

# THE DECREE

since 1960 “of, by, and for the Wesleyan community.”

October 6, 2017

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

## Enrollment Rises above 1,000 for First Time at Wesleyan

With a freshman class of 350, Wesleyan’s day-time enrollment has exceeded 1,000 students for the first time in school history.

By hitting the 1,000-student milestone, President Dewey Clark said, the college is on its way to fulfilling a goal set by its founders.

“Our founders were very clear in their desires for the college,” he said. “I’ve read over the early documents many times and their dream was a college of 2,000 students. They had the insight to know that the economics would work better and that it would be a more vibrant college environment.”

Clark said he’s gratified that Wesleyan has gone over the 1,000 mark, a little more than three years after enrollment languished at 575. The improvement represents an 80 percent growth rate, he noted. “To finally reach 1,000 students after 60 years is monumental,” he said.

The president praised the “awesome team” the college has assembled as it embarked on its effort to raise enrollment. The recent growth will continue for the next eight or nine years, he said. “At 2,000 students, our college is a much different place than it was at 575 students,” he said.

As of September 30, traditional-day program enrollment stood at 1,027, according to college officials. Of that total, 99 are internationals, or close

to 10 percent of the population. The largest contingent continues to be from Nepal, with 23, followed by Argentina (17) and Venezuela (13).

Enrollment Services Vice President Judy Rollins noted that the number of Argentine students has been on the rise in recent years, attributing the increase to effective recruiting and “word of mouth.” “We hired a new agent about a year ago and we’ve established a good relationship,” she explained. “And current Argentine students are very satisfied and are sending the message back to friends and family.”

There has been a recent increase in Venezuelan students as well, as political turmoil back home has made American colleges an attractive option.

Freshman Dyia Ampley traveled a much shorter distance in her journey to Wesleyan. The Robersville native plans to major in biomedical science. “I really love the family atmosphere I’ve seen so far,” she said. “I was drawn by the small and unified campus and the opportunities to take part in a lot of activities.”

Dimon Roberson echoed Ampley in explaining her reasons for coming to Wesleyan. “It’s similar to my high school, close-knit and family like,” the Washington, D.C. native said, adding that Wesleyan provided the most financial aid of all the colleges on her list.

Freshman Jeremy Agosto came from the Orlando, Florida area. “During my visit I fell in love with the campus and school and decided to come here to play defensive line for the football team,” he said.

Here’s a profile of the 350 first-year students, based on data generated by the college earlier in September, when total enrollment stood at 1,030.

- Gender: Male-217, Female-133 (or 62 percent male, 38 percent female)
- Athletes: 233, or 67 percent
- Football players: 111, or 51 percent of all first-year males, and 32 percent of all first-years
- Other leading sports by number of athletes: men’s soccer (25), baseball (15), softball (13) and volleyball (11)

- First-year students who came to play for the college’s reconstituted lacrosse program: 5
  - First-year cheerleaders: 3
  - First-year internationals: 37.
- Wesleyan reported its first students from the following nations: Colombia, Czech Republic, Hungary, India, the Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda and South Korea.

For all first-year students, high school grade-point averages and average SAT scores saw a slight dip over last year. According to college data, the average GPA declined to 3.21 from 3.24 in 2016. College officials pointed out that it was 2.52 for freshmen in 2013.

After steady increases, average SAT scores dropped to 909 from 913 last year. In 2013, the average SAT score was 869. (The Decree requested median GPA and SAT scores as well, but the numbers were not available by deadline.)

This fall 50 transfer students joined 350 freshmen for a total of 400 new students in the traditional-day program. The 400 figure includes 235 males, or almost 59 percent; and 165 females (41 percent).

Among other notable enrollment facts, the college reported that:

- Army ROTC participation is at 18 cadets
- It has seen the number of Floridians nearly triple in the past four years, to 54. Nineteen Floridians are counted in the freshman class, a drop from 32 in 2016. In 2013, the number was 20 for all students in the traditional program.
- 8 new students and transfers have joined the pep band and Wesleyan’s new music production program, while 14 have become members of Wesleyan Singers.

While traditional-day program enrollment has climbed in recent years, ASPIRE experienced a setback in 2017. Its enrollment is now at 1,001, down 213 students from fall 2016, according to Provost Evan Duff, who explained that the decline reflects a national trend in adult education.

## Rebekah Cain Returns to Head Alumni Relations

Rebekah Cain, a 2013 Wesleyan graduate, said a love for the college and a desire to help Wesleyan students, past and present, brought her back to campus as director of the college’s Alumni Relations Department.

The Maryland native was an exercise science major, a member of the college’s honors program, a member of the women’s hoops team, and president of the Student Government Association, among many other activities, while a student.

President Dewey Clark feels confident that Cain will excel her new job. “Rebekah will perform well in her new role because she loves Wesleyan,” he said. “Her passion and enthusiasm are contagious.”

The Decree conducted a recent

interview with Cain about her new post.

**Q.** What have you been doing since graduation?

**A.** I was blessed to study abroad in Rome. It was a leadership program for individuals from around the world. We studied leadership, philosophy and religion. After returning, I moved to Oklahoma City to work for a nonprofit in the recreational therapy department, serving older individuals. I loved that sweet chapter of my life and I’m so grateful to have spent a few years building skills in the areas of volunteer management, grant writing, social engagement, event planning and promotion. I enjoyed cultivating relationships. I then decided to take another step toward professional development and joined the Paycom Corporation. During this time, I further developed skills in client relations, corporate relations and project management. I served on the board for Wings, a nonprofit organization that serves adults with special needs in the Oklahoma City area. While serving at Wings, I gained experience in fundraising, nonprofit marketing, and nonprofit strategic planning.

**Q.** Describe your responsibilities as Alumni Relations Director.

**A.** The director plans and implements programs and projects that engage alumni with the college while providing tangible benefits to alumni and current students. This includes events planning, fundraising, cultivating relationships and developing programs that benefit our current alumni, future alumni and the college.

**Q.** Discuss your decision to move from the field of exercise science to alumni affairs?

**A.** I really grew as a professional during my time at Paycom and enjoyed working with other large corporations, but my heart was in the nonprofit sector. I found that the direction God was leading me was toward nonprofits. Then the opportunity came to serve at my alma mater. I was thrilled to learn about the transformation and new vision of the college, and I wanted to join the team. I know great things are happening here and I want to help.

**Q.** You were on the NCWC hoops team. You were involved in SGA as president and you participated in other activities such as Refuge while on campus. Why do you think your involvement in extra-curricular activities was important to your development and your preparation for a career and life in general?

**A.** It allowed me to see the college from multiple angles. I interacted with so many wonderful individuals, a broad spectrum of administrators, coaches, and teachers. Through my involvement, I fell

in love with Wesleyan and saw first-hand individuals who want to make NCWC the best it can be. That attitude is infectious, and it helped me grow as a leader and a Battling Bishop. I wouldn’t trade that experience for anything.

**Q.** How has the college changed since you were a student here?

**A.** It’s amazing! I’m thankful to see how the college has improved, with a new vision and greater resources and facilities. Even the student body’s expectations have risen. When I came back for a recent visit, I could feel a difference on the campus. It feels alive, healthy and really headed for wonderful things.

In my new position, it’s my goal to enhance the student’s experience. The Wesleyan experience extends throughout the life cycle of the student—from prospective students to current students and to all of our alumni. They’re all connected; when one gives, supports and participates in the great things happening around campus, we all benefit. I know from speaking with alumni that they’re excited to hear of what’s been taking place on our campus. I always quote C.S. Lewis, “You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.” I have this on my desk as a reminder, to cherish yesterday and really believe in Wesleyan by celebrating today and believing in tomorrow.

**Q.** You and your brother Joshua have demonstrated a strong commitment to Wesleyan. Talk about what makes the college special to your family.

**A.** Wesleyan has and will always have a special place in the heart of the Cain family. I can’t speak directly for Josh, but I know that we both love our alma mater. Wesleyan changed our lives and molded us into who we are today. The supportive faculty and staff made a tremendous impact on our experience as students. We’ve both said how thankful we are to have the opportunity to serve NC Wesleyan. We’re excited to see where God is leading this campus, its administration, staff, faculty and students.

**Q.** What message does it send that President Clark is an alum of the college?

**A.** I think it says a lot when you walk around campus and see so many alumni working here. We have alumni serving in almost every capacity—the administration, admissions, athletics, academics, the Dunn Center, the bookstore and advancement. It’s a healthy sign when your alumni stay and lead. Alumni have witnessed the changes, seen the needs. They cherish the vision and can talk about their appreciation of NC Wesleyan, as individuals who

have been on both sides of the story.

**Q.** How would you characterize the level of involvement by NCWC alumni today?

**A.** I’m so thankful for our alumni board and their dedication. They’re leaders in their professions and communities who believe in Wesleyan; they’re committed to being a catalyst for change. We have alumni who have faithfully given to and volunteered for Wesleyan over the years, and without their support we wouldn’t be where we are today.

See ALUMNI pg. 2

## Hurricanes, Earthquake Cause Alarm for Wesleyan Students

Wesleyan and North Carolina were spared from the ravages of September’s severe weather, but it still spread heartache among some members of the Wesleyan community.

On the heels of Hurricane Harvey came Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which swept through the Caribbean, causing extensive damage in Florida and U.S. territories like Puerto Rico. Amid the hurricane activity, there was a 7.1-magnitude earthquake that flattened areas of Mexico City and killed more than 300 around the country.

Freshman Joel Figueroa has experienced many anxious moments while at Wesleyan. The Puerto Rico native said it was difficult to be in the States when he knew his family was in danger as Maria hit the island on September 20.

Figueroa is from the town of Yabucoa, a one-hour drive from the capital San Juan. “That day was the worst day of my life,” he said.

He awoke early on the 20th and tried to contact his family, but there was no phone signal. He then turned to videos on Facebook and saw the devastation that Maria had inflicted on the island. “I started crying,” he said as he worried about the well-being of his parents and siblings.

It was three days after the hurricane that his brother reached him by phone. Figueroa was relieved to find that his immediate family was safe, but learned that his town had suffered substantial damage. According to a government estimate, Yabucoa is “98 percent destroyed.”

As of September 30, Figueroa said, his hometown was still without power, phone service was limited and water and food were in short supply. He’s concerned about the next few weeks. Communication continues to be a problem, with Figueroa frantically trying to reach his parents in recent days.

“This hurricane passed through PR, but for all the Puerto Ricans in the U.S. it passed through our hearts,” he said.

Ana Diaz, a Mexico City native, was happy to report that her family was safe and that their home was not damaged by the earthquake.

After hearing of the quake, Diaz said, “I reached out to family and close friends right away. It was a big relief to know they were all okay, just very scared.”

She noted that a local university sustained extensive damage and that at least five students there died. Other local residents lost their homes and all of their belongings, Diaz said.

Diaz said she became emotional in the aftermath of the quake as she watched videos that showed the destruction in her country. “My eyes became watery and I was so sad because of the tragedy,” she said. “I felt impotent knowing that I could not be there to help my country.”

Diaz said that she’s been proud of the way her countrymen have responded to the tragedy. “Mexicans have shown great solidarity,” she said, noting that, with the help of other countries, there has been an outpouring of aid and support provided to the victims.

As a native Floridian, Ashley Dunn is familiar with hurricanes. Reporting that her family was safe after Irma swept through south Florida, she said preparations had been made in advance to minimize property damage at their Broward County home.

Cars were put in the garage and windows were boarded in anticipation of the storm that slammed into the keys, moved up the gulf coast and even caused flooding in the northeast part of the state.

Dunn’s family—parents, twin brother, and two pet dogs—was under a mandatory evacuation order and spent a long weekend at Dunn’s grandparents in West Palm Beach. She said the family was without power for a week, but that their home experienced only limited damage when a tree fell on the roof and a second tree split and landed in their swimming pool.

“My family was lucky,” said Dunn. “The worst thing was the wind. My mom said that it sounded like a never-ending train coming through the area.”



Starr Mitchell, a member of the Wesleyan dance team, earned All-American honors during a recent event held by the National Dance Alliance in Myrtle Beach. Coach Kayla Wygal called it a “huge accomplishment,” noting that Mitchell competed against dancers from Division I and II programs as well as DIII ones. The Wesleyan cheer and dance teams, winners in several national competitions, will be featured in an upcoming issue of The Decree. Photo courtesy of K. Wygal



Class of 2021: The new class consists of 350 students as traditional program enrollment went over the 1,000 mark for the first time. Shown, l-r: Jeremy Agosto of St. Cloud, Florida; Dimon Roberson, Washington, D.C.; Dyia Ampley, Robersville; Kevin Teague, Bailey; and Enzo Villafuerte, Lima, Peru. A. Stern photo

# NEWS & OPINION

## Debate Stirring over Confederate Statues

By Quinn Tobias  
Senior Staff Writer

In the summer of 2015, a controversial issue was brought to the forefront of the country's consciousness when the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church was attacked in Charleston, South Carolina. The assailant had previously posted pictures of himself posing with the Confederate symbol. In response to the racially charged attack, then-South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley removed the Confederate flag from state buildings and the capitol. The flag had been flown over the Capitol building for 54 years.

Fast forward two years and the issue has been resurrected. According to CNN, entering 2017, there were over 700 monuments commemorating the Confederacy. The majority were erected in the beginning of the Jim Crow Era when white politicians were encouraging segregation. As the topic has regained traction, 32 cities have removed, or have petitioned to remove, Confederate monuments from their communities.

The culminating event that brought the controversy to a boil occurred on August 11th, in Charlottesville, Virginia. The city planned on removing a prominent statue of Robert E. Lee. People protested the removal of the statue; among some of the protestors was a population of white nationalists. The protestors claimed the removal of the statue was an infringement of their first-amendment rights, while counter-protestors said the statue represents racism and oppression. The protest and counter-protest turned violent, resulting in the death of three people.

Multiple methods have been used in the removal of statues. Starting in 2015, New Orleans circulated a petition for the removal of four prominent Confederate statues. Subsequently, City Council voted 6-1 for the statues' removal. Conversely, in Durham, a statue of Lee

was vandalized and eventually toppled without the consent from state officials. The vandals were later arrested.

According to a poll conducted by National Public Radio (NPR), released on August 17th, 62 percent of Americans want the statues to remain standing. Defenders claim erasing dark parts of U.S. history will lead the country to repeat its mistakes. Junior Alex Blackwood is among those who oppose removal of statues. "They're part of U.S. history and I don't necessarily think we should take them down," he said.

Blackwood argues that the monuments to the Confederacy are a way for us to reflect upon a darker time in U.S. history. "I don't think the statues represent racial oppression and they're not meant as a symbol for hate, but represent history," he said.

Rather than making blanket statements such as all statues should be removed, or no statues should be removed, some believe a gray area exists. Blackwood stated it makes more sense for former Confederate states to have monuments rather than states that were not involved with the Confederacy. "I don't see why Montana was offended when their Confederate statues were removed," he said.

Professor Michael Brantley believes each monument should be looked at on a case-by-case basis. "I think it's like anything else, you have to have context," Brantley said. "You have to consider what and where they are." One statue he believes should be removed resides in Nashville. The statue is of Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was a Confederate General affiliated with the KKK.

Brantley deems the memorial in Rocky Mount more appropriate. It stands on private property and is co-located with a cemetery dedicated to honor Confederate soldiers who died in the war. "The monument is not to honor any political ideology, just com-

memorate the fallen," Brantley said. The monument explicitly states the Confederacy fought for their constitutional rights, not slavery. This was an effort to separate the Civil War from slavery. In 1958 U.S. Congress passed a bill that designated all Confederate soldiers as U.S. veterans.

People in support of the removal of statues also use history to aid their argument. "I think they represent a very dark and negative part of American history," senior Ishmail Harris said. "The Confederacy shouldn't be celebrated and I think all of the statues should be removed."

Harris disagrees with the popular argument that the Confederate flag represents southern heritage. "That means your heritage is about slavery," he said.

Junior Sydney McCall compares the Confederate statues to Nazi artifacts. "They belong in a museum," she said. "We can even learn from the darker parts of our history."

McCall questions our country's adoration of the Civil War. "America is the only country that glorifies our Civil War," she said. "Rather than looking at the Confederate soldiers as traitors, they're looked at as martyrs."

Another way she believes Americans glorify the Civil War is through reenactments, which are common in southern states.

McCall argues that Confederate statues have a residual psychological effect on African Americans. "A Confederate statue in front of a government building says we're fine with the history the statue represents and honor the people that have these values," she said.

Junior Jarell Evans has another retort for people who claim the Confederate flag represents southern heritage. "The American flag covers all of U.S. history," Evans said. He asserts that the Confederate flag has negative racial connotations. "People

who want to keep the statues are racists and use history as an excuse," he said.

Many blame Confederate statues for causing racial strains in the country. "I would remove the statues," Evans said. "There is so much racial tension now, and the removal of the statues would put racial tensions at ease."

The controversy creates a complicated and divisive topic for Americans to digest. Sophomore Leonardo Guzman believes the people who celebrate the Confederacy are wrong, but acknowledges that the removal of statues violates free speech. Guzman worries that if we remove objects we don't like, society could forget the history the monuments represent.

History Professor Jonathan Sarris is now teaching a seminar on the Civil War and its place in American culture and our collective memory. He took a slightly different approach in assessing the importance of monument preservation. "They represent the societies that build them and the citizens who view them," he said. "They're not history itself. It doesn't damage our understanding of history to remove a monument because we still teach, talk and write about it."

Ben Gillon, a student from England, wonders if the removal of Confederate statues marks the beginning of a slippery slope. "I think caution should be practiced because at what point do you stop," Gillon said. A self-identified Democrat, Gillon believes both Democrats and Republicans are too authoritarian in the way they enforce their views. "Where we need to be careful is most historical figures won't stand up to the moral scrutiny of the left. In regards to removing anything, what should be considered is the impact of the person being celebrated," Gillon said.

As protests continue, the controversy will not go away. Polarizing views have divided the United States. The Confederacy that once divided this country continues to do so.

## Issue In-Focus 1: Visitation Revisited. When it comes to residence hall visitation hours, do you favor big changes, small changes or the status quo?

**Toni Tutt**

I would stick with the status quo on visitation hours. Even though the system isn't perfect, that doesn't mean it's not working. I like the current rules mainly for safety and noise reasons. I live near the stairwell and I can sleep better without all the noise going up and down the stairs at all hours of the night.

**Quinn Tobias**

Limited visitation hours foster an adulterated version of college. All students who are sophomores and above are older than 18; therefore, the student body is composed almost entirely of adults. By implementing rules that restrict who can visit your room and when, the college treats the students as children. One benefit of having visitation restrictions is that roommates don't run the risk of being distracted. A way to give students more freedom, as well as prevent roommates from being distracted, is to allow students who have single rooms to have no visitation restrictions. This compromise would allow students to opt into the old visitation rules or exercise their freedom in a single dorm. Currently if you are caught with someone in your room, you face consequences. But why punish someone when there has been no transgression committed other than violation of an antiquated rule? College is an experience; you gain academic knowledge, but you also gain responsibility and knowledge outside of the classroom. If all decisions are made for the students, there can be no growth. Coddling the students prevents them from growing up and restricts the college experience to strictly the academic, which closely resembles high school.

**Santanlia Scoggins**

I feel there should be open visitation for students who live in single rooms. Most such students are

upperclassmen, juniors and seniors. We're all adults. Because we have busy schedules throughout the day, the only time we get to see our friends/significant other is at night and that's only for a brief period. We're expected to act like adults on campus, yet we don't get treated as such. Aside from accumulating a lot of debt, I don't really feel like an adult most of the time I'm here. If I want to have my boyfriend over after 12, I should be allowed. If my friends and I want to do homework in our lobbies at 1 a.m., we should be able to do so as long as we're respectful of others in dorm. If the

school were to compromise and use my idea, I feel it could work. If the new rule is misused by residents, then they can have their visitation either limited to only having guests until 12, or they could lose their visitation as a whole.

**Johnathan Pickler**

Our current rule is that all guests must be signed in and they may only be there from 8 p.m. to midnight on weekdays and 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. on weekends. I believe that the college is giving us no freedom at all by having the rules like that. My recommendation would be that we have 24-hour visitation for all dorms. Although

## Issue 2: Trigger Warnings. Do you think faculty should use trigger warnings in presenting certain course material?

**Quinn Tobias**

According to dictionary.com, a trigger warning is a stated warning that media or other content may upset or offend people, specifically people who have previously experienced trauma. The utilization of trigger warnings varies by the authority implementing the tactic. Some professors will warn of controversial topics to allow students time to articulate their thoughts and avoid offending their classmates. Some professors forego warnings and some allow students to excuse themselves from class if the content is deemed too offensive. College is a place to challenge yourself intellectually, broaden your perspective and sharpen your ability to think critically. Using trigger warnings to protect yourself from opposing viewpoints undermines the purpose of college. I discussed trigger warnings with three professors. All three echoed the thought that a professor's job is to encourage students to engage with difficult content. If they allowed students to excuse themselves from class at the hint of controversy, the

professors would be at fault for intellectually coddling students when they should be challenging them. As with many things, there can be no blanket statement. There are always extenuating circumstances that professors may need to accommodate. As one professor said, trigger warnings and content should be handled on a case-by-case basis. There are compassionate ways to cover potentially offensive issues that will still allow for a thoughtful discussion incorporating all viewpoints.

**Santanlia Scoggins**

Trigger warnings are helpful for some students. Having trigger warnings will help prepare students for anything that might cause anxiety from past traumas. I don't think that the trigger warnings should serve as an excuse for students to leave class, but just as a heads-up that something that is about to be covered in class may cause flashbacks or be offensive. Trigger warnings are appropriate if a teacher is covering a topic on rape, since there may be students in the class who may have been abused or assaulted in the past. If religion is being

discussed, a trigger warning could be used to warn class members that not everyone shares the same views and that all students should be mindful and respect everyone's opinion. Religion is a very touchy subject, no matter the religion or person, and people can get offended easily.

**Johnathan Pickler**

I believe that trigger warnings should be used in the college classroom. However, I feel like they should only be used for specific topics. Some examples include abortion, suicide, and certain material involving tragedy and death such as 9/11 and the Boston Marathon bombing. Some students may have been through a situation in which they experienced trauma or severe depression. I don't believe trigger warnings should be used on the topic of racism because, sadly, it's a part of history. One possible negative outcome is that students may use trigger warnings as an excuse to skip class. On the other hand, not using trigger warnings may result in angry students, leading to verbal or physical harm.

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## ALUMNI from pg 1

We're always trying to make improvements and one of my goals is to increase the giving percentage from our alumni. Alumni giving is a healthy way of measuring a college and we want to increase that as much as possible. I also want to provide services to our alumni, networking events, mentoring opportunities, the ability to access career and professional development tools from our career services team. We appreciate our alumni and I want them to know that.

**Q.** Describe your immediate and long-range goals.

**A.** We're revamping our alumni services, communication, and events. It's our goal to have six area events this year, giving alumni the opportunity to gather and network. We want to increase the alumni association exposure on all of our campuses, letting current students know how excited we are for them to be part of the Battling Bishop family. I'm really pushing to celebrate our alumni and their accomplishments; when one of us has a win, we all win. Celebrating those victories will increase our Bishop pride and help alumni realize the value of a Wesleyan degree. We also want to increase our alumni engagement, having alumni visit campus more often, participate in our community-service events, attend games, volunteer as guest speakers, mentor current students, help with internships, and attend other events on and off campus. We need alumni ambassadors and we've had several alumni already volunteer for that role, promoting, challenging and communicating the exciting things that are happening to the fellow alumni.

**Q.** Can you get into specific plans for the 2017-18 year?

**A.** I've planned to hold events in the following areas this year: Goldsboro, The Triangle, Wilmington, and Greenville. In Rocky Mount we'll host Homecoming and "Spring Alumni Weekend" on campus. It's a long-term goal to organize alumni events in as many locations as possible, but right now we'll be cultivating the alumni ambassadors and go from there.



Wesleyan alum Rebekah Cain has returned to direct the college's Alumni Relations Department. G. Wallace photo

## SPORTS

## BISHOP BRIEFS:

## Men's Soccer

After a 1-4 start, the men's soccer team has hit its stride, winning five of its next six matches and challenging for the lead in the USA South Eastern Division.

The Bishops won four home matches at Scalf Field in an eight-day period, finding its offense at just the right time. In a lackluster start, the team scored just two goals in losing its first four contests.

Wesleyan earned a key win at home September 27 when it beat an undefeated Greensboro Pride, 4-1. The Bishops got first-half goals from Kobi Boompong, Ignacio Lerech, Wali Yacoubou and Lucas Menzo to clinch the win. Baboucarr Njie chipped in two assists and goalkeeper Jordan Williams



Baboucarr Njie leads the Bishops with five goals and four assists. SI photo

stopped 6 of 7 Pride shots.

On the 30th, the men's team extended its hot streak, defeating a tough Ferrum team, 3-2, at home. The Bishops raced to a 3-0 advantage as Boompong and Sherrif Secka, twice, scored within a 12-minute stretch in the first half.

The Bishops then turned back a second-half comeback attempt by the Panthers, as Williams yielded a goal in the 37th and 81st minutes.

For Wesleyan, other conference wins have come over Covenant, 4-0, on September 15; and Huntingdon, 7-0, on the 23rd, when Secka scored two goals and the defense limited the opposition to just three shots on goal.

The team's sole conference loss was on September 16 when it was defeated by Piedmont, 1-0, despite holding a 6-3 advantage in shots on goal.

## Women's Soccer

Following its own lackluster start, the women's team exploded for five goals September 30 in its first USA South

Conference matchup, a 5-0 home victory over Averett.

Ella Burkhart led the charge, scoring two goals and adding an assist on a goal by her sister, Victoria. Hannah Tolson and Sarah Cook rounded out the scoring, as the Bishops fired 8 shots on goal against the Cougars. Goalkeeper Ashley Major repelled both Averett shots to record a shutout.

The women's team was winless prior to the Averett match as it struggled to find its offense.

The Bishops scored just eight goals in their first seven games, all non-conference matchups, with five tallies coming in a 6-5 road loss to Mary Washington back on September 6.

Before the Averett match, senior defender Ashley Dunn said that in practice the team has been focusing on set pieces and corner kicks in an effort to generate more offense. "We're trying to play more as a team," she said.

## Football

Turnovers have plagued the Bishops football team through the first five weeks of the season.

After an encouraging win against a tough Maryville team, Wesleyan committed six turnovers and failed to generate offense in a 17-7 loss last week at home against Ferrum. The defeat left the team with a 1-4 overall record, 1-2 in the USA South Conference.

The Bishops opened the season with two shellacking, a 58-0 loss to national power Mount Union, and then a 61-14 defeat at home to former conference foe Shenandoah. Against MU, Wesleyan committed only one turnover, an interception, but gave up two touchdowns on punt returns and a third on the MU pick. The Purple Raiders offense outgained the Bishops, 449 to 149 yards.

The next week, the Bishops lost three fumbles and junior quarterback Nate Gardner (8-25 for 173 yards and two TDs) was intercepted three times. The Bishops held a brief lead after Gardner hit Brandon Leake for a 36-yard score, but the Hornets tallied 41 unanswered points as Hayden Bauserman passed for 334 yards and five touchdowns, and Cory Bell and Mario Wisdom combined for 208 yards rushing.

"Football is a simple game," head coach Jeff Filkovski said earlier in the season. "It's about blocking and tackling and taking care of the football when you have it and trying to get

it back when the opponent has it. It's difficult to overcome a breakdown in one of those areas. Regardless of the opponent, if you give the football away six times, you're going to lose."

A week later Wesleyan came out strong in its first conference matchup at Huntingdon, taking a 28-10 third-quarter lead on the strength of a balanced offensive attack. Then, helped by three second-half Bishop turnovers, the home team ran off 31 points to claim victory, 41-31. The Hawks comeback featured touchdown passes by P. Samoden of 33, 56 and 61 yards.

Next week, the Bishops appeared to turn around their season with an impressive outing against Maryville, defeating the Scots 35-25. Enjoying his best game of the season, Gardner was an efficient 14 of 20 for 172 yards and two touchdowns, an 18-yarder to Leake and a 25-yarder to Manessah Missick. Adrian Minondo led the running game with 73 yards on 18 carries, while defensive back Jaylon Johnson compiled a team-leading 11 tackles (7 solo, 4 assists).

Maryville rallied to draw within five points with 12 minutes remaining in the game, but sophomore defensive back Eddie Graham clinched the win when he intercepted a Scots pass and returned it 99 yards for a touchdown.

Last week, Wesleyan was unable to sustain the momentum. Gardner completed just 6 of 16 passes for 79 yards and threw two interceptions. His replacement, Donielle Totten, tossed two picks of his own, and running back Darius Byrd (54 yards on 7 carries) lost two fumbles.

## Volleyball

The volleyball team registered its first conference victory against Ferrum at home September 22, but lost four of its next five matches to end September with a 4-10 overall record.

Against the Panthers, the Bishops were led by Samantha Morton and Autumn Spence, who recorded a match-high 14 kills apiece. Freshman Callie Cline continued her solid all-around play with 13 kills, 29 digs, and 5 service aces, while Haileigh Risenback contributed a season-high 48 assists.

The same day, in a loss to Salem, set scores were 25-16, 25-21, and 25-19. The Bishops fell victim to 20 attack errors as a team, while the Spirits countered with 42 kills against just 12 errors of their own.



Callie Cline, one of 17 freshmen and sophomores on the volleyball team, contributed 13 kills, 29 digs, and 5 service aces in a recent win against Ferrum. SI photo

During the last week of September, the Bishops suffered 3-0 loss to perennial conference power Meredith at home and a 3-1 road loss against non-conference opponent Eastern Mennonite. The team then split two matches during a quad meet at Mary Baldwin on September 30, losing to Greensboro, 3-1, and smooching the Fighting Squirrels, 3-0. Against MB, the Bishops won games by the scores of 25-11, 25-15 and 25-12.

A young team, the Bishops roster includes 10 freshmen, seven sophomores, and just two seniors, Morton and Emily McLain.

## Cross Country

The women's cross country team placed fourth among six Division III schools at the Greensboro XC Invitational.

It trailed USA South Conference rival Salem, but bested two other conference teams, Ferrum and William Peace. Junior Sarah Grossman was the fastest Wesleyan runner, posting a 5-kilometer time of 25:45, or 8:17 per mile. Right behind her were two NCWC freshmen, Samantha Valeros (25:55) and Maria Gaspar (26:02). Two weeks earlier, the women finished 7th among 9 DII and DIII teams at the Adidas XC Challenge in Cary. Fayetteville State, a DII school, came in first and Wesleyan DIII rival Meredith was second. The Bishops were paced by Grossman (26:29) and Valeros (26:39), who finished 28th and 29th.

(Sports Information contributed to this report.)

## Quinn's MLB Picks: Indians over Dodgers To Win Series

By Quinn Tobias  
Senior Staff Writer

As October approaches, Major League Baseball's playoff picture is beginning to crystallize. The American League (A.L.) playoff lineup has already been set and the National League's (N.L.) race is not much more dramatic. In the A.L. the Boston Red Sox, Houston Astros, and Cleveland Indians have clinched their respective divisions and the New York Yankees and Minnesota Twins have clinched the wild card spots. In the N.L. the Los Angeles Dodgers, Washington Nationals, and Chicago Cubs have won their divisions and the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies will square off in the wild card game.

The Indians are the odds-on favorite with a 30.8 percent chance of making the World Series and an 18.37 percent chance of winning the championship.

The 2017 MLB playoffs offer some of the more intriguing matchups seen in recent years. A host of surprises and unlikely scenarios make this postseason harder to parse than it might seem.

In the National League, the Dodgers ran away from the rest of the West Division early, but then had a collapse that derailed what looked like an unstoppable path to the first World Series win in decades. When healthy, Clayton Kershaw, Alex Wood and Rich Hill are a tough three-man rotation, although Kershaw has struggled in the playoffs. They do seem to be putting things back together, and will

face the winner of the Wild Card game.

The N.L. West is arguably the best division in baseball sending three teams to the playoffs. Arizona has had a dramatic turnaround since hiring Boston Red Sox assistant coach Torey Luvullo as manager in the offseason. Arizona has power hitters galore, including MVP candidate Paul Goldschmidt. Arizona has smashed its way to a wild-card spot. The Diamondbacks pitching staff is led by former Cy Young winner Zack Greinke, who will likely pitch in the wild card game against the Rockies.

The Rockies will finish with a record over .500 for the first time since 2010 and return to the playoffs for the first time since 2009. In their fourth trip to the playoffs, the team is hoping to win its first World Series, however unlikely that may be. It's led by one of the best third basemen in the league, Nolan Arenado, and all-star centerfielder Charlie Blackmon, who both provide excellent defense and reliable production from the plate. The Rockies have no ace in their rotation, which will likely prevent them from advancing past the wild card game.

The defending champion, the Chicago Cubs, got off to a slow start, and trailed the upstart Milwaukee Brewers for much of the season. However, they're playing their best baseball, and it turns out losing their closer, hard-throwing Aroldis Chapman, was a blessing. Returning many contributors from last year's campaign would appear to make the Cubs formidable; however, Cub fans should not

expect a repeat. The Cubs will face off against the Washington Nationals, who have too much pitching to be held down. It's going to be hard for any team to deal with Stephen Strasburg, Gio Gonzalez and Max Scherzer in a five-game series.

The Nationals-Dodger series will be entertaining because neither team has a glaring flaw. In fact each team shares a mutual weakness, constant poor playoff performances. The Dodgers depth gives them the edge to beat the Nationals and represent the N.L. in the World Series.

The Yankees surprised the A.L. by unexpectedly securing a wild card spot. They are led by young power hitters, most notably the highly publicized Aaron Judge. The young power hitters have had to play exceptionally well because the starting rotation has left a lot to be desired. Their ace is 23-year-old Luis Severino, who is the only pitcher with stats expected from a top-of-the-rotation guy. Severino will likely face the Twins in the wild card game.

Minnesota is another unexpected participant in the 2017 playoffs. Unlike their counterparts, the Twins have been the epitome of a team with no truly standout players flaunting amazing stats. A 23-year-old outfielder led the team with a 5.2 WAR (wins above replacement), but his traditional stat line is pedestrian. Similar to the Yankees, the Twins starting rotation has been sub-par and they have had to rely on several different pitchers to contribute to their success. Ervin

Santana will likely face the Yankees since he is statistically their best pitcher. Despite the Twins' Cinderella run and team mentality, they will lose to the Yankees, who have a deeper lineup and a stronger bullpen.

The Red Sox will square off against the Astros in the first round. Both teams were considered pre-season favorites to win their division and both teams bolstered their roster at the trade deadline. The two teams have won their division in contrasting ways. The Red Sox have relied on strong pitching and a dominant bullpen while their offense has only scored 774 runs. The Astros have sailed to their division title by beating the laces off the ball. They have outscored their opponents by 190 runs, scoring a total of 886. The pitching discrepancy isn't big enough to make up for the large offensive difference in the two teams. With the advantage of home field, the Astros will beat the Red Sox to advance to the American League Championship Series (ALCS).

After a devastating loss in extra innings of game seven in 2016 World Series to the Chicago Cubs, the Indians are back determined to finish what a rain delay stole from them. Being hot at the right time is important in baseball, and no one has ever been as hot as the Indians are right now. They set a major league all-time record with 22 consecutive victories. From August 23rd to September 15th they did not lose, and in their last 31 games they have only lost

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## NBA Preview

By Johnathan Pickler  
Staff Writer

The 2017 NBA off-season was one of the most controversial that I can remember. After last season's surprising move with Kevin Durant going to the Golden State Warriors, we all knew that players would adopt his idea of creating a "super-team". This season there are many "super-teams" that hope to take down the dominant Warriors. In order I will rank the top four teams in the Western Conference, the top four in the Eastern Conference, then give you my favorites in the playoffs.

## Western Conference

In the West, my number-four team is the Minnesota Timberwolves, who won 31 out of 82 games last season. I predict the Timberwolves win around 45 games this year. They transformed into a new team this offseason. They added point guard Jeff Teague, who is a quick guy who creates offensive opportunities for teammates. They also added arguably one of the best two-way players in the NBA, Jimmy Butler, who will bring toughness on defense as well as the ability to score with ease. Butler will usually guard the best player on opposing teams and make up for the lack of defense from Andrew Wiggins. I look for the Timberwolves' young big-man Karl Anthony Towns to have a break-out year. Towns is one of the most versatile big-men in the NBA with his ability to score inside and out. The addition of Teague and Butler to a team with Karl Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins could be trouble for teams in the West.

My number-three team is the Oklahoma City Thunder, who went 47-35 in 2017. The Thunder were carried last season by reigning MVP Russel Westbrook, who averaged a triple-double in the regular season. The recent addition of Paul George makes the Thunder an offensive machine. George averaged 23.7 points per game last season, scoring on all areas of the court. The Thunder also picked up point guard Raymond Felton and power forward Patrick Patterson. Felton and Patterson should also help relieve Westbrook's heavy workload next season.

Number two is the Houston Rockets (55-27). The Rockets have had some success in the previous seasons because all-star guard James Harden has been arguably the best player in the NBA. Harden is a player who makes everyone around him better. Recently, the Rockets signed Chris Paul. He will take some of the offensive load off of Harden by allowing him to play off the ball more. Paul is also an NBA all-defensive team caliber player. The Rockets also picked up wings PJ Tucker and Luc Mbah Moute, who will both help to toughen the defense. I see a lot of potential in the young big-man Clint Capela playing alongside Harden and Paul, who both pass the ball tremendously. The Rockets were second in the league last year in points per game as a team (115.3), trailing only the Warriors, who averaged 115.9.

The defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors (67-15) remain the top team in the West. This offseason the Warriors got better. It was important that the Warriors keep the main guys from last year and they were able to do this because NBA Finals MVP Durant took a pay-cut. In the second round, Golden State drafted Jordan Bell, a 6'8, 225-pound wing, a guy from Oregon University who is known for his defensive ability as well as his athleticism. I see Bell as a guy who can fit in well with a team full of scorers. The Warriors also signed Nick Young, who, percentage wise, had his best season shooting three pointers (40.4%) last year on the LA Lakers. The new additions will join stars Steph Curry, Durant, Klay Thompson, and Draymond Green to make the Warriors the best team in all of the NBA.

## Eastern Conference

In the East my number-four team is the Milwaukee Bucks (42-40). I can see the Bucks winning 47+ games this year. They are led by young star Giannis Antetokounmpo, a guy with a good chance of winning MVP next season due to the fact that he does it all for his team. The Bucks have reigning Rookie of the Year Malcolm Brogdon, an efficient guard who rarely commits turnovers. The Bucks also have another young player with a ton of potential in Thon Maker. Maker got the starting job in February last season and when he did, the Bucks went 14-3 the final 17 games.

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# CAMPUS LIFE

## Six Full-Time Faculty Join Wesleyan Community

NC Wesleyan has established three new faculty positions and hired three new tenure-track professors to meet the needs of a growing student population.

Jason Buel is the first faculty member hired for the college's new communication department, while Jarrod Kelly becomes the college's second full-time faculty member in political science and Daniel Elias joins the Math and Sciences College to teach environmental science. In the English Department, Julie Perino is the new writing program director and Keely Mohon-Doyle now oversees the writing center. Katrina Sweet began teaching in the business department last January, succeeding Professor Kathy Wilson, who retired.

Following are brief profiles submitted by the new faculty:

### Dr. Jason W. Buel



**Title:** Assistant Professor of Communication  
**Hometown:** Sarasota, Fla. / Boone, NC  
**Degrees Earned:** B.A. in English (Film Studies) & Psychology at Appalachian

State University; M.A. in English (Film Studies) at North Carolina State University; Ph.D. in Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media at North Carolina State University

**Teaching Experience:** 8 years  
**Specialty Areas:** Film Studies, Digital Media History & Theory, Critical & Cultural Studies of Communication, Alternative and Activist Media

**Courses That You'll Teach at Wesleyan:** Film Analysis, Mass Communication, Communication Theory, Communication Research Methods, Documentary Media

**What Attracted You to Wesleyan:** It seemed like a perfect opportunity for me. I love the sense of community at Wesleyan. I've always wanted to work at a small school that emphasizes teaching, and I love living in North Carolina. I also like being able to get in on the ground floor of the new communication major, having a hand in curriculum development, and teaching a variety of courses across my discipline.

**Your Teaching Philosophy:** It's cheesy to put it this way, but I try to be a "guide on the side" rather than a "sage on the stage." In class, I want us interacting with one another as much as possible. We might have a conceptual workshop where we test the limits of our understanding of new ideas or a virtual scavenger hunt where we track down examples of some media phenomenon out in the "real" world. We might craft our own communication strategies in response to historical conditions that others have faced. As much as possible, I like to design activities that give students room to be

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twice. No one has been able to rough up their pitchers or get their batters to miss for a month, and I doubt that come October they will mysteriously begin to stink. The Indians are led by a staff that boasts three pitchers with 16 or more wins, including Corey Kluber, who will probably win the Cy Young. No matter who the A.L. throws at the Indians, Cleveland will prevail.

A Cleveland versus Los Angeles World Series offers an appealing matchup. On one hand, you have a juggernaut that refuses to lose but has a history steeped in mediocrity. On the other hand, you have the best team money can buy, a franchise that has tried ineffectively for the past five years to buy a World Series championship. The Dodgers have a payroll of \$253 million, while the Indians payroll is a Spartan \$142 million. Both rosters are loaded with talent and present no identifiable weakness. But the Dodgers have played poorly down the stretch and the Indians have caught fire and played in a manner that would make Charlie Sheen, Wesley Snipes and Jobu very proud. The Indians will redeem themselves for their 2016 collapse and win the 2017 World Series.

creative and learn from one another.

**Hobbies:** Music (playing and listening), hockey (watching and playing), hiking, and watching films.

**Favorites:** **Film:** "The Big Lebowski"; **TV:** "Westworld"; **Musical Artist:** The Velvet Underground; and **Cuisine:** BBQ

**Favorite Teams:** Carolina Hurricanes, Durham Bulls, NC State Wolfpack

**One Surprising Thing about You:** I originally went to college for percussion performance before switching majors half a dozen times and landing in film/media studies.

### Dr. Daniel Elias

**Title:** Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences

**Hometown:** Trujillo, Peru  
**Degrees Earned:** B.S. in Agronomy, National Agrarian University La Molina (Lima, Peru); M.S. in Agriculture, Washington State University, Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences, Ball State University.

**Teaching Experience:** 2 years  
**Specialty Areas:** Ecotoxicology, Aquatic Ecology, Agroecology

**Courses That You'll Teach at Wesleyan:** Life Science and Environmental Science

**What Attracted You to Wesleyan:** Two things were key for me to come to Wesleyan. The Biology/Life Science/Environmental Science faculty were very welcoming. I felt I belonged at Wesleyan even before saying yes. And I was impressed by the college's commitment to continuous and quality growth.

**Your Teaching Philosophy:** My goal is to provide students with an inquiry-based education, active learning, and interdisciplinary teaching. I want my courses to focus on active and direct learning, critical thinking and real applications of concepts rather than traditional memorization. My students should be able to use different resources to solve challenges, and use foundational concepts to further develop problem-solving skills during collaborative team work.

**Hobbies:** Soccer, ultimate Frisbee  
**Favorites:** **TV:** "The Walking Dead" and "Game of Thrones"; **Films:** Most horror movies; **Music:** Many—from country to rap; and **Cuisine:** Asian, Indian, Mediterranean, and vegan.

**Favorite Teams:** ARSENAL!  
**One Surprising Thing about You:** I don't like peanut butter.

### Dr. Jarrod Kelly

**Title:** Assistant Professor of Political Science

**Hometown:** Chillicothe OH (officially), Pittsburgh PA (adopted)  
**Degrees Earned:** B.A., in Psychology, Miami

University; M.A. and Ph.D., Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

**Teaching Experience:** 4 years  
**Specialty Areas:** American Politics, Political Psychology

**Courses That You'll Teach at Wesleyan:** I'll be teaching a broad range of American politics courses, including courses focused on federal institutions (congress, presidency, courts) and political behavior (parties and elections).

**What Attracted You to Wesleyan:** I spent one year of graduate school teaching part-time at a small college similar to Wesleyan. After this experience, I knew that I wanted to try to get a job at a liberal arts college where I could teach small classes and work closely with undergraduates. When I visited last spring, I was impressed by the faculty's commitment to undergraduate teaching and found the recent growth at the college to be an exciting opportunity.



**Your Teaching Philosophy:** My teaching philosophy centers upon the classroom as a community, one where students are able to take collective responsibility for learning and applying course material. For example, I design opportunities for students to teach certain material to the rest of the class through presentations and debates (a welcome break from listening to me speak). I also encourage students to work on projects in groups to help facilitate academic interactions between students outside of the classroom.

**Hobbies:** I have a 5-month old puppy, Frankie, who keeps me pretty busy. She's a Beabull (beagle-bulldog mix). I also enjoy movies, TV, and presidential biographies.

**Favorites:** **Film:** movies by the Coen Brothers, Wes Anderson, and Quentin Tarantino; **TV:** "Arrested Development," "The Office," "Frasier," and "Parks and Recreation"; **Musical Artist:** Dave Matthews Band; and **Cuisine:** I like most food, but Chipotle is my guilty pleasure (can we get one in Rocky Mount?)

### Dr. Keely Mohon-Doyle

**Title:** Assistant Professor of English and Writing Center Director

**Hometown:** Johnson City, TN  
**Degrees**

**Earned:** B.A. in English, Wofford College; M.A. in English and Certificate in TESL, East Tennessee State University; Ph.D. in Composition and Rhetoric, Miami University

**Teaching Experience:** 9 years  
**Specialty Areas:** Institutional critique, rhetoric of institutional racism, English as a Second Language, critical pedagogy

**Courses That You'll Teach at Wesleyan:** First-year composition and courses in the writing minor

**What Attracted You to Wesleyan:** I was excited about joining a growing college with such a diverse student body, and I was impressed by the camaraderie I saw between professors from different programs.

**Your Teaching Philosophy:** I seek to show my students that composition is not just something they have to do for class; it's a tool they can use to address real-world issues in their local communities. I believe it's important for students to gain confidence in their own voices and ideas, and I engage them in critical discussion about texts that challenge them.

**Hobbies:** Board games, video games, gardening, cooking  
**Favorites:** **Movies:** 1980s fantasy movies like "Labyrinth," "Legend," and "The Neverending Story"; **TV:** I watch everything, but I'm now enjoying "The Defenders"; **Cuisine:** Chinese dumplings and noodle bowl.

**One Surprising Thing about You:** I taught English to middle and high school students in China for a year after college.

### Dr. Julie Perino

**Title:** Assistant Professor of English and Writing Program Director

**Hometown:** Springfield, IL  
**Degrees Earned:** B.A. in English and Spanish, Grinnell College; M.A. in English, University of Illinois at Springfield; Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition, University of Kansas.

**Teaching Experience:** 7 years  
**Specialty Areas:** Rhetoric and Composition, Writing Knowledge Transfer, Writing Process Studies, Digital and New Media Writing, Genre Studies

**Courses That You'll Teach at Wesleyan:** Multimedia writing, technical and business writing courses, composition, and other courses in the writing minor.



**What Attracted You to Wesleyan:**

I wanted to get to know my students and help them throughout all four years of their college experience, which isn't an opportunity that larger institutions give professors. I'm a teacher first and a researcher second, so working at an institution with a strong commitment to teaching has always been one of my professional goals. I'm honored that Wesleyan has given me the opportunity to work here and help develop the writing minor in the English department.

**Your Teaching Philosophy:** In my classroom, I encourage students to recognize the connection between rhetorical awareness and the social contexts for communication. For students to recognize that writing is driven by context and situation, I must first help them recognize that academic writing is just one of many contexts and situations, and a very specialized one at that. As a writing teacher, I have a dual duty to help my students achieve academic success and recognize that academic language doesn't reflect the entire range of successful, appropriate communicative practices.

**Hobbies:** Walking my dog, playing video games, yoga, hiking, and bicycling

**Favorites:** **TV:** "Brooklyn 99"; **Cuisine:** all Asian cuisine. I love Pho and sushi.

**One Surprising Thing about You:** I've participated in the annual bicycle tour "Bike Across Kansas" four times, which means that I've ridden my bicycle the length of the state four times . . . which probably means I'm crazy.

### Dr. Katrina L. Sweet

**Title:** Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Program Coordinator of Organizational Administration

**Hometown:** Tarboro  
**Degrees Earned:** B.A., Criminal Justice, North Carolina Wesleyan; M.P.A., Keller Graduate School of Management; Ph.D. in Organization and Management, Capella University

**Teaching Experience:** 3 years  
**Specialty Areas:** Management, Leadership, Administration

**Courses That You'll Teach at Wesleyan:** Principles of Management, Human Resource Management

**What Attracted You to Wesleyan:** I'm an alumnus of the college. I wanted to come back to the place where

it all started for me and give back to the college community that started the journey of my higher education career. My core beliefs and values support the mission of the college: preparing students for professional advancement, life-long learning, and responsible participation in their communities. I support and respect the place of religion in higher education and I like Wesleyan's commitment to the spiritual growth of its students, which brings a holistic approach to the community that we serve.

**Your Teaching Philosophy:** I try to create an environment that connects the course material, theories, and practical strategies to the real-life work place. I believe that the most significant learning occurs in situations that are both meaningful and realistic. I rely on small groups or one-on-one teaching. The overriding goal has been to foster positive relationships with my students. I'm a firm believer that students do not care about how much you know until they know how much you care.

**Hobbies:** Reading, writing, shopping for antique (vintage) items  
**Favorite Movie:** "Gifted Hands"  
**Favorite Team:** The Pirates (My son is a junior at ECU.)

**One Surprising Thing about You:** I love to play golf.



## NBA from pg 3

My number-three team is the Washington Wizards (49-33). The Wizards are run by point guard John Wall. He has progressed every year in the NBA and considers himself as "the best two-way" point guard in the NBA. Alongside of Wall, the Wizards have a young core of Bradley Beal, Otto Porter, Markeeff Morris, and Marcin Gortat. The Wizards are a team that can frustrate opponents with their hard-pressed defense. I believe Wall will have a breakout season after he signed a 4-year \$170 million contract extension to stay in Washington.

My number two is the Boston Celtics (53-29). The Celtics lost some key players this off-season including Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder, and Avery Bradley. However, they picked up Kyrie Irving, Gordon Hayward, and Marcus Morris. Not to mention they grabbed Jayson Tatum from Duke University at the number three spot in the draft. The Celtics will look to Irving to run the show on the offensive side of the ball. Marcus Smart has been a key role player for the Celtics the past couple of years. I look forward to seeing his game progress as he plays beside a guard like Irving. Hayward will bring versatility to the Celtics. Since Boston Coach Brad Stephens coached Hayward in college, I imagine there will be a good number of plays drawn up for him. The Celtics were first in the regular season last year, and I expect them to battle it out again this year with the Cavs for that first spot.

The Cleveland Cavaliers (51-31) are my top pick in the East. I believe the Cavs had the second-best off season in the NBA. Although the Cavs lost Kyrie Irving, they picked up Jae Crowder, Isaiah Thomas, Derrick Rose, and Jeff Green. All of these guys bring something different to the table for the Cavs. Crowder is the toughest defender in the NBA. Isaiah Thomas averaged 28.9 points per game last season to go along with 5.9 assists. Some say Thomas was traded because of his lack of defensive ability, while others believe the Celtics didn't want to spend a lot of money on him because he'll be a free agent after this season. Rose will be looking to make a statement this season after constantly battling injuries in the past, while Green is an athletic wing who strives on the defensive side of the floor. These guys will only get better by playing with the best player in the world, LeBron James.

For the NBA Finals, I predict it'll be the Warriors and the Cavs for the fourth year in a row. The Warriors will steam-roll through the Western Conference on the way to the Finals as they did last season. I believe the Cavs and the Celtics will be a battle, but the Cavs' depth will be the reason they get to the finals.

The finals are still months away, but I've already thought about the individual matchups that will entertain us next summer. The point guard matchup will be Steph Curry versus Isaiah Thomas. Although Thomas is a scoring machine, I don't think he'll be able to stop Curry.

The shooting guard matchup will pit Klay Thompson versus JR Smith. Thompson is a guy who has put up 39 points in one quarter. If he gets hot, it could be trouble for the Cavs. But Smith shot 9-11, 7-8 from the 3-point line, scoring 25 points in the game that eliminated the Cavs last season.

The small forward battle is one to watch closely. The Durant-James battle will be the best matchup of this series. After winning Finals MVP last season, Durant will be ready to prove himself once again. James knows that he doesn't have many years left in the league, so he'll give everything he has in this series as he always does.

The power forward matchup is a good one as well. Draymond Green is a guy who doesn't put up big-time numbers, but does everything that a team needs to win. He's a vocal leader for the Warriors. Green will be a key to success for Golden State due to his defense and ability to facilitate. Kevin Love is a streaky guy, in my opinion. The Warriors and Cavs have starting centers who have just two jobs, rebound and defend. Javale McGee is a shot-blocker who helps protect the paint for the Warriors, while Tristan Thompson is a strong rebounder who struggled in last year's NBA Finals. 6'3 Steph Curry had more rebounds than 6'9 Thompson is last year's finals.

The benches need to play well to ensure success for their teams. For the Cavs to have any chance in this series, their bench must produce. All in all, the Warriors will end up the 2017-2018 NBA Champions, winning the series 4-3.