PTSD among combat veterans.

Dr. Lyon's bio, as well as the others, will be accessible via QR code at the Vietnam Wall site as well as on the NC Wesleyan Vietnam Memorial website.

For more information on NCWC's Vietnam Memorial Wall & Marker, contact Charlie Long at 252.985.5219 or clong@ncwc.edu. To donate to this project, visit justgiving.com/campaign/NCWCvietnamwall.



Dr. G. Reid Lyon '73 with Former President George W. Bush and Former First Lady, Laura Bush



Dr. G. Reid Lyon '73 served with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions in the Vietnam War



THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY COLLECTION DONATED TO NCWC

North Carolina Wesleyan College recently procured a substantial theological library collection from the family of the late Rev. Dr. Frank Scurry. Dr. Scurry was president emeritus of the now defunct Carolina Graduate School of Divinity, an accredited interdenominational seminary located in Greensboro, NC.

Dr. Scurry pastored in the NC Yearly Meeting of Friends for 25 years before starting and leading Carolina Graduate School of Divinity in 1994. Upon closure of the institution, he sought to sell the collection of roughly 25,000 books. Consistent with the interdenominational mission of the Carolina Graduate School of Divinity, the collection contains approximately 17,000 volumes and represents a broad, balanced perspective on church history, theology, pastoral ministry, biblical studies

and ethics. The large volume of books is estimated to be worth over \$500,000 and is now housed in the Elizabeth Braswell Pearsall Library in custom-made cherry shelving, also donated with the books.

Rev. Dr. Hugh Hoyle, a Carolina Graduate School of Divinity alum, and wife, Lois Hoyle, the former librarian, connected five years ago



(L-R): David Scurry, son of Dr. Scurry; Mrs. Virginia Scurry, wife of Dr. Scurry; Rev. Dr. Barry Drum, NC Wesleyan Chaplain; Dr. Evan D. Duff, NC Wesleyan President

with NC Wesleyan's Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Barry Drum, about Wesleyan's possible purchase of the collection. Dr. Drum, in conjunction with the Hoyles and Dr. Scurry, secured the donation during the summer of 2019 with the help of NC Wesleyan's Advancement Office and Administration.

The collection will increase the overall number of volumes in Wesleyan's library by almost 25 percent.



"This generous gift from Dr. Scurry and the Carolina Graduate School of Divinity will strengthen NC Wesleyan's commitment to theology as a primary pillar of liberal arts education. All Wesleyan students are required to take introductory general education courses in Religious Studies, as well as related classes in ethics. This collection broadens the relevant resources available to both students and faculty," stated Rev. Dr. Barry Drum.

The collection enhances Wesleyan's future endeavors to expand their Religious Studies program in studies of the Bible, church history, theology and ethics.

Dr. Scurry's wife, Virginia Scurry, and their son, David Scurry, were recognized at a dedication on December 4 in Wesleyan's Pearsall Library.

FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE NC WESLEYAN SERVICE AWARD

North Carolina Wesleyan College congratulates Drs. Carl and Jackie Lewis, as well as Dr. Brittany Bass for being the first recipients of its Wesleyan Service Award. Any full-time employee may be nominated in recognition for consistently demonstrating outstanding service to the College or community that is above and beyond their job responsibilities.



Since March of this year, Dr. Jackie Lewis '93, Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems, and Dr. Carl Lewis

'00, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, have been sewing and distributing PPE (masks and cart handle covers) to members of the Wesleyan community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On almost a weekly

basis, they have delivered these supplies to the College for faculty, staff and students to pick up for personal use. They also contributed to Dr. Brittany Bass's campaign in Spring 2020 for PPE collections for local healthcare providers. Dr. Bass, Director of RN to BSN Program, was able to collect and distribute over 500 masks to these providers.



Dr. Brittany Bass
Director of RN to BSN

"North Carolina Wesleyan College implemented this service award opportunity in late 2019. Over the last nine years, I have witnessed the generosity and servant leadership activities of our faculty and staff. It was time for them to be recognized for their efforts and being recommended by their peers is an added bonus," stated President Dr. Evan D. Duff.

All Wesleyan Service Award recipients will be recognized at the College's annual Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony. Wesleyan Service Award nominations can be submitted by the public. If you have worked or volunteered with a Wesleyan employee and would like to nominate that person for going above and beyond, visit bit.ly/NCWCaward.



NEW FLAGS FLY HIGH THANKS TO ALUMNI SUPPORT

Two newly installed flagpoles now flank the main flagpole on the front lawn of the North Carolina Wesleyan College campus thanks to alumni David Brady '67 and wife, Faye Ellington Brady '65 of Rocky Mount, NC. The College now proudly flies the American, North Carolina and North Carolina Wesleyan flags daily in front of the Braswell Administrative Building. The NC Wesleyan ROTC cadets carried out the honors of raising the new flags at a flag raising ceremony held last semester.

If you are interested in making an impact on the North Carolina Wesleyan College campus, contact the Office of Advancement 252.985.5266.



Class Champion Spotlight

Steven D. Felton '84

Steven D. Felton never thought of himself as a class champion when graduating from North Carolina Wesleyan back in 1984, but he certainly enjoys the title now! Class Champion is just one of his many titles in life and throughout his career as a financial advisor. An Ameriprise Hall of Fame member, he is managing partner of Carolina Capital Advisors, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Keeping his roots in the Rocky Mount area after graduation, he has been able to witness firsthand the progress and impact his alma mater is making on its students, as well as the community at large.

"I'm proud to be a Wesleyan graduate, so when I learned about the Class Champions program, I gladly volunteered," stated Felton. The Class Champions program seeks alumni who are willing to reach out to other classmates, reconnect them to Wesleyan, discuss some of the latest news from campus, and keep them engaged with the College. "It's been so much fun to reconnect with old friends and classmates. Wesleyan is a common thread for all of us and it's rewarding to know I'm doing something to help the College as it moves forward."

When asked why he feels called to give back of his time and gifts, Felton referenced one of his favorite Wesleyan professors, Dr. Lyle Willhite. "Dr. Willhite invested time and resources into me! His guidance and mentorship helped me succeed at Wesleyan and beyond. I attribute a lot of who I am today as a business professional to his influence. Now, as an alumnus, I feel it's important for me to help provide resources to give current students some assistance."

On the topic of the importance of being a Class Champion, Felton says that in his opinion "It boils down to keeping the values and benefits of a small college like Wesleyan alive. Keeping that legacy

going from one generation of students to the next is vital so that everyone has a unique and rewarding experience. Alumni helped make it possible for me and many other students to go to school, so helping to keep my classmates and other alumni connected and engaged just makes sense. Someone was there for us when I attended, so it's our time to pay it forward."

"Getting involved isn't that hard... just take the first step and have the discipline to let things grow from there. Start by participating in an event, engaging in an activity, attending an event, or making a gift of any amount to support the College. It's easy to set up a recurring gift online. Just \$20 a month is a manageable way to give \$240 a year to help broaden these students' experiences. That type of annual giving is vital to help Wesleyan sustain the positive impact it's making on students."

Felton concluded his comments by stating "I'm honored to be a Class Champion for my alma mater, grateful to give of myself for the cause, and I encourage other alumni to join me in this effort." For more information on the Wesleyan Class Champions program, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 252.985.5266.



Steven D. Felton '84

PHYSICIAN LEAVES \$2.5 MILLION TO WESLEYAN

The trust of Dr. Nancy Shaw, a successful physician with ties to Nash County, has enabled North Carolina Wesleyan College to secure funds for its Pre-Veterinarian, Biomedical, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science majors. The primary focus of Dr. Shaw's trust was to benefit the health and care of felines, which was a passion of hers.

NC Wesleyan will be receiving \$2,500,000 from the trust, which will allow the College to establish its first endowed Professorship to advise and oversee its Pre-Vet major. This professor may also develop additional coursework or concentrations in animal and cat care. The College will also be establishing a highly-selective endowed scholarship for a Pre-Vet major to pay the majority of their educational expenses at Wesleyan. Part of the funds will be placed into a restricted account to develop additional living and learning space for Wesleyan's science majors. A portion of the money will also be used to upgrade equipment in the College's Biology, Biomedical,

Environmental Science and Chemistry programs that support Pre-Vet majors. Dr. Meir Magal, Chair of the School of Mathematics and



Dr. Nancy Shaw

Sciences, and several NC Wesleyan Biologists were instrumental in helping to develop the proposal for the Executor of this trust.

"This is an extremely exciting time for the Biology Department, the School [of

Mathematics and Sciences] and the College. This gift will allow us to further expand our offerings on campus and provide our science majors with new and exciting experiences and opportunities," stated Dr. Meir Magal.

Dr. Shaw attended Brown University where she graduated magna cum laude and entered Brown University Medical School graduating in 1983. She completed her Internship at Framingham Union Hospital, Framingham, Massachusetts in 1985. Her Residency in Internal Medicine was completed at the Hospital of St. Raphael, New Haven, Connecticut in 1988. She became Board Certified in Internal Medicine in 1989. Dr. Shaw resided in North Carolina from 1992 -2012. During that time, she established the Hospitalist Programs for both Cabarrus Memorial Hospital, Concord, and Boice-Willis Clinic in Rocky Mount. She and her mother resided in Rocky Mount during these years.

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