

**Coach John
Thompson**
CELEBRATING 400 WINS

Vernon T. Bradley, Jr.
Sports Stadium
PHASE TWO

Summer 2022

WESmagazine

A Publication of North Carolina Wesleyan University

**INTRODUCING
EASTERN NC'S NEWEST
UNIVERSITY**

The Start of A New Era

WESmagazine

Summer 2022

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ON THE COVER

A new era begins with NC Wesleyan becoming the newest university in eastern NC.

Mission Statement

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

WesMagazine is published twice per year by the Office of Marketing & Communication at North Carolina Wesleyan University.



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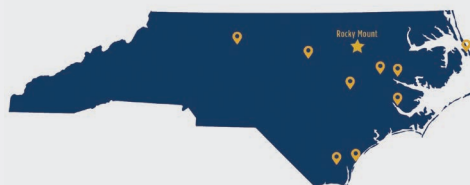
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THE BISHOP FOOTPRINT

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Wesleyan Community,

A new era begins! Our recent 65th Founding Anniversary marked a momentous occasion in NC Wesleyan's history. It culminated with our name change to University this past spring, reflecting a historic move for our Bishop Family, community and surrounding areas. Our foundation in becoming North Carolina Wesleyan University (NCWU) started over 45 years ago when we began offering various modes of instruction to working adult students.



With this change, we will remain a teaching-focused institution and continue to be committed to one-on-one mentoring opportunities, hands-on experiences with faculty, research opportunities for undergraduate students and career exploration from day one. You may have begun to notice the transition to our new identity as we rebrand our website, social media, campus signage, literature, advertising and more. You will continue to see these updates take place throughout in the near future.

With our new identity, we will continue to deliver education that is **PERSONAL**... through mentoring and the connections we provide, **PRACTICAL**... by helping students develop lifelong skills, and **PURPOSE-DRIVEN**... by helping students identify and fulfill their purpose in life.

I am especially grateful for our steadfast donors who continue to demonstrate unwavering support for Wesleyan, that leads to the intellectual, social and athletic growth of our students. Your consistent dedication to this University is evident through several recent projects taking place on campus this summer. We have broken ground or completed the following fully donor-funded initiatives: the Marvin and Cynthia Barnes - Family Fare Convenience Stores Outdoor Classroom, the Shaw Learning Center, renovations in the Braswell Administration Building and Stallings Family Turf Field at the Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. Stadium. I am proud of all the growth this institution is seeing and look forward to future developments. Thank you to all of our donors, past, present and future who continue to help Wesleyan thrive!

As we prepare for another upcoming academic year, my hope is that current and prospective students view North Carolina Wesleyan University as a special place where learners of all ages can begin their journey of fulfilling their life's purpose through personal and practical approaches to learning. As always, I invite you to keep up with the latest news on our website and by following us on our social media platforms. From our Bishop Family to yours, we hope you have an incredible summer and we can't wait to welcome students back to North Carolina Wesleyan University this fall.

With gratitude,
Dr. Evan D. Duff

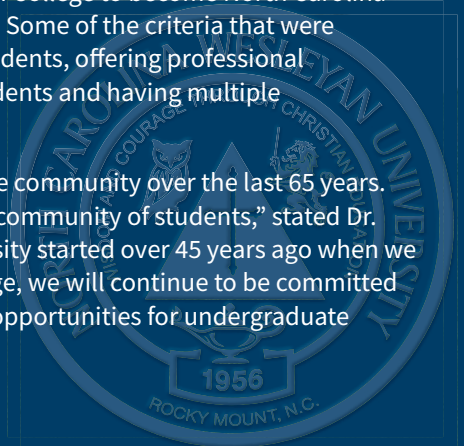
- Brunswick
- Durham
- Goldsboro
- Greenville
- Manteo
- New Bern
- Raleigh
- Washington
- Wilmington
- Winston-Salem



The Start of a New Era...

On Friday, April 22, 2022, the Board of Trustees voted for North Carolina Wesleyan College to become North Carolina Wesleyan University. The name change became official on Friday, May 27, 2022. Some of the criteria that were considered when changing the name to “university” included: serving adult students, offering professional programs, offering graduate programs, serving a large percentage of international students and having multiple instructional locations.

“Becoming a university demonstrates the evaluation of our impact on students and the community over the last 65 years. We are moving in a direction to offer additional academic offerings for a more diverse community of students,” stated Dr. Evan D. Duff, President. “Our foundation in becoming North Carolina Wesleyan University started over 45 years ago when we began offering various modes of instruction to working adult students. With this change, we will continue to be committed to one-on-one mentoring opportunities, hands-on experiences with faculty, research opportunities for undergraduate students, career exploration from day one and remain a teaching-focused institution.”





UNIVERSITY MERCH
NOW AVAILABLE!

Shop our newest apparel
online or on campus!

New Campus Spaces



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Marvin and Cynthia Barnes- Family Fare Convenience Stores Outdoor Classroom was dedicated on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. In December 2020, NC Wesleyan announced plans for construction of this unique learning environment, made possible by a generous gift from the Barnes family.

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 participated in all forms of worship.

The new outdoor classroom is located at the front of main campus near the Braswell Administration Building. This newly developed space offers students a fun, safe, educational experience which expands their perspective outside the walls of a normal class setting. The three row, brick amphitheater-style classroom seats approximately 20 to 25 students and consists of lighting, power ports and the capability for an outdoor projector.

Dr. Molly Wyatt, Associate Provost, spoke first at the dedication and warmly welcomed everyone to the ribbon cutting ceremony. Dr. Jonathan Sarris, Professor of History, then gave insight on how he and his colleagues have been able to utilize this space for their classes and the positive effect it has had on students. Current NCWU student, Ty Peele, shared his perspective and spoke on how students have been able to use this new space for worship nights, Bible studies and learning. Students have also used this space to hold open mic nights held by NCWU's Poetry Club.

Later, the University was notified that the Barnes family would donate another \$50,000 for a second outdoor classroom on the opposite side on the front of campus. This will provide a symmetrical look to the front of the campus while providing another outdoor venue for our faculty and students.



(L-R) Dr. Molly Wyatt, Lee Barnes, Christy Barnes, Cynthia Barnes, Marvin Barnes, President Dr. Evan D. Duff

SHAW LEARNING CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, North Carolina Wesleyan University broke ground on its new Shaw Learning Center. This facility was made possible by funds the University received from the Nancy A. Shaw Trust. Dr. Shaw was a successful physician with ties to Nash County and her trust's primary focus is to benefit the health and care of cats.

"NC Wesleyan is very thankful for the generosity of Dr. Nancy Shaw. The Nancy A. Shaw Trust will continue to help Wesleyan and our students by funding both science initiatives and innovative ideas that support the care of felines," noted President Dr. Evan D. Duff.

The Shaw Learning Center will be located behind the Welcome Center in the middle of campus and will contain four classrooms, four offices and a cat lounge. Construction is expected to be complete by Spring 2023.





GOLD DESIGNATION AS A MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

For the ninth consecutive year, NC Wesleyan continues to be recognized as a Military Friendly® school. The University earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School Gold designation, a step up from the Silver designation earned in 2021-2022.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation are evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools across the nation participated in the 2022-2023 survey with only 282 schools selected for “Gold” award status for their leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs.

NCWU offers a 10% discount on tuition to all active-duty military students, veterans and their spouses. To learn more about the educational resources available to active duty personnel, veterans and those related to veterans or active-duty personnel, visit ncwc.edu/veterans.

Exercise is Medicine® Silver Campus

CAMPUS HONORED FOR CULTURE OF WELLNESS

North Carolina Wesleyan University is **one of only 156** universities and colleges around the world to be honored by Exercise is Medicine® for its efforts to create a culture of wellness on campus. Activities such as Walk with the President, the Exercise is Medicine® on Campus (EIM-OC) mascot challenge, the Lunch n’ Learn series for health, and other campus wellness initiatives aided NCWU in earning silver level designation from the EIM-OC program.

The silver level Exercise is Medicine® On Campus award was made possible through combined efforts of NCWU’s Exercise is Medicine® On Campus leadership team, the Health and Movement Science Club, Wesleyan Wellness and the campus community.



RECOGNIZED FOR EXEMPLARY TRANSFER PATHWAYS

NCWU is **one of 171 colleges** and universities Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) has named to its 2022 Transfer Honor Roll in recognition of the dynamic pathways NCWU has created to support transfer students. The Transfer Honor Roll is determined by 40 key metrics related to the support and success of transfer students, including college cost and financial aid, campus life for transfer, admission practices, and bachelor’s degree completion. The Transfer Honor Roll was based on analysis from the National Student Clearinghouse and on data submitted through the four-year institution’s profile on PTK Connect, Phi Theta Kappa’s online tool designed to help students find their best-fit colleges and career pathways.

BEYOND THE WALL



JOB SHADOWING AT GROVER GAMING

NCWU’s Office of Career Development & Leadership organized an opportunity for a small group of NCWU juniors to visit Grover Gaming in Greenville, NC during spring break. On Tuesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 9th, these students were exposed to many aspects of the organization’s business, including their game development studio. Grover Gaming’s Greenville location is home to game developers, 3D artists, release QA testers, research and development engineers, and several other teams.

The students who participated are all Computer Information Systems (CIS) majors. They were able to learn about the mission, vision and values within the company, benefits of full-time positions and the intersection of various departments.

Ki Vera Pardillo, one of the NCWU students who took part in this opportunity, witnessed how her training in the classroom could apply to a full-time career after college. She states: “I got to see a real-life setting for the development processes of gaming software ranging from graphic design to the deployment of their products. I was also able to ask software developers and programmers which methods and development tools they use to create the programs, as well as how they improve their products to have a competitive advantage.”

Jessie Langley, Associate Dean of Career Development & Leadership, hopes to continue facilitating future visits to Grover Gaming so that additional students can learn specifically about the game development side of the business.

FACULTY & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

VICKIE DAVIDSON

Mrs. Vickie Davidson was born in Burlington, North Carolina and moved to Rocky Mount in 1975. She is a proud 1973 alumna of the University of North Carolina Greensboro, where she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in French and Secondary Education. Upon graduation, she immediately began pursuing her graduate degree and received her Masters of Education from UNCG in May of 1974. Before beginning her career at North Carolina Wesleyan University, she worked as a teacher from 1974-1981. She took a brief pause from teaching in the early 80's to work with her husband at a family-owned business and later went to work at MBM Corporation from 1984-2013.



Mrs. Davidson began her position as the Admissions Liaison in October of 2013. Each day, she brought an abundance of life and joy to the Welcome Center. She made sure every single person who walked through the doors of the Admissions Office felt seen, welcomed and special. She has left a lasting impression on every Bishop with her beautiful smile, infectious laughter, incredible fashion sense and positive attitude. Early into her career, she developed a ritual within the Welcome Center for incoming students who officially joined the Battling Bishop Family. With each commitment, she would grab her trusty bell, ring it proudly in the air and announce that the newest Bishop had received their 'Battling Bishop crown' and that they were 'officially a North Carolina Wesleyan University Battling Bishop – WOO HOO'. This has and will continue to be a tradition passed down for years to come.

A few years into working as the Admissions Liaison, Mrs. Davidson developed an itch for teaching again. She was approved as an adjunct professor for North Carolina Wesleyan in March of 2019 and officially began teaching French in the fall of 2019. She loved her students and found joy in sharing her love of the French culture with each of them. As of March 2022, Mrs. Vickie was officially able to retire after almost eight and a half years of service at North Carolina Wesleyan University.

Since retirement, she has been awarded the NCWU Distinguished Staff Award and has enjoyed traveling with her husband and faithful side-kick, Otis. She has also helped with substitute teaching in the local community, as well as volunteering at Nash Day Hospital and Down East Radio Reading Services. Although she is greatly missed on campus, her light and the legacy that she instilled continues to shine.



NEW Nutrition Minor Coming Fall 2022!

The program will provide students with a strong foundation in diet and nutrition for health and wellness, preparing them to:

- Understand basic principles of human nutrition
- Make sound decisions to enhance overall health
- Recognize the importance of nutrition in the prevention of chronic disease
- Understand & develop comprehensive nutritional assessments and recommendations
- Identify biopsychosocial influences on dietary behavior



2022 ACADEMIC WRITING COMPETITION

The 4th annual Academic Writing Competition was held in the spring semester of 2022. Sponsored by the NCWU Writing Center, Writing Minor, and Sigma Tau Delta, all North Carolina Wesleyan students could submit up to two writing projects that had been completed for classes at NCWU to be judged. Papers were submitted by categories and NCWU faculty judged each paper based on argument/topic, support, organization, and fit in the category.

Competition winners received a gift card and the winning papers are published online in **Omnium**, the University's undergraduate research journal.

The winners of this year's competition were:

Math & Sciences:

1st Place: "Clinical Physiology for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus"--Emily Ketchum

2nd Place: "Why Is Environmental Enrichment So Important for Animals in Captivity?"--Cameron Pollari

3rd Place: "Case Study for Chronic Ankle Instability"--Connor Hayes

Social Sciences & Education:

1st Place: "The Effects of Pet Ownership on the Mental Health of North Carolina Wesleyan University Students"--Rebecca Mitchell

2nd Place: "A Look into The United States Prison System: Recidivism"--Jacob Aldridge

3rd Place: "The Role of Gender and Conflict in Romantic Relationships"--Allison Wichrowski

Humanities:

1st Place: "Not for Entertainment: The Importance of the Animal Rights Movement for Big Cats"--Sierra Alexis Joyner

2nd Place: "The Impact of Poor Dog Breeding Practices in the Dog Breeding Industry on Animal Health and Well-Being"--Rebecca Mitchell

3rd Place: "Social Media as a Metaphorical Classroom"--Mary Catherine Davis

Business & CIS:

1st Place: "Health Insurance Literacy Need in the Hispanic Community: A Literature Review"--Eliane Hernandez Acosta

2nd Place: "ESG in Technology"--Robert James Norton, Jr.

3rd Place: "The Effectiveness of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act & Ethics in Preventing Corporate Accounting Fraud"--Alexa Yaravide

First-Year Composition:

1st Place: "Abolish Zoos! Cruelty, Spectacle, and Animal Rights"--Vendela Dolsenius

2nd Place: "Nothing Free about Willy: The Detrimental Effect of Captivity on Orcas"--Andrea Rizzo

3rd Place: "The Representation of Italian Mafia in Movies"--Roberta Vulcano



Dan Jansen, Olympic Gold Medalist, speaks at 2022 Commencement

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT

NC Wesleyan's commencement was held on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Rocky Mount Event Center. This year's commencement speaker was Daniel Erwin "Dan" Jansen, a retired American speed skater and Olympic gold medalist.

Jansen spoke about his upbringing as the youngest of nine children. On the ice by the age of four, he made his first Olympic team at 18-years-old. At 19, he competed in the 1984 Olympics in Yugoslavia coming in 4th place in the 500-meters. In the early hours of February 14, 1988, the day of the 500-meter event at the 1988 Olympics, Jansen was informed that his 27-year-old sister, Mrs.

Jane Marie Beres, was dying of leukemia. Hours later, Jansen was notified his sister had passed. He went on to compete in the 500-meter race that afternoon, but fell in the first turn. Four days later in the 1,000-meter event, he began with record-breaking speed but fell again, just past the 800-meter mark.

At the 1994 Winter Olympics, he finished eighth in the 500-meter event. In the 1,000-meter event, Jansen defied expectations, finishing first to win the only Olympic medal of his career, setting a new world record in the process. He received the 1994 James E. Sullivan Award and was chosen by his fellow Olympians to bear the U.S. flag at the closing ceremony of the Olympics.

Jansen's message to the graduates centered around defining success. "Results are going to be there...give your best every time you're out there, that's really all that you can ask," stated Jansen. "You have to learn from every experience. The greatest thing may happen to you, or the worst thing may happen to you—try to take something away and learn something."



End-of-the-Year BLOCK PARTY



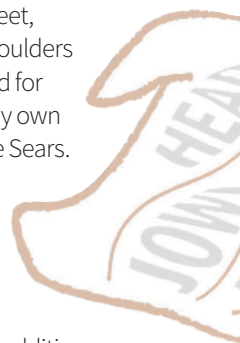
Wayne Sears, Director of Security, shows students De'Asia Clark '23 and Andrea Rizzo '24 how to chop barbecue along with Director of Student Activities Elliott Smith.

In eastern North Carolina, it is no secret that whole hog barbecue is a big deal. In fact, pork barbecue is woven into the very fabric of our culture. Long before becoming a staple of the American South, the cooking of a whole animal to feed the masses has been practiced in many cultures. In fact, the term 'barbecue' is likely a derivative of the West Indies term 'barbacoa', referring to the slow-cooking of meat over a pit in the ground. The art of slow cooking a whole hog, chopping the meat and dousing it with a vinegar-based sauce, better known in eastern North Carolina as a 'pig-pickin', has long been associated with celebrations such as weddings, family reunions or the end of the harvest season. A 'pig-pickin' is also a celebration of family and community, a time

where folks can gather to celebrate one another. This year, North Carolina Wesleyan University brought this tradition to campus to celebrate another successful academic year at our first annual End-of-the-Year Block Party.

The entire campus community was on hand to enjoy sweet, smoky, tangy barbecue from the whole hog and pork shoulders

that had been slow-cooked for over eight hours by our very own Director of Security, Wayne Sears. Pork, however, wasn't the only thing on the menu - BBQ chicken, hush puppies, potatoes and green beans also filled the plates of hungry guests. In addition, there was music, games and most importantly, fellowship. Faculty and staff departments were on hand at booths to congratulate students





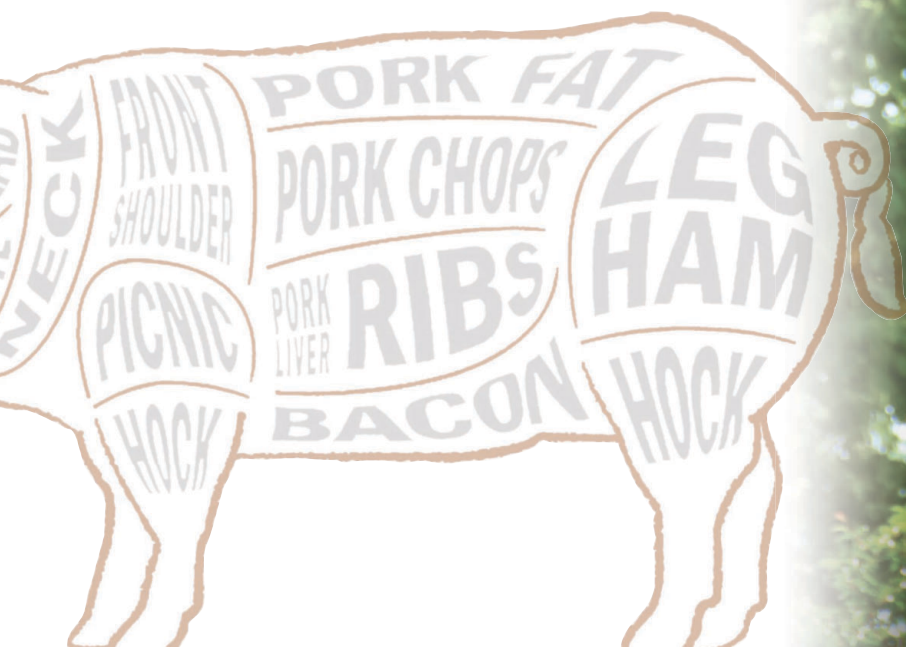
The Student Affairs team along with many faculty and staff were on hand to celebrate our students!

on their accomplishments. Additionally, this event afforded students the opportunity to thank those who have helped them on their journey. Students were able to reminisce and reflect on the academic year.



Because of the school's rich diversity including students from all over the country and the world, many had never experienced an eastern North Carolina-style 'pig-pickin'. Naomi Pilapil '24, originally from the Philippines, observed that the pig pickin' is similar to eating lechon (roasted pig) in her culture. At a fiesta, lechon is prepared and eaten with your hands at a common table. Due to the friendly competition to get your share, this is often called a "boodle fight!" Fortunately, Mr. Sears prepared plenty of food to go around! Candela Diaz Babilani '23, from Argentina, noted that one difference in the eastern North Carolina pig pickin' is that while we chop all the meat together, at an asado in her culture the different parts of the pig (or cow) are cooked and presented separately. Like the term barbecue in our culture, asado refers to both the dish and the preparation technique.

Bringing this regional tradition to campus connected the University with the culture of the region which we serve. It was the perfect way to culminate a wonderful academic year. The Block Party Committee is already at work planning another fun-filled event for next year!



Student, Valentin Morelli '25 climbing on the rock wall.

NEW BISHOP CUPBOARD

Bishop Cupboard, the University's food pantry, began serving the campus community this past January. Located in the Leon Russell Chapel and open to all members of the NCWU campus community, the Bishop Cupboard seeks to address food insecurity among students. Food insecurity can take on different meanings for different people—struggling to afford food, eating less, not eating as healthy or going hungry. Using a grant from Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Foundation and in partnership with Ripe Revival Market, a local company committed to the fight against hunger, the University was able to outfit Bishop Cupboard with food storage equipment and stock it with fresh food for those in need.

Students or other members of the campus community needing assistance can submit a confidential request to the Office of the Chaplain through the University website.

To date, Bishop Cupboard has served 19 students. Many of these students report having no other source of fresh food. This is especially true during breaks in the academic year and summer months.

“Going without food is something that no one should ever have to face. Through the generosity of several organizations, we are

fortunate to be able to offer healthy food options for our students so that they can concentrate on excelling in the classroom,” stated Campus Chaplain Rev. Edwin M. Ferguson. In addition to ECMC and Ripe Revival Market, the Nash County Food Pantry (NCFP) has also partnered with the University to supply food. A recent donation of fresh and frozen food products from NCFP has been instrumental in allowing



Bishop Cupboard to serve several students this summer. “Being able to serve our students who remain in the area over the summer has been a blessing. We are thankful that we can maintain Bishop Cupboard as a year-round service to our campus,” stated Dr. Jason Modlin, Dean of Students.

The University is always looking for new partners to assist in this noble work. Those who are interested in partnering with NCWU to support Bishop Cupboard can contact Rev. Edwin M. Ferguson at 252.985.5575 or chaplain@ncwc.edu.



(L-R) Rev. Edwin M. Ferguson and Kayla Noyes of Ripe Revival

CAMPUS DINING REFRESH

It has been said that an army marches on its stomach, alluding to the important role of food in military success. The same could be said for college students. Campus dining is an integral part of the campus experience and fuels student success. In addition to providing sustenance, campus dining helps encourage healthy eating habits and facilitates social interaction, two important factors in students' overall well-being. This past spring the University in partnership with Sodexo, our campus dining vendor, embarked on a plan to refresh our campus dining experience.

The refresh began with the arrival of our new Dining Manager, Martha Jackson. Martha's approach to life and work is simple: “Life is for service.”

She brings 22 years of food service experience to her role at NC Wesleyan. Her passion for serving students is already evident, as she has met with the Student Government Association and implemented many of their requests. In her view, the kitchen is the “heart of the home,” and she endeavors for all of our dining outlets to feel like home. She is passionate about making each student feel like they matter (because they do!) and giving them a safe, happy place to eat.



Dining Manager, Martha Jackson and Executive Chef, Katarra Pitts

Many improvements in our dining program have already been made, including new condiment stations in Blue and Gold Café, additional vegan and gluten-free food options, and an overall menu redesign. In April, NC Wesleyan hosted the championship round of “Battle of the Chefs,” a culinary competition pitting Executive Chefs from Sodexo's North Carolina accounts against one another. The real winner was the students, as they were treated to specially crafted entrée and dessert items in a carnival atmosphere that included music, a live DJ and door prizes. NC Wesleyan's own Executive Chef, Katarra Pitts, was also a contestant in Battle of the Chefs, advancing all the way to the semi-final round with her wonton tacos.



Shane Vick '23, William Cockrell '23, Dequan Wiggins '23, Steven Webb '23, and Jayshaun Hilliard-Hankerson '25 enjoy Carnival Night at Blue and Gold Café.

Students are always quick to tell us what they want in campus dining, and we listened! The fall term will usher in a number of additional changes in campus dining based on student feedback. To allow more flexibility in meal times, operational hours have been increased at all three campus dining venues. The WOW! Café will now open for lunch and the newly monikered Bishop Bistro (formerly Internet Café) will have evening hours during the week. Additionally, the Bishop Bistro menu has been enhanced to include more grab-n-go food items for students on the run. WOW! Café will also feature a meal-exchange option for students on dining plans to allow more freedom in using their meal swipes at both WOW! and Blue and Gold Cafés. Students will be able to enjoy soft serve ice cream at Blue and Gold Café, and WOW! Café will feature milkshakes and malted shakes. Dining hours have been extended at Blue and Gold Café to allow more flexibility for students whose extracurricular activities don't allow for dining at more traditional times. We are excited about these changes and ready to welcome our students back to a superior campus dining experience!



OPEN FOR LUNCH
STARTING FALL 2022
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.



Global WesFest 2022

The International Bishops Association (IBA) hosted its annual Global WesFest at Larema Coffee House in downtown Rocky Mount this past March. Part of the mission of the IBA is to engage with and support the community, share Wesleyan's worldwide cultures with Americans and learn from one another. Partnering with Larema was an ideal way to support and engage with the community. **Kevin McLaughlin**, Larema's owner, was gracious in opening his doors to the IBA after hours and providing an ideal setting in which to share coffee, connections, community and culture!

The IBA leadership team, comprised of both international and domestic students, decorated Larema Coffee House with their countries' flags and shared engaging presentations about their countries and cultures. They led a panel discussion with the International Student Services Department. Comedy acts, singing and live music from talented students kept the packed room highly engaged. The evening culminated in a celebration of 24 international seniors.

Andrea Rizzo '24, who is from Argentina and serves as IBA Vice President, noted that Global WesFest is an important event for the Wesleyan community. "Global WesFest is a great way to unite American and international students in a family atmosphere outside of the classroom." **Matias (Mati) Paredes '26** from Argentina shared that events like Global WesFest "helps strengthen our bonds and provides opportunity to look at our differences in a good way." Perhaps **James Cheazar '24** from Liberia best summed up Global WesFest in noting that it is an "opportunity for everyone to experience, learn about and enjoy the rich diversity from around the world that we have in the Bishop Community." IBA is very grateful for the support of all Bishops, the community, and Larema Coffee House for making Global WesFest such a success. Planning has already begun for next year's cultural celebration, and you're invited to join us - no passport necessary!

The International Bishops Association leadership team presents about their country and culture.



Winning with CommUNITY & Coach John Thompson



Head Coach John Thompson is a true teacher of the game of basketball... and of life. Known for his message of “CommUNITY,” Thompson proudly instills in his players, and individuals across campus, to “commit to be constructive not destructive, to strengthen not weaken, to raise up not tear down and to unify not divide.” Widely respected among his coaching peers, Thompson places a strong emphasis on player development both on the court and in the classroom. His practices promote hard work, perseverance, and self-discipline. He strives daily to promote this message and to see his players succeed.



Celebrating 400 Wins!

Thompson is the all-time winningest coach in Wesleyan men’s basketball history, having compiled a 406-297 record and eight regular season and/or tournament championships during his tenure. His first conference title came during the 1999-2000 season when he led the Battling Bishops to the USA South Regular Season Championship, which earned him the first of four Coach of the Year awards. He went on to capture his first USA South Tournament Championship in 2002 and advance to the NCAA Tournament. Thompson has led the Bishops to four 20-win seasons in his 27- year-career and most recently has led Wesleyan to three USA South East Division Championships over the past four years.



Q&A with Coach Thompson

Q: Did you know on February 2, 2022 when you beat Methodist that it was your 400th career win?

A: I had no idea. It’s ironic because I had a player come in and say, “Coach, do you know how many wins you have?” I answered, “I really don’t know.” Wins are a byproduct — you have to have good players, good support staff and great assistant coaches to make a team successful.

Q: You’ve played and coached for years... What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever received from someone else?

A: I’ve been very fortunate to have had many great mentors. Certainly, one of the greatest pieces of advice I’ve ever gotten is to be yourself. I’ve looked up to and learned from a lot of coaches over the years, but I can’t try to be anyone else but myself. The other thing I try to share, particularly with our coaches, is an emphasis on being a lifelong learner, trying to learn from anybody and everybody that you can.

Q: As a true teacher of the game and life, tell us about your basketball philosophy and how it relates to life in general.

A: My goal is that every guy that comes here and plays for our program leaves here a better basketball player certainly, but more importantly they leave here better people. If you’re fortunate enough to win a bunch of games and maybe some championships, that’s great; but if that’s all there is, then it’s really not much at all if as coaches we don’t take a level of interest in the guys to help make them better in ways other than basketball.



Vernon T. Bradley, Jr.
Sports Stadium

NEW STADIUM TURF FIELD UNVEILED THANKS TO DONORS

In the spring of 2020, two major donors, Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. '80 and Don Stallings, committed almost \$2,000,000 to establish Phase I of the Sports Stadium Campaign. In addition, Maxie Coker '86, Chief Banking Officer at First Carolina Bank donated \$25,000 on behalf of the bank to go towards the University's fundraising efforts.

On Thursday, April 21, 2022 North Carolina Wesleyan celebrated the completion of Phase I and officially unveiled Stallings Field at the Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. Stadium. A highlight of the evening was a \$1 million check presentation to the Campaign by Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. '80 These funds made it possible for Wesleyan to construct a new turf field, install lighting and build additional parking.

Marion Barnes is the owner of Frontier Trailer Associates, Inc. in Rocky Mount, NC directly adjacent to Wesleyan's new stadium. He has been a forerunner for NCWU's fundraising efforts towards the stadium project. To date, he has single-handedly raised over \$2 million towards construction of the stadium. In recognition of his many and longstanding efforts, including years of dedicated service and personal contributions to the University, the NCWU Board of Trustees recently voted to name the future Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. Sports Stadium Press Box in honor of Marion Barnes' family. The Marion Barnes Family Press Box will kick off Phase II of the Sports Stadium Campaign.

The Sports Stadium project is completely donor-funded and will consist of four project phases, as funding allows. Additional phases will include permanent seating, scoreboards and a new fieldhouse. The new fieldhouse will contain an athletic training room, weight room, classrooms, meeting space and offices. Others who are interested in helping with Phase II of the campaign can contact Aaron Denton, VP of Athletics, at adenton@ncwc.edu.



Rendering



(L-R): Bridget Walker, President Evan D. Duff, Maxie Coker '86, Head Football Coach Jeff Filkovski and Aaron Denton



(L-R): Don Stallings, President Evan D. Duff, Marion Barnes and Jeff Filkovski



(L-R): President Evan D. Duff, Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. '80, Jacqueline Newhouse, Roger Taylor '70 and Dr. Dan Crocker



THE LYON'S DEN

Like Father, Like Son!

Wesleyan senior left fielder **Zach Lyon** and his father, **Otho Lyon**, had a memorable day on Saturday, May 7. Both family members graduated from NC Wesleyan University on the same day that the younger Lyon knocked two hits to help his Bishops advance in the conference baseball tournament.



Zach, a First Team All-Division OF and a native of Raleigh and Wakefield HS, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems while minoring in Cybersecurity. His father, Otho, obtained his Master's degree in Business Administration.

"My father and mother were strong advocates on getting our education. So I have pushed both Zach and his sister, Ashtyn, to strive for excellence. I am so proud of the both of them," exclaimed the elder Lyon. Zach, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, was named to the President's Honor List twice, and to the President's List with Honors once, during his academic career. Otho started his educational career at UNC-Greensboro majoring in sociology. From there, he went to Wake Tech CC where he majored in Networking. He finally finished at NCWU majoring in Computer Info Systems while getting his MBA.

"Our lineage years from now will see our pictures and achievements and say, if they can achieve that even during a pandemic so can we," said Mr. Lyon.

"It was one of the most proud moments in my life, just as proud on the day he was born," said Mr. Lyon on graduating with his son. "I am first generation college so to be able to see my son graduate was truly a milestone for my entire family."

Otho Lyon

"Going into graduation I wasn't sure if I would be able to attend with our team still competing in the conference tournament playoffs," said Zach. "However, my father said that if I didn't walk that he wouldn't either. That meant the world to me that he supported me so much as he would rather come to my game instead of walking at graduation."

"Thank God that it all worked out where both of us could attend and I would not change that moment for anything," commented Zach. The



(L-R): Zach Lyon '22, senior left fielder, graduating alongside his father, Otho Lyon '22

NCWU team had clinched a spot in the winners' bracket finale the day before with their win over Pfeiffer freeing up the seniors to walk Saturday morning at graduation.

That afternoon after graduation, Zack helped NCWU defeat Huntingdon College 5-1 with his two hits, walk and run scored.

"I think its a great story! They are quite the pair," exclaimed head Coach Greg Clifton. "We are thrilled for the both of them. Zach has become quite the player and Otho doesn't miss too many games. We love having both of them part of our Bishop Baseball family!"

Zach finished his senior year with a .333 average, three home runs and 39 RBIs while stealing 11 bases and scoring 42 runs. He plans to return next season for his fifth year and earn his MBA. Like Father, Like Son!

2021-2022 RECOGNITIONS

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Senior All-American Jhonny Acosta helped the men's tennis team win their 13th straight USA South Regular Season title and their 12th straight conference championship. Acosta finished the year 22-7 on the season and became an All-American this season with his ITA Regional Title in September and top 8 finish at Nationals.

He won three conference player of the week awards this season and was named the USA South Player of the Year. Acosta also went to the individual national tournament and was named to the all-conference and all-tournament teams and was ranked 3rd in the nation all year.

Acosta is the reigning ITA South Region Champion and USA South Team Champion and Conference Player of the Year.

FEMALE STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR & JIM SABISTON COURAGE AWARD WINNER



Senior Emily Ketchum (Women's Soccer) was named as an Academic All-South Region Scholar and earned the Jim Sabiston Courage Award for 2021-2022.

With a 3.95 GPA, Emily's academic honors include the Presidential Honor List, Exercise Science Honors Award, and 1st place in this year's Math & Sciences Writing Competition. She also served as President of FCA and VP of both SAAC and Science Club.

Ketchum, from Richlands, North Carolina, was on the Coaches United Scholar All-Region Team and named to the Academic All-Conference Team three times.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Freshman second team All-American and Conference Rookie of the Year, Mariah Brooks (track and field) set two conference records at the USA South Track and Field Championships hosted by Berea College in Kentucky on April 20-21. The freshman sprinter won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.99 seconds, earning 10 team points for the

Bishops, who placed 8th in the 13-team event.

Brooks then won the 200-meter dash later in the day in 25.04 seconds to set another conference and school record. Brooks also finished 8th in the 200 meters in a time of 27.2 seconds. As a result of her feats, Brooks was named the Track Rookie Athlete of the Meet and to the all-conference first team.

MCDOWELL NAMED PLAYER OF THE YEAR



The USA South Athletic Conference named NC Wesleyan's Damon McDowell (basketball) as Player of the Year. McDowell, a senior guard from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, becomes just the fourth NC Wesleyan men's basketball student-athlete to be named USA South Player of the Year.

McDowell led the Conference in scoring (23.7 ppg avg) which ranks eighth nationally. He also has made the most field goals (210) and three-pointers (83) this season. McDowell made the All-Conference team for the third consecutive season, as a First Team All-Conference and First Team All-East Division member. Finally, he earned USA South Player of the Week honors twice this season.

145 WESLEYAN HONOREES NAMED TO ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

The USA South Athletic Conference has released its 2021-2022 Academic All-Conference Team. This past season produced a record 2,021 honorees, including **138** from NC Wesleyan University. A student-athlete must have earned a 3.30 GPA in each of the two semesters of a given year to be eligible. Any student-athlete participating at any Conference institution is eligible thus the participant does not have to compete in a Conference-sponsored sport.

*Additionally, NCWU had 36 student-athletes earn at least a 3.90 GPA in each semester to achieve the All-Academic honor "With Distinction."

NC Wesleyan University's Honorees

Jhonny Acosta	Valentina Chaves	Andrea Fanzaga*	Kira Kristjanson*	Alexandru Nease	Giovanni Scacco	Abby Todd
Molly Alejandrino*	Katelyn Clark	Fabio Felli*	Jacob Kuykendall	Allison Newman	Francisco Schmitt	Matteo Torchio*
Ignacio Alia	Lorenzo Cocchia*	Maria Fernandez Laurita	Andrea Lacche	Rafael Niederleytner*	Julie Schoormans*	Aydrian Upchurch
Matan Amitay	Matthew Coltren	Hamish Foreman*	Jean LaGreca	Nagisa Ogahara	Colin Scoggins	Samantha Valeros
Kamree Barker	Adam Conte	Jordan Fransee*	Ignacio Lander Ramirez*	Madison O'Neill	Zachary Scott	Juan Vallejo
Desmond Barnes	Marisa Corcoran	Anthony German	Santiago Larumbe	Drifton Padgett	Michaela Seawell	Andrea Vendrame
Sydney Barnwell	Ryan Cornelius	Madeline Graham*	Caitlin Leggett	Ignacio Perco*	Daniella Sehanine	Juan Vilches Paez
Victor Barrera Delgado	Osei Darko	Angela Groeneveld	Alexander Lott	Lucas Perez Souts	Nadia Simmons*	William Wardius
Renato Barros*	Cullen Davis	Areina Harris	Zachary Lyon	Naomi Shane Pilapil	Davide Simonini	Lauren Weaver
Patricio Basta*	Mary Davis*	Juan Herrera Lanzi	Austin Manley	Anna Ray*	Matteo Simonini*	Nolan Weloff
Juana Baudrix	Christopher Day	Nathanael Hibbs	Elisa Mariotti*	Mary Raynor	Key'Andre Smith	Alexis Whitfield
Gregor Baum	Juliette Desmarais*	Jack Holden	Ethan Martin	Alexis Reinert*	Rodrigo Soto Gongora	Allison Wichrowski*
Agustin Belgiojorno	Lucas Diez Lugo*	Laila Holloway	Isaiah Matta	Kelsi Rhodes	Agustin Spangenberg	Rheanna Wilder
Mariah Berkovich*	Brayden Dixon	Thato Holmes	Victoria Mayer*	Robert Rice	Mackenzie Stalfire	Kevin Williams
Karlee Bjurstrom*	Vendela Dolsenius*	Mauro Infante	Justin McDonald	Alberto Robinelli	Jonathan Stallings*	Keyonte Williams
Elizebeth Blair*	Kristal Dule*	Gonzalo Irazusta	Joaquin Micheloni	Max Robinson	Noah Strange	Lucas Wittstatt
Tobias Borzel*	Trysten Edwards	Emry Jackson	Franco Milivinti*	Agustin Rodriguez Rende	Emily Sullivan	Luca Zallo
Valentina Broggi	Emily Elston	Alicia Jacobs	Meredith Mize	Luis Ross	Sophia Sweeney	Bohdan Zhylichuk
Alyssa Brookhart*	Carson Evans	Makayla Jordan	Lilian Monroy	Justin Sabdo	Sidney Tant	Luis Zurita Jalil
Mary Butler	Finlay Evans	Alayna Kavanaugh	Madison Morrison	Michelle Sackey-Ansah	Keorra Taylor	
Derrick Carter	John Falke	Emily Ketchum	Isabel Neall*	Antonio Sas*	Conner Thomas	



BASEBALL

The 2022 baseball team is coming off a NCAA regional berth last season while they again won the East Division this year defeating Methodist in the final series of the year to win it with a record of 17-4 in conference and 28-17 overall. The Bishops then won their East Division bracket in May going 3-0 to advance to the finals of the Conference tournament. They then fell 2-0 to 4th ranked LaGrange College in the finals to finish runner-up in the conference in back-to-back years.

The Bishops' 2B **Davie Morgan** was named a Fourth Team All-American and First Team All-Region Player as he hit .407 with eight homers, 18 doubles and 64 runs scored on the season while also winning a conference player of the week when he hit over .500 and had three homers in one week.



Wesleyan also had a pitcher of the week in **Danny Thompson** for his big 11 innings, 17 strikeout win to beat Averett while senior **Derrick Carter** was named Conference Pitcher of the Year as he led

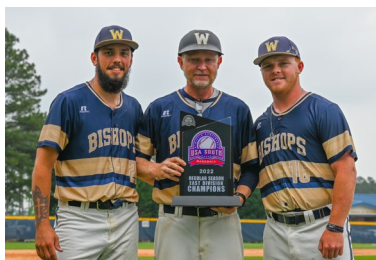
the team and conference in wins with eight and ERA at 2.63 along with over 100 strikeouts. The Bishops had nine different players named to all-conference teams and five players named to all-region teams.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team finished with a record of 19-8, marking the program's 13th straight season without a losing record while posting a 10-4 record in USA South play, finishing runner-up in the East Division. The Bishops would go on to defeat Pfeiffer in the tournament quarterfinals before falling to Covenant in the semifinals.

Other season highlights included the program's annual Roger Taylor Invitational, which saw seniors **Damon McDowell**, **Zay Lewis** and **Sal -Bey Young** earn All-Classic honors as the team went 2-0.

The 2022 Bishops also got **Coach John Thompson** his 400th career win during their 11-point win over Methodist in January. The team also put together three separate four-game winning streaks throughout the year. Individually, **McDowell** was named the USA South Player of the Year and was named to the First Team All-Conference, Second Team All-Region and First Team All-District. **McDowell** was also named a Third-Team All-American last season in Basketball magazine. **McDowell** led the conference in 30-point games with seven and averaged over 26 points per game in conference to lead the league. He was also voted into the D-3 NABC all-star game in March and finished his career second all-time in points at Wesleyan with 1,968, just 13 shy of breaking the record. He also set the school record for threes in a



Pitchers of the Year Derrick Carter & Hunter Hill with Coach Clifton

season with 87 and played in a school record 115 games. **McDowell** was joined on the all conference team by **Isaiah Lewis** who was named to the Second Team.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The 2021-22 defending conference champion women's basketball team posted a 15-11 overall record this season while going 13-5 in conference to finish third in the USA South's East Division and twice took conference runner-up and 24-1 Greensboro College down to the wire almost pulling the upset. The Bishops put together two winning streaks of four games each this season and were led by Second Team All-Conference selections **Kayla Johnson** and **Kayrisma Harrison**.

Johnson broke the school career record for three-pointers made and attempted. **Harrison** averaged a double-double this year while winning Player of the Week once and setting the school record for rebounds in a season with nearly 300.



CHEER/DANCE

The 2021-22 cheer and dance team came back with some good results under first-year coaches **Tonia Grimsley** and **De'Nasia Pitchford**. The cheer team came in first at the Belmont Abbey tournament as they beat Div. II Mars Hill University while they finished fourth at the cheer championships in Daytona Beach.

GOLF

The 2021-2022 golf team finished second at their home tournament, the Don Scalf Invitational, which was their first tournament of the year. They were led by senior **Frankie Schmitt's** sixth place finish and freshman **Matt Coltren's** eighth place finish. **Schmitt** also led the Bishops with a second place finish at the Guilford meet in October with his 2-under par 70. The golf team finished second at the VA Wesleyan tournament led by freshmen **Myles Patterson** and **Aidan Harrington** who were sixth and seventh. Individually, Wesleyan had freshman **Coltren** qualify for the conference tournament.

LACROSSE

The lacrosse team showed major improvement over the course of the spring as they upset Huntingdon College on the road in overtime in March to kick off a four-game winning streak and eventually set a school record for overall wins with four in a season as they also beat Greensboro and William Peace. They then finished off their home schedule with a senior day weekend doubleheader that was played at the brand new Stallings Turf Field at the Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. Stadium. They played a thrilling first game at the new field against Brevard College but fell 11-10 in overtime. They were led by sophomore **Blaire Harley** and her team leading goals, assists and points.

SOFTBALL

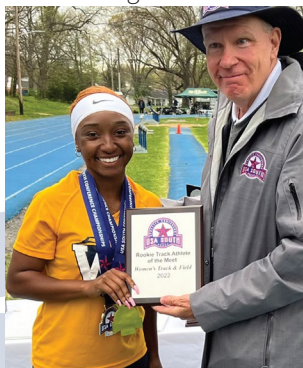
The 2022 softball team finished 19-18 on the season and 9-9 in the conference having clinched a spot in the play-in round of the Conference tournament, but fell to Methodist.

The team was very young this season as they used five freshman pitchers and two freshman position players. But they again notched another 20-win season, their fifth in the past six seasons. Rookie pitcher **Emily “Goose” Humphrey** led the team with 12 wins while she won the Conference Rookie Pitcher of the Week award twice. Pitcher **Laila Holloway** and INF/OF **Skyler Walker** also won Rookie of the Week awards this year while freshman 3B **Molly Alejandrino** led them in home runs with four.

TRACK & FIELD

The 2022 track and field teams were highlighted by freshman **Mariah Brooks** winning multiple conference awards including Rookie of the Week three times and Athlete of the Week twice for her 100 meter sprinting excellence. She has set the women’s school and conference season record with the only sub-12 second time this season running a 100 meter time of 11.9 seconds and a record time in the 200 in 25 seconds as she was named the Conference Rookie of the Year.

In the field events, **Christian Van Norden** also performed well placing high in multiple shot put and discus events while **Kelsey Hutchison** and **Teanna Bellamy** each led the way in the distance events on the track. The men’s track team also performed well in their first year as an official sport. Senior sprinter **Keyonte Williams** led the way in the 400 meters and 400 hurdles finishing second in the conference.



(L-R): Sprinter Mariah Brooks, who set two conference records at a meet in Kentucky and Head Coach Bill Dunn

MEN’S TENNIS

The men’s tennis team finished with its highest national final ranking ever for the first time in school history finishing #8 in the nation and #1 in Atlantic South. The Battling Bishops once again turned in a spectacular season going 29-5 and advancing all the way to the Sweet 16 of the National Tournament including an upset 5-4 win over host Johns Hopkins. They then fell 5-3 to #3 Tufts.

Wesleyan ran its winning streak versus USA South opponents to well over 100 matches dating back to 2009. With an undefeated 7-0 league slate, the Bishops also captured their 13th straight USA South Regular

Season title. The Bishops also boast the top ranked player in the region, the ITA Fall Regional Champion and All-American **Jhonny Acosta**. Acosta was ranked third in the nation all year and was seeded sixth at the national tournament where he went 2-1 before falling in the National Quarterfinals.

He won three Conference Player of the Week awards this season and was named the USA South Player of the Year. Wesleyan also had two freshmen win multiple Rookie of the Week awards this year as well with **Luca Knese** and **Diego Segovia**. Knese was also named the conference Rookie of the Year. **John Falke**, **Roberto Puig** and Knese were all named to the Conference All-Tournament Team as well while **Acosta**, **Falke**, and **Puig** were each named to the All-Conference First Team.



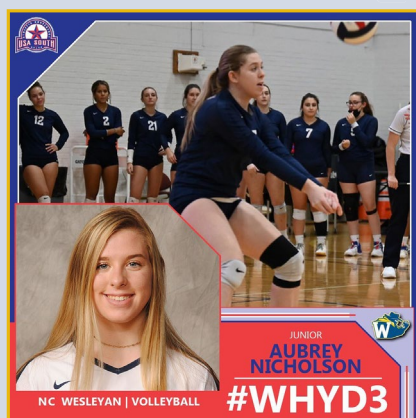
Head Men’s Tennis Coach Albie Brice and Assistant Coach Matt Rowe were each named ITA Regional Coach and Assistant of the Year while senior All-American Jhonny Acosta was named the senior ITA Regional Player of the Year.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The women’s team was led by freshman **Kristal Dule**’s runner-up finish in the Fall Atlantic South Regional Tournament which earned her a spot in the ITA Fall cup in October. Unfortunately, injuries would sidetrack their season but they enjoyed wins over Peace and Greensboro. **Dule** and **Elisa Mariotti** were however, named to the All-Conference teams as well.



The 2021-22 Soccer and Volleyball teams visited Scotland and played club teams.



BISHOP HIGHLIGHT

AUBREY NICHOLSON

Why I Chose D3?

“I chose a Division 3 school because it meant that I would have closer connections with professors and teammates and I just loved how small and tight-knit our campus would be. It makes it easier to make new friends.”

Nicholson is a senior for the Bishop women’s volleyball team. An Exercise Science major from Gastonia, NC, Aubrey was featured in April 2022 as one of the USA South Athletic Conference’s #WHYD3 Wednesday social media posts.



Flashback to the 60's and try to imagine campus life at a small, private liberal arts college located in Rocky Mount, NC.

Wesleyan was just in its developmental stage so there were not a lot of extracurricular activities for students. However, with the insight and perseverance of a group of students, Nu Gamma Phi Fraternity, was formed.

It all began during freshmen orientation week in September of 1966. Quinton White '68, a junior on the orientation committee, spoke with freshman Harry Price '70 about forming a social fraternity. The idea was not only to promote a social life, but also a service-oriented fraternity that supported the College. They recruited their friends to join them in their attempt. They were looking for members with strong morals who wanted to engage while helping others.

The first official meeting of Nu Gamma Phi at NC Wesleyan was held January 8, 1967. The Greek letters Nu Gamma Phi were accepted and a committee appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, that were later ratified on January 19, 1967.

The Nu Gamma Phi fraternity was officially recognized at Wesleyan in May 1967. The brotherhood quickly became very active both on campus and in the community. Their first activity was a service project helping with the restoration of Rocky Mount's Braswell Park. They held dances in November and May for the student body and underwent "rush" and a pledge period. During this time, parties were held and pledges

worked on several projects. Traditions were started with their first annual beach party. The culmination of their first year was being presented the Dean of Students Award, given to the most active organization on campus.

For decades, Nu Gamma Phi was active on the North Carolina Wesleyan campus and in the Rocky Mount community. The men from Nu Gamma Phi went on to

become very successful—doctors, lawyers, dentists, researchers in academia, prominent businessmen and community leaders.



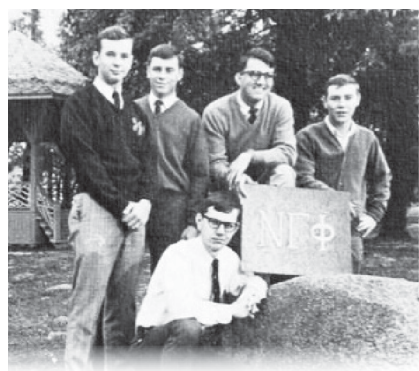
NGP brothers celebrate Homecoming 1970

In the early 2000's, the Nu Gamma Phi fraternity, as well as other Greek organizations at NC Wesleyan, were disbanded. It seemed the fraternity would be lost forever, but the NGP alumni brotherhood always had an unwavering belief in their brotherhood and continued to maintain their bond with each other and their alma mater.

In honor of the 40th anniversary of Nu Gamma Phi at NC Wesleyan, the Nu Gamma Phi alumni brothers established the Nu Gamma Phi Scholarship to be awarded annually to an upperclassman who has exhibited high scholastic achievement and strong personal character, and is committed to strengthening campus life at NCWU. All characteristics exemplified by members of the brotherhood.

The Nu Gamma Phi alumni celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2017 with a return to campus for Homecoming and several gatherings.

As the years passed and anniversaries were celebrated, many of the Nu Gamma Phi alumni brothers and their first ladies were working hard on a recolonization effort



First semester officers of Nu Gamma Phi: Jim Polley, Historian (kneeling); (L-R) Judson Revelle, Chaplain; Steve Gordon, Warden; Quinton White, President; Dave Hamill, Treasurer



to bring the fraternity back to NC Wesleyan. As a result of their efforts, Nu Gamma Phi fraternity returned to the campus of North Carolina Wesleyan on March 19, 2022. A special thanks to these NGP brothers, their first ladies and others who were instrumental in making this possible: Roger and Gaile Taylor, Harlan and Margaret Ives Lewis, John and Erin Gall, Steve and Melody Brown, Quinton White, Wayne Souza, Ed Taylor, Roland Shaw, Scott Logan, Fred Metzger, Chris Ostling, Lewis Nofsinger, Hugh Ritchie Cross, Gary McLaughlin, W. S. Dolan, Bill Walsh, and from NCWU, Dr. Evan Duff, Dr. Barry Drum, Blaise Gourley, Mark Hinson, Elliott Smith, Nadine Verner, Chantoni Grant and Tyson Duff.

So, on the 55th anniversary of Nu Gamma Phi at NC Wesleyan, the brotherhood of Nu Gamma Phi is celebrating the long-awaited return of a new chapter of Nu Gamma Phi to the campus of North Carolina Wesleyan University. The great tradition of Nu Gamma Phi brotherhood has finally returned.



NGP Brothers celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2017 with a return to campus for Homecoming and several gatherings.

CLASS OF '72 JOINS GOLDEN BISHOPS CIRCLE

The Class of 1972 was officially inducted into the Golden Bishops Circle (GBC) at Commencement held Saturday, May 7, 2022. The weekend began with a welcome social on Friday evening, followed by the official induction Saturday morning and a celebratory luncheon afterwards. The group ended their afternoon with a trip to the campus store and a campus tour. Members enjoyed seeing old friends and classmates, meeting new ones and seeing the many changes to Wesleyan's campus.

the future of Wesleyan. Enrollment is automatic and there is no annual cost. Current GBC members are those alumni who graduated between 1964 and 1972.



The Golden Bishops Circle (GBC) honors alumni who have commemorated 50 years or more since graduation. The GBC's mission is to connect alumni, share common stories and memories, as well as to inform, educate and engage with NC Wesleyan University. Members are vital to keeping Wesleyan's history and future alive, and all are invited to participate in



(Back L-R): Robert Carson '72, Enola Carson, Daulton West '72, Anthony Dingman, David Smith, Helen Steiner Smith '72, Dan Shephard '72, Donald Bunker '72 (Front L-R): Shirley Torrence, Molly Levin Beck '72, Betty Lee Pearce '72, Virginia Shephard, Yvonne Bunker '75

KEEP WESLEYAN GROWING.

WHAT LEGACY WILL YOU LEAVE?

When you choose to include a gift to NCWU as part of your legacy, you are continuing a tradition that has existed since Wesleyan's founding in 1956: a tradition to educate young men and women to serve others and follow the Golden Rule itself: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*

Plain and simple, your legacy gift enables excellence.

Choose your legacy today.



Office of Advancement
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"NC Wesleyan was one of the best experiences of my life. I wanted to make sure future generations will have the same opportunity as I did. Planned Giving allows me to do that."

- Johnny Francis '89



TAMMY ROBINSON REJOINS ADVANCEMENT



Ask Tammy Robinson anything about her time at North Carolina Wesleyan and you'll quickly learn that students are the reason she is here. In a recent interview with Tammy on the various positions she's held at Wesleyan during her thirteen-year tenure, it became obvious that her passion, what is most rewarding to her, is finding opportunities to impact the lives of the students.

Tammy's career path at Wesleyan actually started in the Institutional Research Department and in the President's Office where, as an Administrative Assistant, she helped faculty with proctoring, scanning exams, surveys, greeting the President's visitors, and assisting with Board of Trustee meetings. She later moved to a role in Development, now referred to as Office of Advancement. Actively involved with donors, alumni, and students, she worked her way to Director of Donor Relations and Stewardship. She fostered many relationships for Wesleyan through communications and engagement events; some of which developed into more personal friendships, too.

Reminiscing about her past at Wesleyan, Tammy recalled that during her first year at Wesleyan she met then student, Chardae Smallwood, Class of 2010. Chardae was seeking a Staff Advisor for BSA (Black Student Association), a group whose purpose on campus is to promote

education and cultural awareness in the community. She asked Tammy to consider it. "BSA held so many events during the year," remembers Tammy "but my favorites were the cultural events where they'd invite international students to discuss their unique culture." After saying "yes" to Chardae's request to be an advisor, Tammy formed many long-lasting relationships with students over the years.

Another fond memory that makes Tammy smile is Rock the Mount, a signature event in welcoming students back to campus in August. Tammy created Rock the Mount out of a desire to bridge the gap between Wesleyan and the Rocky Mount community. "I witnessed the community on several occasions supporting Wesleyan and standing with arms opened wide. However, I didn't see where the community was visible on campus except for athletic events," she stated. "For me, Rock the Mount was a way to tell the community "Thank You." It was two-fold; business and non-profit organizations in the community got a chance to be on campus to share with our students the services they offered, and our students learned what Rocky Mount had to offer them beyond the serpentine walls at Wesleyan." The event started with fifteen participating companies and over the years has grown to as many as eighty.

Family, both at home and her work family, is important to Tammy. In fact, through Wesleyan connections formed over thirteen years ago, she is a part of a group she likes to call her "sister chicks." Not only are they all very close friends, but they invest in each other's families like their own. She simply loves people, the fact that Wesleyan has a family-like atmosphere, and understands that strong families make for a better overall community.

Although a wonderful opportunity to work for her church eventually lured Tammy away in 2020, she came to realize that she missed Wesleyan. "I missed engaging with donors and being a part of creating opportunities that will impact our students. The diversity in the student body is awesome and so inspiring, that when I got the opportunity to join the team at Wesleyan again, I wanted to come back. I love Wesleyan!" Tammy exclaimed.

That love and continuing desire to connect people in the community with Wesleyan is what brought Tammy back in May of this year. As Wesleyan's Director of Donor Engagement, working once again in the Office of Advancement, her daily focus is to connect people and businesses with Wesleyan, informing donors of events and news that

may be relevant to them, assisting those who desire to make a planned gift or to start an endowed scholarship. . . all to benefit the student's educational experience and Wesleyan as a whole. Tammy once told a friend "This (Wesleyan) is the best kept secret in eastern North Carolina. But it shouldn't be

a secret!" Wesleyan is pleased to have Tammy back and telling everyone she encounters about the University and our students.

If you want to know more about how to engage with Wesleyan, or have a desire to make a planned gift or create a scholarship, contact Tammy at 252.985.5410 or email her at trobinson@ncwc.edu.

"This (Wesleyan) is the best kept secret in eastern North Carolina. But it shouldn't be a secret!"

Tammy Robinson

GRAVELY GALLERY OPENS

On June 2, 2022, The Dunn Center held a ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of the Gravelly Gallery, dedicated to the life and legacy of Janice Beavon Gravelly. Janice, a long-time friend and supporter of Wesleyan, was a prolific artist, wife, mother, grandmother and friend and was well known and loved throughout the world. She lived a full, rich life of nearly 100 years.

Thanks to a donation from her daughter, Jane Gravelly '74, the former Civic Gallery in The Dunn Center has been transformed into Gravelly Gallery. "The vision for the Gravelly Gallery is to be a place for emerging

artists, local artists, high school and college students to showcase their artwork. This new space is going to give The Dunn Center a new feeling that we are very excited about," said Greg Purcell, Art Curator for the Galleries at The Dunn Center. The Gravelly Gallery



(L-R): Greg Purcell, Art Curator for The Dunn Center; Jane Gravelly '74 and her brother, Keen Gravelly cut the ribbon for the opening of the Gravelly Gallery



will have a rotating permanent exhibit of Janice Gravelly's work.

Janice once said "I hope you enjoy walking through my life with me as much as I have enjoyed painting it and sharing it with you." Janice is still sharing her life with us and it is a great gift she is giving us.



Class Champion Spotlight

"Being a part of Wesleyan was being a part of progress." A 2005 graduate with a degree in History, Erin Gall continues to make progress since coming to Wesleyan in the fall of 2000. At Wesleyan, Erin gained knowledge, experience and confidence which encouraged her to become active in the Rocky Mount community after graduating. "The professors invested in me as a person and took time to guide me in life, and not just in the classroom. My various employers did the same, which allowed me to feel comfortable investing in Wesleyan and Rocky Mount as my home."

During her time at Wesleyan, Erin was an active leader, especially in the Greek Life community where she met her husband, John Gall '02. A member and later President of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Erin thoroughly enjoyed her time in Greek Life which has led to her assistance in bringing Nu Gamma Phi Fraternity back to Wesleyan's campus.

Aside from life on campus, Erin enjoyed working for several local businesses. Following graduation, she began as an Admissions Counselor at NC Wesleyan making numerous connections in the area. Her relationships eventually led her to ALLEGRA, a local printing and marketing company, where she started as an Outside Sales Representative in 2008 and has since been promoted to General Manager. "Growing into this role was all due to broader experiences that laid the groundwork for my future."

Bettering Rocky Mount and paving the way for the next generation, Erin supports her alma mater at a Wesleyan Society level by giving back annually. Erin currently serves on the NCWU Board of Visitors, Executive Committee of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce, Nu Gamma Phi Re-Establishment Committee, Nash Community College Foundation Board, Northern Nash High School Band Boosters, The Light House Home Board, and in numerous ways at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and School.

Erin has been recognized on several occasions for her outstanding work ethic, sales and marketing expertise, and her community involvement. In August of 2021, she was recognized with the Honor Sales Club Award by the Alliance Franchise Brands. This award is given annually to the top sales professionals nationwide and is based on outstanding value and customer service. As a top sales representative, Erin has also been awarded the Silver Sales Award through Alliance Franchise Brands for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017 and 2020. She recently was awarded the 2021 President's Award for the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce. Through the Chamber, Erin has also received previous awards such as Small Business Advocate in 2019, Volunteer of the Year in 2018, and Ambassador of the Year in 2012.

Celebrating 19 years of marriage and her daughter, Cadi, graduating from high school, Erin sees the reality is that North Carolina Wesleyan was her champion. She stated, "I came for college, but found a family, made a home and a family of my own, earned a career, and have the pleasure of supporting Wesleyan so that more students can realize their own futures!"



Erin Gall '05

*"I came for college,
but found a family!"*

Erin Gall '05

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1960s



Thomas "Tom" I. Davis, Jr. '67 and his wife, **Carolyn Lynch Davis '95**, have returned to Johnston County to live on her family farm north of Selma, after living for 18 years near Oriental, NC. Tom retired after 35 years in public school administration.

1970s



Royce "Ed" Scarborough '75 was recognized as one of the 2021 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients for the state of Delaware.

1980s



Eddie McKoy '85 celebrated his 35th anniversary with Nash County, NC. McKoy is the Real Estate Property Appraisal Manager for Nash County.



Wendy Douglas '88 was the commencement speaker for the Poole College of Management at North Carolina State University's Spring Jenkins Graduate Programs Hooding Ceremony.

1990s



Lynwood Roberson '93 has been selected to receive an International Distinguished College Administrator Award from Phi Theta Kappa. Roberson is one of only 28 college administrators worldwide selected for the international distinction.

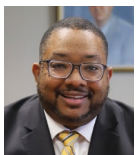


Brenda Green Branch '94 was recently elected Halifax County Superior Court Judge. Branch currently serves as Chief District Court Judge for Bertie, Halifax, Hertford and Northampton counties.

Joseph D. Long '97 has been appointed CFO of Case Farms. Long joined Case Farms in 2003 and most recently served as Vice President of Finance.



Scott Kennell '98 has left his mark at the collegiate level in his role as Director of Athletics at Madonna University. In his sixth year since taking over, he has taken the program to new heights.



William T. Wright, Jr. '98 was recently selected as the Superintendent of Sumter, South Carolina School District.

2000s



John Dismukes '06 is an executive in the Auto Industry specializing in SaaS. He is Sales and Marketing Manager with LoopMein.app.

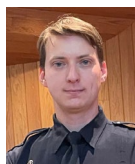
Christina Torres Wayne '07 has worked for Vidant Medical Center for 10 years. She is an Adjunct Instructor and Board Member for the PTA program at Martin Community College. She is currently working towards her Acute Care Advance Pathway Proficiency/Specialty.



P. Elizabeth "Libby" Fulford '08 was inducted into the SouthWest Edgecombe High School Class of 2022 Hall of Fame. Libby was outstanding in tennis and softball in high school. Libby has been an Assistant Softball Coach at Wesleyan for five years.



Ben Lilley '10 was named the new Assistant Director of Student Success at North Carolina Wesleyan University.



Jacob D. Strickland '11 was recently promoted to Corporal at the Rocky Mount Police Department, Rocky Mount, NC.

Rodney D. Pierce '12 took part in the 6th annual Network for Public Education's Action National Conference where he participated in the keynote discussion. He also worked with the N.C. African American Heritage Commission, presenting a topic in the commission's webinar series this May. He will also support the development of additional statewide educational resources and trainings this summer and fall.



Sharise Jones '12 married Elijah McNeil on June 12, 2022.



Lindsey Sharpe Judd '17 was named the new Director of Rocky Mount Adult Studies for North Carolina Wesleyan University.



Shayla Thorne '18 recently published her first children's book, *Did You Know That You Are Loved?* Dedicated to her five-year old niece, Shayla's book is written to express how much joy children bring to their families.

G. Allen Chesser '19 won the Republican primary in May. Allen will face state Rep. James Gailliard in the November general election for NC State House 25 representing Nash County.



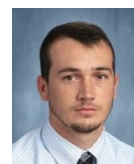
William T. Smith '19 has been hired as the new Chief of Police in Rich Square, NC.



Savannah Flanagan '20 graduated from Virginia Tech with her MA in History along with a graduate certificate in Public History. She will start her PhD in History at Baylor University where she plans to be researching women, religion and race in early America.



Jackie Webb '21 recently earned the First-Year Teacher of the Year award from Nash County Public Schools. Jackie teaches Mathematics at Northern Nash High School.



Zack Foster '21 recently earned the First-Year Teacher of the Year award from Nash County Public Schools. Zack teaches English at Southern Nash High School.



Kate A. Avila '21 served last summer as Cadre for the Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY receiving The Achievement Medal. Kate graduated from the Adjutant General Basic Officer Leader Course Training in December. She is now the executive officer at Fort Jackson, SC and was honored as "Hero of the Battlefield" in February.



Anthony Boykin '22 joined North Carolina Wesleyan University as the Systems Technician in the Information Systems Department.



Caleb Gates Harrell '22 joined North Carolina Wesleyan University as the Assistant Campus Store Manager.



Grant Harrell '22 joined North Carolina Wesleyan University as an Admissions Counselor for the Admissions Department.

IN MEMORIAM

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our Bishop community members who are no longer with us. Listed below are those the University has been made aware of who recently passed.

Albert Edward Boone, Sr. '64 was President of the first graduating class of NC Wesleyan University. He served as a Day for Wesleyan volunteer for many years and was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015.



Donald Erwin Hines, an outstanding men's basketball player, was Wesleyan's Most Outstanding Male Athlete in 1965-1966 and the team's MVP. He was inducted into Wesleyan's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.



Elizabeth Anne Wilgus worked in the library at NC Wesleyan for over 15 years from 1980 to 1995. During her tenure she served as Catalog Librarian, Reference Librarian, Interim Director and Associate Director and Head of Reference.



Joshua Gregory Moore was a servant of God with a pure heart. He dedicated more than 12 years to helping local needy children and teens at Christmas time through Joshua's Toy Drive. He attended NC Wesleyan in the fall of 2021.



To notify us of a recently deceased classmate, faculty or staff member, email the name and obituary to alumni@ncwc.edu. Donations can also be made to NC Wesleyan University in memory of a fallen Bishop at ncwc.edu/donate.



Stay in Touch with CLASSNOTES

Want to see your class notes in the next edition?

Keep Wesleyan and your fellow alumni informed of recent engagements, marriages, births, new jobs, awards, promotions and other activities.

Submit your updates online at ncwc.edu/alumni-contact-form.

Note: Submissions may be edited for print publication.



Alumni

1960s

*Albert Edward Boone, Sr. '64

Cyrus F. Watson
Samuel Arthur McPherson III
John Ivey Wells

*Donald Erwin Hines

Claire A. Parham '68
Jackie Earnest Fritts '69
Nancy Wellons Windes '69
Dianne Woodard Taylor

1970s

Mary Kemp Ricks '70
Sara Frances Jones Rodriguez '70
Elvin James Dixon
Fred S. Dixon, Jr.
John Edward "Ed" Morrison '72
Gilbert Wilson Chichester '72
Linda Joyner Edmondson '72
Clarence Lee Lamm III '75
Stewart Scott, Jr. '76
John Russell Sanders
George Allen Jones '78

1980s

Edgar Alvis Pollard '80

2000s

Alexis Fountaine DeMarino '09
Alva Sue Smith Eason '19
Tyler Ray Brown '20
Lauren E. Winstead '20

Faculty & Staff

Dr. Herman E. Collier, Jr.
*Elizabeth Anne Wilgus
Rilla Louise Carter Keith
Dr. Robert Duncan Borgman
John E. "Jack" Killeen

Students

*Joshua Gregory Moore

We've Got Your Holiday Venue!

North Carolina Wesleyan University is an exceptional event location situated on 200 acres convenient to Interstate 95 and Interstate 64. Wesleyan's facilities are complete with technology that fits the everyday work need and are designed for meeting spaces, concerts, conferences, camps and entertaining.

Learn more about our campus, rental spaces and the services we provide when planning your next event. For more information, visit ncwc.edu/event-venue-rentals.

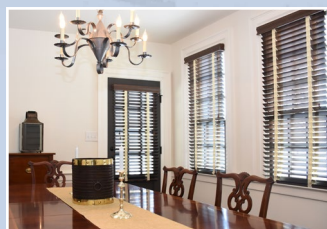
Campus Rental Spaces:

- The Bellemonte House
- The Dunn Center
 - Minges Auditorium
 - Powers Auditorium
 - Carlton Boardroom
 - The Garner Lobby
 - Mims & Gravely Galleries
- BB&T Room
- Board of Trustees Room
- Academic Classrooms
- Hartness Student Center
- Gateway Technology Center
- Elizabeth Braswell Pearsall Library
- Taylor Recreation Center
- Leon Russell Chapel
- Indoor Sports & Education Facility



- Meetings
- Office Parties
- Dinner Parties
- Luncheons
- Tea Parties

Available for Holiday Gatherings – \$250 per day*



*Applies ONLY to The Bellemonte House. Hurry offer ends 10/1/22.

Reserve Today! For information on all rental spaces, visit ncwc.edu/event-venue-rentals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2022

23 ROCK THE MOUNT

Tuesday, August 23 | 11:00 AM

Southern Bank Green @ NCWU

Welcoming NCWU's Class of 2026! Business owners, churches and other nonprofits are invited to attend. Meet incoming freshmen and gain exposure among our students.



SEPTEMBER 2022

8 WILSON ACTIVE ARTISTS

Thursday, September 8 | Season Gallery Opening
Mims Gallery @ The Dunn Center

The members of this amazing group work in a variety of mediums including painting, flow art, sculpture, ceramics, pottery and more!

9 CHUBBY CHECKER 🎵

Friday, September 9 | 7:30 PM

Minges Auditorium @ The Dunn Center

Entertainment icon best known for popularizing The Twist, Chubby Checker brings an unbelievable season opener to The Dunn Center.

23 THE MALPASS BROTHERS 🎵

Friday, September 23 | 7:30 PM

Minges Auditorium @ The Dunn Center

As they transport you back 65 years, the Malpass Brothers will have you convinced these dudes could just be the ones to rescue "country music from complete pop oblivion."

OCTOBER 2022

1 HOMECOMING

Saturday, October 1 | 8:00 AM | KICK-OFF 12:00 PM

Vernon T. Bradley, Jr. Sports Stadium @ NCWU

Football, food and fellowship! Celebrating our annual homecoming game right here on campus, followed by a Rocky Mount Community Celebration.



13 BISHOPS SPORTING CLAYS CLASSIC

Thursday, October 13 | 12:00 PM

Rose Hill Farm Sporting Clays & Hunting Preserve

Our 2nd Annual **PULL! for Wesleyan** event supports various efforts to help Wesleyan students in their journey for lifelong achievement. Register to participate today!



14 MASTERS OF SOUL 🎵

Friday, October 14 | 7:30 PM

Minges Auditorium @ The Dunn Center

This talent-laden gang of ten is a must-see and do for Motown fans. Enjoy recreations of such legends as Gladys Knight, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross and Martha Reeves (Motown).

20 66th FOUNDERS' DAY

Thursday, October 20 | 5:30 PM

Minges Auditorium @ The Dunn Center

Founders' Day pays tribute to our rich Methodist heritage, our liberal arts foundation and the community who dedicated immense time and resources to make NCWU the institution it is today.

NOVEMBER 2022

3 KIM VALENTINE & TRACEY PENROD

Thursday, November 3 | 5:00 PM Reception

Mims Gallery @ The Dunn Center

Explore our connections to the world with moments and scenes captured in time that are both beautiful and simple in their nature.

5 FALL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 5 | 9:00 AM

The Dunn Center @ NCWU

Parents and prospective students can receive information on scholarships and financial aid, speak with faculty and students, learn more about the Admissions process and take a campus tour.

10 VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Thursday, November 10 | 10:00 AM

Garner Lobby @ The Dunn Center

Our annual Veterans Day event includes a patriotic salute to all Veterans and special pinning for Vietnam Veterans. Featured guest speakers include Denny Hair and Dawn Cash-Salau.

10 AN EVENING WITH GENERAL PATTON

Thursday, November 10 | 7:00 PM

Powers Recital Hall @ The Dunn Center

Spend the evening with General George S. Patton performed by living historian and author, Mr. Denny Hair. Followed by a Q&A with Mr. Hair, one of the world's foremost experts on General Patton.

11 BALSAM RANGE 🎵

Friday, November 11 | 7:30 PM

Minges Auditorium @ The Dunn Center

Calling all bluegrass fans, come see Balsam Range as they head to Rocky Mount for an awesome return engagement.

18 17th ANNUAL LIGHTING OF WESLEYAN

Friday, November 18 | 5:30 PM

NCWU Campus

A family-friendly event to celebrate the Christmas season. Free and open to the public.

19 CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD & MS. JODY 🎵

Saturday, November 19 | 7:00 PM

Minges Auditorium @ The Dunn Center

A night of beach music and all the fan favorites during this holiday spectacular with Chairmen of the Board & Ms. Jody.

🎵 To purchase tickets, call 252.985.5197 or visit dunncenter.com.

FALL ATHLETICS

This fall, we invite you to join us on campus to cheer on our Bishops Football, Volleyball, Soccer and Cross Country. For schedules and more information, visit us at ncwcsports.com.



Times and events are subject to change. For more information on what's happening at NCWU, visit ncwc.edu/event-calendar.



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