It is a pleasure to bring you greetings from Wesley and Dover. Spring has arrived and Delaware is beginning to show its beautiful colors. On campus, students are completing the remaining weeks of classes and those about to graduate are finalizing plans for Commencement and beyond. Students not going directly to graduate school are finding that they will enter a challenging job market.

Few people would have thought that the economic world, as we knew it, would change so drastically in a nine-month period. Every sector, every organization and every person or family has felt the influence through the loss of savings, income or employment.

Although there are numerous uncertainties ahead, facts illustrate that those who have advanced themselves educationally will weather this financial storm better than others. We, the entire faculty and staff of Wesley, remain fully committed to assisting each student in preparing him/her with the broad skills needed to compete in this job market and in future job markets.

Your investment in our students, through financial gifts, scholarships and donated time, will continue to assist in providing Wesley students an outstanding individualized educational experience at a cost that is one of the best values in higher education.

This issue of Wesley provides an updated glimpse of some of the numerous activities on and off campus. Enjoy the magazine and thank you for all that you do for Wesley and our deserving students.

Most sincerely,

[Signature]

DR. WILLIAM N. JOHNSTON
President
A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

For ROBERT SYLVESTER ’67, it wasn’t always easy, but he’s accomplished quite a lot since graduating from Wesley.

ON THE COVER
The sights of spring are evident on Wesley’s campus, as photographed by Leigh Ann Little.

FUTURE FORWARD
Three soon-to-be graduates find the perfect experience to prepare for the future.

FEATURES

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JOHN WESLEY (1703-1791)

John Wesley (1703-1791) is the “Wesley” in Wesley College. His mother Susanna Wesley (1670-1742) was a great influence upon him spiritually and he also shared her reserved, disciplined temperament. Apparently he laid it on a little thick as a young man when he had written her. Her reply was motherly: “... the conclusion of your letter is very kind. That you were ever dutiful I very well know, but I know myself enough to rest satisfied with a moderate share of your affection. Indeed it would be unjust of me to desire the love of anyone. Your prayers I want and wish; nor shall I cease while I live to beseech Almighty God to bless you!...” The mother knew the son very well that she had so carefully raised.

THE WESLEY COLLEGE MISSION

Wesley College seeks to be a premier institution for helping students gain the knowledge, skills, and moral and ethical attitudes necessary to achieve their personal goals and contribute to the welfare of their communities in the global society. The College endeavors to impart a desire for lifelong learning and an enhanced capacity for critical and creative thinking so that students can reap the rewards of intellectual growth and professional effectiveness.

As a College in a covenant relationship with the United Methodist Church, and founded upon Christian principles, Wesley strives to realize a holistic campus environment of common purpose, caring, tolerance, inclusiveness, responsibility, and service that is the heart of the concept of community.

Wesley, founded in 1873, is a private, co-educational, student-centered college. Located in Dover, Delaware, Wesley is affiliated with the United Methodists Church.

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Head of the Class
First B.A. in English Secondary Education

COLORADO native SARA WALL came to Wesley after serving in the United States Air Force as Airman First Class. When she became pregnant with her daughter Rebecca, she and her husband Michael, also serving active duty, had to make an important decision. “I didn’t want to worry about being deployed with children, so my husband and I decided that having only one of us serving active duty in the military would be better for our family,” Wall explained.

With an associate’s degree in English under her belt, Wall sought out the best institution to help her obtain her bachelor’s degree and determine her career goals. When Wall first enrolled at Wesley to further her studies in English, a unique opportunity arose. With the help of faculty members in the English and Education departments, she geared her coursework toward a new degree offering that was in the works. “Dr. Gibson from the English Department was very supportive when I told him I wanted to pursue my degree in English with a concentration in Secondary Education. The program had not yet been approved, but he met with me and let me know what I should be doing to prepare myself,” said Wall.

After just five semesters, Wall became the first Wesley graduate to receive a Bachelor of Arts in English Secondary Education degree. Her advisor, Associate Professor of English DR. JEFFREY GIBSON, expressed, “The phenomenal thing about Sara is she was able to move through the program so quickly while at the same time being a mother to two small children and while her husband was serving the country in Iraq.”

With more on her plate than your average student, Wall found support from Wesley faculty. “Whenever I felt stressed out because of my workload, family or job, DR. MARCIA LAWTON from the English department would listen and let me know everything was fine and that I could handle school,” said Wall. “Her laid-back style meshed well with me and her valuable advice helped me in my classes, during student teaching and during my first few weeks as a teacher.”

A mere three days after her December graduation, Wall landed an interview at W.T. Chipman Middle School in Harrington, Delaware and soon after, she was hired as a 6th grade Language Arts teacher. “Coming in as a first-year teacher mid-year, I had a lot of questions, yet everyone I have approached has given me great advice and has been very patient with me. I feel like I have great people to mentor me as I progress as an educator,” she said. Wall also feels grateful that her students have welcomed her with open arms and have been so helpful. “I will remember this group of students for the rest of my career, not only for their personalities but for the lessons they have taught me about teaching.”

A good support system is essential for students of any age to stay focused on the finish line and overcome any obstacles along the way. While in the Air Force, Wall gained the motivation to pursue her degree, and at Wesley, she could count on the unwavering support of the faculty. Her family, however, deserves most of the credit for helping her realize her dreams. Wall praises her husband Michael for stepping in when she needed time to focus on her studies. “My graduation day was a monumental event for both of us. Since I’ve gone to school while I was married with two children, it has definitely been a team effort,” said Wall. “He has supported me in so many ways through this journey. He is already asking me when I will get my master’s degree!”

Her children, five-year-old Rebecca and three-year-old Liam, are also very proud of their mother. Wall said, “While it has been a struggle to go through school with them, I think I have been able to show them how important it is and that it can be done.” She added, “They used to tell everyone in their preschool ‘My mom goes to Wesley College!’ and now they tell them ‘My mom is a teacher.’”
In 2007 Wesley College joined forces with more than 200 colleges and universities by signing on to the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) to reduce greenhouse emissions, energy use and pollution on campus. Within the time span of a year, the first phase of the commitment was met, including a greenhouse gas inventory and an energy action plan.

Aramark facility staff members at the College have been instrumental in helping Wesley further its commitment to the environment. Director of Facilities CHUCK ARTHUR, Assistant Director of Facilities KELLY HAUER and Director of Dining Services JOHN GULA have each led their staff in taking some critical steps toward the long-term goals of conservation and reducing the College’s carbon footprint. Some of these measures have been cost saving as well. A majority of the chemicals now used in campus buildings come from the Eco-Lab, an Aramark vendor, and are environmentally friendly. “The all-purpose cleaner and floor shine are examples of materials we use that coincide with the agreement,” Hauer noted. “We did things like changing from liquid soap to foam soap on campus to save the College money…it cut costs by 10% just doing that,” Arthur added.

In fall 2007, soon after the Commitment was originally signed, Wesley joined the Recycle Mania competition. “It is a ten week competition between colleges to collect and recycle things on campus,” Hauer said. In ten weeks, Wesley collected 15,800
lbs. of recyclable material. With the hard work of the Aramark team, the College has continued collecting and as of December 2008, had recycled 26,000 lbs. of material.

The Aramark staff sought out an important supply of recyclable material on campus — “scrap metal, such as old filing cabinets, desks and doors,” Arthur said. From January to November 2008, the staff was able to collect 5,100 lbs. of scrap metal to take to a local recycling plant. In addition to collecting man-made materials for recycling, the Aramark staff takes all natural waste, such as leaves, grass lawns,” Arthur explained. “It’s messy, but a great way to recycle and help the community.”

Looking ahead to another year of participation in Recycle Mania, Hauer and Arthur agree that there is a strong need for student involvement in order to advance the College’s recycling efforts. “The second and third floors of Roe [Residence Hall] have actually put boxes in their hallways that they are filling with water bottles, paper and other materials, and then taking down to the recycle bins in their lobby,” Arthur pointed out. Since these bins can now be found throughout campus, wastes food and water by using them.” He noted that during spring 2008 exam week, they didn’t put trays out for two days and saved on over 100 lbs. of waste. Some of the students are making an effort to cut down on their tray use. This could be attributed, in part, to

“We did things like changing from liquid soap to foam soap on campus to save the College money…it cut costs by 10% just doing that.”

clippings and tree branches, to a compost center in Dover. “It is a city compost program. They take everything you bring and mix it with food waste. Then in the spring and summer, residents of Dover can get free compost for their gardens or

the College hopes that all students and employees will start to maximize their use.

Gula and his staff have begun initiatives within the dining hall and catering operations to aid in the green efforts at Wesley. They have eliminated Styrofoam take-out containers and switched all paper products to recycled material, including the napkins in the dining area and the paper used within the office. The Wolverine Stop convenience store on campus uses many recycled products for its to-go items, including corn-based or other biodegradable materials.

The cafeteria staff has become more conscious of conserving energy in several ways, such as turning off the lights in dining areas when not in use. Gula added, “We would like to eliminate trays in the serving area because it signs that Gula posted in the cafeteria this semester that say ‘Do you really need a tray?’ or ‘Do you realize how much water it takes to wash a tray?’ He believes that while his department is doing what they can to conserve and recycle, more could be done to market this to Wesley students, increase their awareness and get them more involved.

The College will soon enter the second phase of the ACUPCC, which will consist of an energy plan specifically noting what needs to be replaced. “The big items like the boilers come first on the list,” Arthur explained, “but quick return items like energy saving light bulbs will also be one of the early tasks completed.” This will not only require continued dedication of the campus community, but also greater investment of resources in order to continue to keep Wesley clean and green.
“IT IS A PARTICULAR joy to welcome you to this splendid facility, the Schwartz Center, a part of Wesley College, as we celebrate a most worthy event in the lives of our new graduates and their family members and loved ones,”

PRESIDENT WILLIAM N. JOHNSTON
said to the overflowing audience at the 2008 Winter Commencement ceremony. 129 Wesley graduates proudly received their diplomas at the event on December 17.

The Commencement address was given by H. RAYE JONES AVERY, described by Johnston in his introduction as “an accomplished community activist, artist, mother, grandmother and noted Delawarean.” Avery began giving back to the community as soon as she completed her undergraduate studies at University of Delaware in 1977. She participated in the advancement of numerous programs though her work at Community Action of greater Wilmington, the Delaware League of Planned Parenthood and the Henrietta Johnson Medical Center. She later received her master’s degree in Health Services Administration from West Chester University.

Continuing her life of service, Avery developed a significant state-wide research project entitled “Insight Delaware” while working as the director of planning and research for United Way of Delaware. From there she went on to Christina Cultural Arts Center, where she now serves as executive director. Avery’s diverse talents are reflected by a long list of achievements, ranging from a jazz album release to serving on several boards to founding the Kuumba Academy Charter School in Wilmington, Delaware. In 2007 she was asked to serve on the Leadership for Education Achievement in Delaware Committee. Recently, Mayor James Baker of Wilmington recognized her community service with the Jefferson Award for Volunteerism.

Avery delivered an uplifting message to the graduates, extending kudos on their remarkable accomplishments thus far and offering some words of wisdom for the future. She explained, “My charge is to convince each of you beyond a shadow of a doubt ‘you cannot fail.’” She continued, “In order for us to return to a state of inner peace, we must learn to quiet the voice of self-doubt in our minds. We must silence thoughts that we are not worthy, that we are not good enough.”

Speaking from her personal experiences, she told the graduates to “strive to keep an open heart — open to loving, open to adventure, open to fully living the possibilities of you,”
and urged them to use their open hearts to “extend giving hands” wherever they could. In closing, Avery praised the graduating students for all the effort put forth to reach this milestone, which she expressed as “being appointed CEO of your life’s journey.”

“In order for us to return to a state of inner peace, we must learn to quiet the voice of self-doubt in our minds. We must silence thoughts that we are not worthy, that we are not good enough.”

Following the awarding of degrees, Vice President of the Alumni Board LYNN SCHMID KNABLE ’67 welcomed the newest members of the Alumni Association. “Now you are a part of this legacy. Although generations separate us, we share a common bond, for we are Wesley,” she pointed out. In addition to reminding them of the importance of work and service in their communities, Knable urged the new alumni to maintain ties with their alma mater. “Among the many roads you travel through your seasons of life, may you always find the one that will bring you back home to Wesley.”

President Johnston congratulates Alisha Burke, one of many Winter 2008 Wesley graduates.
When seniors NICK CORVINO and MAEGAN PROCTOR enrolled in DR. JESSICA JAMES’S Historic Professions Seminar this year, their expectations did not include becoming nationally recognized scholars. The intention of the Seminar was to give history majors some local historical experience by taking field trips to area museums and the Delaware State Archives, where they could gain valuable exposure to primary source historical documents.

Since Corvino and Proctor had each expressed interest in graduate school, James saw an opportunity to extend their learning. “Both students were interested in working on a special project, so they wrote papers and prepared presentations on African Americans in the antebellum period,” James recollected.

The two students began their preparation early in the academic year. Proctor’s paper, “Free African Americans’ Role in the Underground Railroad,” shared the significant and heroic contributions of many individuals involved in the operation of the Underground Railroad in Delaware. Corvino’s paper, entitled “Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania: A Two-Way Track,” focused on the critical role of the First State in this historic undertaking and the nefarious Patty Cannon gang, who kidnapped free African Americans and sold them into slavery in the Southern states. Corvino pointed out, “Delaware was the last stop before the north. African Americans often had to endure one last struggle.”

The initial intent of this project was for both students to present at the College’s annual Scholars Day in April, but much to the delight of James, Corvino and Proctor, it grew into something more — an opportunity for cultural and professional enrichment as well as national prestige. James had plans to attend the National Association for African American Studies Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on February 11 and present her paper entitled “Antebellum Black Codes in Delaware.” Impressed by the stellar work of both Corvino and Proctor, she asked the two students if they would want to present an abstract for a panel at the conference. “The students and I wrote up a proposal, and we were accepted!” she fondly reminisced. Since the opportunity to present at this conference is not normally extended
to undergraduate students, it was a true honor for the two seniors. Adding to the prestige of the selection, the Wesley panelists were among 275 presenters selected from over 1,000 applicants.

The two students found this experience to be an enlightening and enriching one overall. Corvino said, “I did not know what to expect going in, but it was a good experience and I got to hear a lot of interesting stories.” Corvino and Proctor sat in on a variety of presentations to absorb as much as they could from the conference. Proctor noted, “One of my favorites was a woman’s slide show presentation of photos taken of everything she found in Money, Mississippi.” Money was the location where young Emmett Till, a local African American boy, was murdered. The event is said to have sparked the Civil Rights Movement. Proctor added, “I was really grateful that Wesley was able to fund this, being that it was not something we planned on doing initially. Having the opportunity to go to a professional conference and present is a once in a lifetime opportunity that has given me wonderful experience for my resume.”

James was equally delighted about the opportunity for her students. “As a professor, I was extremely proud of my students for presenting. Having them with me, showing them not only what it’s like to attend a professional conference, but also showing them my home state, was extremely rewarding. Presenting research at a professional conference is rare on the undergraduate level, and I was thrilled to share this professional experience with these two talented students.”

In addition to the benefits of the conference, the travel associated with it was also a new adventure for Corvino and Proctor. While starting their trip in New Orleans and staying with James’s friend, the Wesley group took in the sights and sounds of the French quarter, Jackson Square and a Mardi Gras parade. They also enjoyed local Creole cuisine such as fried oysters, catfish and red beans and rice. “New Orleans was great,” Corvino enthusiastically expressed. He relished the opportunity “to see such a historical city — a world unto itself, essentially trapped in time.” Upon arriving in Baton Rouge for the conference, they were welcomed by James’s family and had a chance to explore the capital city.

Both Corvino and Proctor are now anxious to share their papers with the College community as well. They plan to present at the third annual Scholars Day on campus on April 15.

To read the students’ papers online, visit www.weare.wesley.edu/academics

“I was really grateful that Wesley was able to fund this, being that it was not something we planned on doing initially. Having the opportunity to go to a professional conference and present is a once in a lifetime opportunity that has given me wonderful experience for my resume.”
HAS DOWN AND OUT rock star Dewey Finn (played by actor Jack Black) from “The School of Rock” made his way to Campus Community High School? Not exactly, but conversations that buzzed after the recent Poetry Out Loud contest, held on Wednesday, January 7 in the school cafeteria, would have many in the community wondering if the rumored sequel to the pop culture movie was being filmed at Dover’s CCHS.

Designed to encourage students to learn about poetry through memorization and performance, the school-wide contest is the prerequisite for participation on the statewide level, leading to a national competition sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Poetry Foundation and the Delaware Division of the Arts. CCHS held its first Poetry Out Loud contest on campus two years ago. Humanities teacher MICHELLE BRYMER wanted to create a way to draw more attention to the contest and was inspired by the talent emerging from the school’s “So

You Wanna Be a Rock Star” special interest club started by Wesley College graduate KYLE BULLOCK '07. Deciding that a better way to stage this year’s contest and attract more student participants would be to provide a venue for aspiring poets and musicians to get a taste of performance, Brymer and Bullock coordinated the first-ever Poetry and Music Coffeehouse. “Incorporating the Poetry Out Loud contest into a larger Coffeehouse venue was great because it enabled the students to get a lot more exposure. It also drew more student interest towards ‘So You Wanna be a Rock Star,’” explained Bullock.

The new music club, which became an immediate hit on campus, is one of the school’s many special interest clubs, including Chess, Japanese and Poetry, which allow students to explore and nurture personal hobbies and talents. “So You Wanna Be a Rock Star” was the brainchild of Bullock, who was hired as facilities manager at CCHS through Aramark this past summer. At first perceived as “the
“Many of our students are hungry for something fun and different to do, so having an Open-Mic Poetry and Music Coffeehouse seemed like a great way to involve a majority of the student body.”

Bullock has been able to break down this misconception, become actively involved in the Campus Community scene and connect with the students through his passion for music.

In his previous Aramark position at Wesley College, Bullock was very active on campus. He ran a self-defense class to help students and faculty learn to empower themselves with some basic skills. Now, he has once again created an outlet in his workplace for empowerment and enrichment. Many in the CCHS community who were still getting to know Bullock were initially mystified by his eagerness to start this club. Some wondered whether it would be centered on playing the hugely popular “Rock Band” and “Guitar Hero” video games. Bullock quickly refuted this notion and explained that his goal for “So You Wanna Be a Rock Star” was to share his love of music and give students an opportunity to try musical instruments and singing. A guitarist and vocalist himself, Bullock wanted to provide an alternative to the traditional offerings of the school’s music program and help students learn to share their musical talents with others for their own personal growth.

Bullock credits much of his own musical development to his former professor and mentor, DR. DAVID LAGANELLA, assistant professor of Music at Wesley, who forced him to step outside of his comfort zone as a musician. Laganella shared with Bullock his belief that in order to grow as a musician, one must learn to share and play music with others. Bullock sought out and eventually joined other musicians in forming Dover based band Techno Pop Staci, which has performed at many campus functions, including Wishfest, Founder’s Day and even Wednesday chapel services. For the Poetry and Music Coffeehouse at CCHS, the band donated the use of their audio equipment and performed as the final act for the event.

Numerous participants in the “So You Wanna Be a Rock Star” special interest club were inspired by Bullock to form their own bands and be a part of this year’s Coffeehouse. The event was a unique opportunity not only to bring together a wide variety of student talent in music and poetry, but also to give all the students a chance to view live bands in an accessible setting. “Many of our students are hungry for something fun and different to do, so having an Open-Mic Poetry and Music Coffeehouse seemed like a great way to involve a majority of the student body,” Brymer said.

Both Bullock and Brymer look to build on the success of the “So You Wanna Be a Rock Star” club and the Coffeehouse event. Bullock remarked, “I am really excited about how far the students have come. They surpassed my expectations.” He intends to continue working with young aspiring musicians at CCHS and “keep this club going as long as I can, because the students have great potential.” Bullock and Brymer have even considered introducing a Battle of the Bands competition like the one in the “School of Rock” film. Instead of raising money for Dewey Finn, however, the school would use the opportunity as a fundraising effort to provide CCHS students musical equipment to further their talents.
The Coaching Spirit
Former Wesley Student Leader Pays It Forward

While the Cougar cheerleaders and many students at Campus Community High School refer to her simply as “Coach,” ROBIN SMITH ‘07 is much more than a coach — she is a teacher, an advisor and a mentor. A recent Wesley graduate, Smith became part of the CCHS community during her freshman year of college. Intending to look into a position as an assistant cheerleading coach, she soon realized, after a brief tour of the school and meeting with physical education teacher EILEEN GUERKE, the athletic director at that time, that CCHS did not even have a cheerleading team. Smith decided to not pass up on this opportunity to share her passion for the sport. “I have always loved cheerleading and wanted to help coach,” said Smith. Thanks to her leadership, a cheerleading team was formed and has made great strides in just a few years, even earning a state title last year.

With 16 members, Smith’s cheerleading squad accounts for five percent of the CCHS student body. Now in her sixth season, Coach Smith is proud of her Lady Cougars, whose dedication and strong efforts in local competitions qualified them to compete in the state competition. Remembering that her former high school teacher, Mr. Sheehy, had always told her to “never settle for less than my best effort and to work harder than anyone else at whatever I did,” Smith also has taught her students the value of hard work and perseverance.

Smith knows firsthand that hard work pays off. While a Wesley College student, she was active in numerous activities, such as Gospel Choir and the Literary Society, and held several leadership positions, including vice president of membership for Alpha Phi Omega, co-founder of “Howl at the Moon,” captain of the Lady Wolverines basketball team as a junior and senior, and Student Government Association (SGA) President. She was the first two-term executive board president in the school’s history. Despite her busy extracurricular schedule, Smith maintained a 3.6 grade point average.

Last year, Smith took on additional roles at CCHS by becoming a full-time teacher and Spirit Club advisor. Her bachelor’s in Business Administration has aided her in teaching “Introduction to Applications and Essentials for Business.” As an instructor, Smith aims to instill in her students a sense of self-confidence. “I want them to know that they can do whatever they put their minds to,” she explained. At the same time, she is realistic in her evaluations. Smith added, “I am honest with them about their progress and I challenge them to go further and not just do what is asked, but exceed what is expected.”

Smith’s energy, motivation and devotion to her students and profession amaze many of her colleagues. While she is inspired first and foremost by her mother, she gains continual motivation by knowing that she is making a difference in the lives of young people. “There is nothing like seeing a student connect the concepts and hear some of the ideas that result. This is the beauty of teaching — watching the process and guiding the student to greater understanding,” Smith said.

While Smith looks forward to continuing her roles at CCHS, her future objectives also include becoming a professor and working on a business she founded with a college friend. Entitled Camp B.A.S.I.C.S., the intent is to provide a variety of youth camps to teach skills in sports and recreation. She has already started by setting up basketball camps, but hopes to grow the business by finding a facility and better equipment, and by adding different types of sports programs, including cheerleading camps. In fact, one is being piloted this summer in Sewell, Alaska. Aside from her career goals, Smith also is looking to take some overdue time off to enjoy a bit of traveling. W
"I'm a firm believer that building relationships is key to successful leadership. Creating good partnerships at the senior cabinet level will enable us to work as a cohesive team, collaborating with the entire campus community to realize Wesley's exciting next steps," said Wesley's next Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Patricia Dwyer. She will take over the position at the start of the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Dwyer comes to Wesley from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, where she has held the position of associate vice president of academic initiatives. There she has led faculty efforts in assessing student learning and conducting program reviews for departmental self-study. She also has been engaged in strategic planning, faculty development and facilitating faculty task forces as well as developing appropriations, proposals and grants.

Dwyer is enthusiastic about applying her skills to benefit Wesley at an exciting time in the College’s development. “Wesley’s new strategic plan outlines initiatives that fit well with my experience: developing a vibrant first-year experience, creating a student-centered learning environment, exposing our students to international learning and study abroad, to name just a few,” said Dwyer.

Having worked closely with the Office of International Programs during her time at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Dwyer recognizes the value of globalization efforts on college campuses today. She remarked, “The emphasis on international learning and experience is essential to prepare our students for the global opportunities, both in careers and in their ability to interact with people from all different cultures.” Dwyer can appreciate Wesley’s efforts in this area and anticipates “working with Dr. Susan Cooper [director of Global Initiatives] and others involved to build this opportunity for our students.”

Dwyer’s previous institution is similar to Wesley as a small liberal arts college with strong professional programs such as Nursing, Business and Education. Perhaps the most enticing similarity which drew Dwyer to Dover is the sense of community. “I felt this immediately when I came to Wesley,” Dwyer said.

Prior to her post at the College of Notre Dame, Dwyer held multiple positions at Shepherd University in West Virginia, including honors program director, director of assessment of student learning and dean of teaching and learning. She also served as the assistant director of the Writing Center at George Washington University in Washington D.C.

“Over the last 12 years, I have been very involved with working with faculty from a variety of institutions to understand assessment and use data to improve their programs. I always underscore that assessment is about student learning—this is something faculty value deeply. They want high quality programs and graduates who have the skills and knowledge to be successful. Once they see how assessment can help get there, they understand its importance,” said Dwyer. Recognizing that assessment requires not only a frame of reference but also a thorough knowledge of the institutional programs, the history and the individuals involved, her first task is dedicating ample time to familiarize herself with Wesley’s academic programs and faculty colleagues.

Dwyer’s leadership philosophy is one of empowering those with whom she works and establishing open and honest relationships. With the administration’s emphasis on the student experience and the College’s strong history of building partnerships, Dwyer’s style should mesh quite well with the campus culture.

After an extensive and competitive search for Wesley’s next vice president for academic affairs, a process which began in October, the campus search committee felt confident in recommending Dwyer for the job. President William Johnston stated, “I believe that Dr. Dwyer is an exceptional fit and has the skills to be an outstanding representative of our faculty and the chief academic officer for Wesley.” Dwyer is eagerly awaiting July, when she will make her home in the Dover area and officially join the Wesley team.
Faculty Accomplishments

DR. MALCOLM J. D’SOUZA, professor of Chemistry, published a peer-reviewed article in the March issue of the International Journal of Molecular Sciences (http://www.mdpi.com/1422-0067/10/3/862). Wesley student Darneisha Reed, who will graduate this year with a bachelor’s in Medical Technology, completed a part of this project during her summer internship supported by the IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) program of the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Reed is also a co-author of the article. This research was a collaborative project with Dr. Jin Burm Kyong of Hanyang University, Korea and Dr. Dennis N. Kevill of Northern Illinois University. The project involved elucidating the mechanism of reaction of isopropyl chloroformate (which is used in the production of weed killers). The article has now provided a detailed explanation for its decomposition in water and various organic solvents. Isopropyl chloroformate is known to explode on standing, even when kept at low temperatures in a refrigerator. The research was sponsored by the DE-NIH-INBRE grant obtained through the leadership at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute (DBI).

DR. LYNN EVERETT, associate professor of Biology, and DR. MALCOLM D’SOUZA, professor of Chemistry, co-authored a paper entitled “Structure Activity Relationship (SAR) patterns observed within a series of unrelated common consumer drugs.” The research was completed by alumnus and former Biology major Fumie Koyoshi ’08, who is a co-author. This refereed paper has been selected for presentation in July during the 2009 International Conference on Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, Genomics and Chemoinformatics in Orlando, Florida. Each year just 30% of the submissions are accepted, as the papers are then published by the conference organizers in a journal article. This research was supported by grant number 2 P20 RR016472-08, under the INBRE program of the NCRR, a component of the NIH. This INBRE grant to the state of Delaware was obtained under the leadership of the DBI, University of Delaware, and the authors sincerely appreciate their efforts.

DR. LUCILLE GAMBARDELLA, professor of Nursing, provided the plenary presentation session at the National League for Nursing Leadership in Nursing Education Conference January 9-11 in New Orleans. The presentation was entitled “Growing Future Nurse Educators: Planting the Seeds in Graduate Programs.” The leadership conference was attended by more than 350 nurse educators from across the country.

Dr. D’Souza confirms students’ formulas to arrive at the correct solution.
DR. KATHLEEN C. JACOBS, professor of Business Management, was invited by the president of BusinessWeek magazine, Keith Fox, to join the publication’s Research Advisory Panel. The Panel is comprised of professional business individuals who the publication feels can identify critical trends that drive and shape today’s business environment. Members share their expertise through online surveys based upon their specific background and training. The results of the surveys determine the magazine’s ranking of specialized business categories such as “The World’s 50 Most Innovative Companies.”

CHRISTINE JARRELL, nursing learning resource coordinator, and DR. NANCY RUBINO, professor of Nursing, presented their research titled “Promoting musculoskeletal health in future nurses through integration of a safe patient handling curriculum” at the National League for Nursing Research Conference January 8 – 10 in New Orleans. The presentation reported results of a correlation study examining the impact of a safe patient-lifting curriculum integrated into the Wesley College Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

DR. DERALD WENTZIEN, associate professor of Mathematics, had his paper, entitled “Gross Credit Loss Forecast Comparisons,” accepted for presentation at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Northeast Decision Sciences. The meeting was held April 1-3 at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut.

DR. LYNN LOFTHOUSE, professor of Speech Communications, attended and presented a paper at the Conference of the International Academy of Linguistics, Behavioral and Social Science November 20-23 in Newport Beach, California. The paper was titled “American Perceptions of Financially Irresponsible Borrowers as a Function of Key Individual Characteristics.” Lothhouse also moderated two panels at the conference and had her paper published in the Proceedings of the Association for Global Business (Volume 20, ISBN 1050-6292).

DR. JESSICA JAMES, assistant professor of History and American Studies, chaired a panel entitled “Slavery and Freedom in the First State: The African American Experience in Antebellum Delaware” at the 17th annual National Association for African American Studies Conference February 11 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The panel consisted of James and two Wesley College senior history majors, Nicholas Corvino and Maegan Proctor. The Wesley panelists were among 275 presenters selected from over 1000 applicants.

In addition, James was recently selected to attend the “Slave Narratives” seminar at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History at Yale University. Co-sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges and the United Negro College Fund, the program will be held from June 7-10. Dr. David Blight, professor of American History at Yale University, will direct the seminar. The application process was competitive and only 30 applicants were selected to participate.

During his first year at Wesley, VICTOR GRETO, assistant professor of Media Arts and Political Science, has produced six major feature articles and profiles for Delaware’s Sunday News Journal. These included: “A head for business” about Wilmington stylist Randy Currie, “‘Bad boy’ becomes global sensation” about ballet dancer Rasta Thomas, “The accidental environmentalist” about environmental policy maker Roland Wall, “Natural selections” about Delaware nature photographer Kevin Fleming, “Las Vegas in Newark” about a trio of Elvis-Sinatra-Tom Jones impersonators and “Jack Hunter” on novelist and WWII veteran Jack Hunter.

Three of his stories were published in Signature Brandywine magazine, a niche publication of the News Journal. These pieces included a short story entitled “A Christmas Homecoming,” a look at St. Francis Hospital philanthropy, and a profile of Delaware First Lady Carla Markell. Greto also wrote a profile for the January 2009 edition of Delaware Today entitled “Driven to Abstraction” on local artist Steve Tanis. Now Greto is working on at least three more News Journal feature-profiles and one major profile for Delaware Today.
A MAN for All SEASONS

By Elise Marie Knable '09
THE STORY OF ROBERT SYLVESTER ’67 reads like a great novel — with chapters of accomplishment, service and faith woven together to form one clear conclusion. He is indeed a man for all seasons.

“I WAS ONE OF THOSE GUYS that didn’t like high school. I found it boring. It wasn’t about the grades. I was good at what I did and I knew I would be successful,” said DR. COLONEL ROBERT SYLVESTER ’67. The journey to higher education did not begin easily for him, but discovering a small institution in the heart of Delaware changed his life forever.

After high school, Sylvester applied to American University in Washington D.C. in hopes of pursuing a film degree. Unfortunately, he found that not everyone shared his viewpoint on grades. Knowing the importance of continuing education, the dean of American University, who was also Sylvester’s godfather, suggested a small two-year Methodist institution in Delaware that might give him a chance.

Sylvester did, in fact, get that chance when Dr. Robert H. Parker offered him acceptance to Wesley Junior College. “Wesley said yes when other schools said no. When I came to registration, I didn’t know anyone at the desk and of all people, I went up to Mr. Lewis Wells,” Sylvester recalled.

This first meeting and the advice from Wells began Sylvester’s long history of participation in broadcasting and the arts. “I got to do radio every night on WSLY for two years and was able to work in local radio stations on the weekends because of that,” Sylvester cited. Along with radio, he participated in the Wesley Players theater troupe. “Mr. Wells had us on the road at schools, churches, wherever we could perform.”

In addition to solidifying his love for theater, Sylvester’s experience in the Wesley Players allowed him to form many friendships, two of which have endured over the years. He noted that he still keeps in touch with “my leading lady for two years, LYNN SCHMID KNABLE ’67, who played my best friend, ‘the girl’ and my wife, and my dearest friend outside of Lynn, BERT MORRIS ’67.” Sylvester reminisced, “Lynn did a lot for each production and the two of us could have gone on and maybe even worked the stage together. Bert has been a mentor. He has inspired me to complete my novel and his support has been invaluable.”

After leaving Wesley, Sylvester continued a path in the arts. He trained in theaters across the country, including the Priscilla Beach Theatre in Boston and the Pasadena Playhouse, and was even invited to work at the Royal Academy in London. From 1971-1972 he went overseas and
worked with armed forces radio and entertained troops on a USO tour, doing what he described as “something like ‘Good Morning, Vietnam’.”

From there, Sylvester pursued a career in radio and television broadcasting. He anchored for network news stations in various cities, such as Memphis and Kansas City, the eighth largest broadcast market in the nation. “In Memphis during 1978, there was a man staying at the local Holiday Inn. He saw me on a broadcast and offered me a co-anchor position at KYW with Tom Snyder.” This, along with another offer from CNN, was among the highlights early on in his career.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970 and a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1973, Sylvester decided to take three different entrance exams for doctoral fields of study. He passed all three exams and had to decide whether to be a doctor, dentist, lawyer or a minister. “I narrowed it down to the two M’s — medicine or ministry.”

Now in his 44th year of broadcasting, Sylvester has proven that he doesn’t walk in just one pair of shoes. He completed his Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of Health Sciences in Kansas City, Missouri in 1983 and has been a practicing physician for 21 years in South Carolina and five years in Tennessee. “I have now spent 26 years as a primary care physician, working in rural areas in the South to provide care for those who are somewhat less fortunate,” Sylvester noted. He achieved his long-term goal of becoming a Methodist minister as well and is currently serving two churches in West Tennessee.

Due in part to the influence of his father, Sylvester joined the Tennessee State Guard in 2005 to work in the medical division. He became a Colonel Regimental Surgeon of the 1st Regiment. “Our job is to prepare for any task that Tennessee may face. We also work in close connection with the National Guard as a back-up force for the governor of Tennessee,” Sylvester explained.

As if his many career accomplishments were not already enough, Sylvester now has a complete working manuscript of a 24 chapter novel, “Hands on the Railing.” It is a historical fiction mirrored after the life of his grandfather who, at one point, was a circuit-riding Methodist preacher in the early part of the 20th century. “W.O. Stone was strong, not only physically, but in his faith too. He takes on the task of facing a church during a difficult time in the South,” Sylvester explained. The story entails the trials and tribulations of main
“Wesley is the bus station. Everyone’s there for four years and eventually Wesley will give you your bus ticket. What you do with that ticket is your choice.”

Character Stone during a period when “men still wore grey pants and the women wore petticoats; basically still living in the 19th century.” Through his travels, Stone befriends a black preacher in the still very prejudiced and segregated South. “Together, they tackle this issue and face many obstacles. In the end, faith wins and strength of character matters,” Sylvester summarized.

In addition to his multi-faceted professional life, Sylvester and his wife, Dr. Debra Lee Sylvester, have had a demanding yet rewarding family life. “Debbie and I always wanted to take care of children. In 1993 we started raising foster children. Most came from broken homes involving drugs or alcohol, or dysfunctional families that have had a difficult time surviving,” Sylvester explained. Over the last 18 years, they have raised 21 foster children, ranging from newborns to teenagers. Sylvester noted, “The oldest is nearing 30 and is a policewoman…Many others have gone on, not only with their education but with jobs as well, and some have even joined the military.”

The Sylvesters currently care for a five-, nine- and twelve-year-old, along with six dogs, seven cats and a bird. Sylvester pointed out that despite his many roles as a physician, minister, member of the armed forces and talk show host, “nothing gives me more satisfaction than my family.” He remarked, “If we can comfort one child and make him/her feel safe as well as loved, then we have done what God has asked us to do.”

Noting his eclectic and eventful life, Sylvester said, “Everything I do today, I still attribute to Wesley. It formed the concrete in my education.” Although he graduated from a number of institutions, he considers Wesley his true alma mater and aptly demonstrates his loyalty through his alumni participation. “Wesley is the only school to which I give money or come back for reunions. Wesley gave me the foundation to finally attempt my ultimate goal. They gave me a chance.”

Sylvester not only appreciates the vital role that Wesley has had in his life, but also is eager to share his experience, in hopes that it will influence others. He asked those who know him to “please teach your children and grandchildren that you know or knew a man that reached the stars because of a small Methodist institution that dedicated itself to students and learning.”

Sylvester continued, “Wesley is the bus station. Everyone’s there for four years and eventually Wesley will give you your bus ticket. What you do with that ticket is your choice. Life is what you make of it. There is always a challenge and no man or woman should stop once he or she reaches the street corner. Don’t miss the bus — get on and take the ride.”
With the clock ticking on their graduation, Colleen McElwee, Amanda Jackson and Elise Knable face the exciting yet frightening realization of entering the “real world.” Fortunately for many at Wesley, today’s students are afforded various opportunities to prepare for their futures by gaining practical skills and professional experience prior to graduation.

Since helping students to reap the reward of personal growth and professional effectiveness is at the core of Wesley College’s mission, it is not surprising that so many campus programs have made this component part of their agenda. For some majors at Wesley, internships are strongly recommended for degree completion. Education majors not only complete student teaching as required for certification, but also spend a year in a real classroom setting at Campus Community School, a 1st-12th grade charter school on Wesley’s grounds. Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is one campus organization that provides students valuable exposure in the professional world through presentations in community settings and at national competitions. In addition, on-campus work assignments can be found at any number of departments, including Admissions, Student Life or the Business Office.

The Office of Institutional Advancement, which operates out of the Scarborough Alumni House, has been fortunate to have employed three outstanding seniors as temporary staff members. Over the past year and a half, Colleen McElwee, Amanda Jackson and Elise Knable have all assisted with the College’s development, alumni affairs and publications functions while working around their course schedules. “Preparing young people for their futures is what college is all about, so the arrangement of having students learn job skills by taking on responsibilities in our department is a win-win all around,” said Director of Alumni Affairs Amanda Downes.

Colleen McElwee
Colleen McElwee, a Liberal Studies major from Palmyra, New Jersey, has been working as a business sponsorship caller as part of the College’s fundraising efforts. She has provided an essential connection to the local community by reaching out to businesses, planning and presenting at a sponsorship luncheon and following up with prospects to secure donations that benefit programs at Wesley.

Under the direct supervision of Jennifer Telles, director of the annual Wesley Fund, McElwee has not only assisted with increasing the College’s visibility among area organizations and local business owners, but has done so with a vivacious and welcoming enthusiasm. “She has completely taken the business sponsorship program and has made it her own,” remarked Telles, “and she has doubled our participation rates with her efforts.” McElwee is pleased with her own progress in the position, as she was not so sure about her effect at first. Recalling the time when she was planning her first business luncheon, she said, “I was really nervous that everything would go wrong — no one would show up and no one would
go through with sponsoring a program — but everything went well. It was successful. I felt great after it was over because my hard work had paid off.”

Telles observed, “When she started, she was nervous about making an inquiry phone call or presenting in front of a group of business owners, but now it is second nature for her. Colleen is very comfortable and professional on the phone and has accomplished the poise of public speaking.” Having gained confidence in her interpersonal and communication abilities as well as skills in writing formal business letters, McElwee feels more prepared for a future career. Knowing what a valuable experience it has been for her, she recommends that other college students seek out an applicable job on campus that can “help you learn the true value of time management while making some extra money at the same time.”

Upon graduating, McElwee plans to move back to New Jersey, where she will study for the Praxis exam with hopes of becoming an educator.

AMANDA JACKSON

Working under Downes, Amanda Jackson has gained plenty of professional experience while providing needed support to the operation that serves and provides programming for more than 14,000 Wesley alumni. Without a doubt, Jackson has had her hands full with updating records, compiling reports, posting content to the College’s alumni website and researching event possibilities since she began her temporary staff position in January 2008. The duties with which she has been entrusted have allowed her to connect directly with alumni, other constituents and vendors by helping to plan and host on and off campus alumni activities and special events, and assisting with mass mailings and other publicity, all while completing her bachelor’s degree in Psychology.

“Amanda has an outstanding work ethic and is extremely perceptive and proactive. She recognizes what needs to be done without being prompted and always takes that extra step to ensure great results with any project she takes on,” commented Downes.

Jackson, a Penns Grove, New Jersey native, described her most memorable experience while working at the Alumni House as being involved with the preparation of the 2008 homecoming parade. “It was my responsibility to organize all the campus groups and organizations throughout the Dover community to participate in the homecoming parade,” she explained. “I started calling and emailing outside groups in the beginning of the summer. By September, I pretty much had a final head count of all those participating,” she remarked with a sense of gratification. Much credit should be given to Jackson for her efforts, which contributed to a smooth parade and positive feedback from many, including Paul Olsen, assistant vice president for academic affairs, who has watched parades from the front porch of his State Street home for years and expressed that it was one of the best Dover parades he had witnessed.

Jackson’s hard work has proven to be a successful stepping stone to a future career in the advancement field, as she will be staying on as a full-time staff member in the office to fill an administrative vacancy for which she is perfectly suited. Jackson is grateful for “the opportunity to work with colleagues in the Alumni House and to be a part of such a pleasant work atmosphere.”

ELISE KNABLE

When Elise Knable started working at the Alumni House, she was eager to absorb as much knowledge and experience as she could under the direct guidance of Leigh Ann Little, director of publications and campus photographer. Knable’s main responsibilities have been archiving photos and publications, responding to photography requests and organizing news articles and photo albums on the We Are Wesley online community. Knable also assists with various alumni communication pieces and is a regular contribu-
Elise Knable prepares to capture action-filled shots during a campus game.

Elise Knable prepares to capture action-filled shots during a campus game.

Elise Knable prepares to capture action-filled shots during a campus game.

They kept remarking to me how much fun they were having and that they had never realized how big an event Wesley homecoming truly was.” She recalled how they left feeling satisfied and in good spirits, promising to return with friends the next year. “It amazed me that at homecoming 2008 they were back — and with friends!” she added.

With new experiences and skills under her belt, Knable now feels more confident as she looks toward the future. “It is nice to be trusted with responsibility,” Knable declared with a smile. While her ideal post-graduation position would be at an institution of higher education, she is ready to embrace the next professional opportunity that comes her way. “When I walk out of here, I will walk out with a six-inch portfolio, four magazines, numerous articles, event posters and postcards, and I will be able to say this was not just an assignment; this was my job.”

Little feels equally confident about what lies ahead for Knable. “I know that she has an exciting future ahead of her wherever she may go. Her extensive involvement in the College thus far also demonstrates that she will be an active and involved alumnus,” she said.

The consensus among the Advancement staff is that of appreciation and admiration for these three remarkable young women and their contributions. While McElwee, Jackson and Knable have each had an ideal opportunity to build their resume through their work at Alumni House, the benefits have been mutual. “Institutional Advancement has been extremely lucky to have a wonderful temporary staff. It will be difficult to see any of them depart,” Telles noted. With a new-found understanding of alumni relationships as well as career-building experience and a boosted sense of self-assurance, McElwee, Jackson and Knable are prepared for their new role as Wesley alumni and ready to tackle the “real world” with aplomb.
Game On
Recent Grads Meet and Mingle at Dave & Buster’s

There’s nothing like a festive atmosphere and gathering with friends to cure the winter blues. For the group that attended the Young Alumni Happy Hour Social on February 27, good company and lots of food, fun and games made for a spirited event at Dave & Buster’s in Philadelphia. President William Johnston and his wife Susan also made an appearance at the gathering in order to get to know the Wesley graduates.

Situated on the water at Penn’s Landing, the Dave & Buster’s venue offered participants a wonderful opportunity to socialize with fellow alumni over appetizers and games of pool. Wesley graduates ranging from Class of ’93 to ’08 came out for the event. All alumni attendees received a Wesley license plate frame and two lucky graduates, Joe Neary ’04 and Shannon Jones ’08, took home special Wesley prizes after their names were selected in the business card drawing.

David Haines ’93 was pleased to be able to meet up with several classmates at the event. “A few of us from this area had already been talking about getting together when we got the postcard in the mail, so the timing was perfect. I left Wesley in the spring of 1993, thus it had been close to 16 years since I had seen some of these guys. It was great to catch up and share some stories from our college years and reminisce about great times we had in the Cecil and Williams dorms. We look forward to another alumni get together in the near future,” he said.

Based on alumni data and feedback, the Office of Institutional Advancement recently has begun planning a variety of targeted events to attract graduates interested in gathering with alumni from similar class years, in their age group or with common interests. “As best we can, we aim to provide something for everyone—a range of events in order to collectively appeal to alumni of all ages and interests as well as some specific family-friendly activities for alumni who wish to bring along children, grandchildren or other family members,” said Amanda Downes, director of alumni affairs.

While the College primarily coordinates events in the regional area surrounding Wesley, the Alumni Office is glad to support efforts for Wesley gatherings outside the Mid-Atlantic region. If you have suggestions or ideas for a future event or other programming opportunity, or have interest in hosting an event in your area, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Amanda Downes at 302-736-2318 or downesam@wesley.edu

The Wesley staff welcomes all alumni to get involved and visit the online community at www.weare.wesley.edu where upcoming events are continuously posted.

By Amanda Downes ’06
As little as $10 a month greatly helps Wesley College! When you give to the Annual Wesley Fund, your gift is combined with hundreds of others from alumni, friends, parents, faculty and staff to create unrestricted funding for various necessities. The annual fund supports every aspect of the Wesley community from classroom resources, student events and financial aid to campus maintenance, facility expansion and athletics. Just by allocating a few dollars each month to Wesley instead of a morning coffee, you can change a student’s experience!

Log on now to make your gift today at www.weare.wesley.edu/onlinegiving

Filter your own water instead of buying a flat of bottled water.
Rent $1 movies instead of going to the theater (twice a month).
Buy a 12-pack of canned soda instead of individual bottles every day.
Pack your lunch three times a week instead of eating at a fast-food restaurant each weekday.

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<td>$10</td>
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<td>Buy a 12-pack of canned soda instead of individual bottles every day.</td>
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<td>$72</td>
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* Based on a .93 percent return, compounded annually.

Do you want to leave a legacy for your family, friends and Wesley College?

- Learn how to plan for tomorrow at www.weare.wesley.edu.
  Go to “Dedicated” and select “Giving to Wesley.” Then click on “Planned Giving.” You won’t find a more complete resource for estate and charitable planning anywhere else on the web.
- Discover a virtual encyclopedia of information on how to give.
- Access hundreds of up-to-date articles on making the most of your charitable giving.
- Calculate your income tax deduction for charitable gifts.
- We’ve created this website to help you dream about our future and yours. Visit us now!

It doesn’t take a lot to make a big difference! You’ve likely heard about the “latte factor,” or at least the concept behind it: if you routinely skip your morning cup of joe, you could save thousands of dollars. You don’t need to eliminate these expenses entirely, but reducing little frequent costs can add up to a lot over an extended period of time.

As little as $10 a month greatly helps Wesley College! When you give to the Annual Wesley Fund, your gift is combined with hundreds of others from alumni, friends, parents, faculty and staff to create unrestricted funding for various necessities. The annual fund supports every aspect of the Wesley community from classroom resources, student events and financial aid to campus maintenance, facility expansion and athletics. Just by allocating a few dollars each month to Wesley instead of a morning coffee, you can change a student’s experience! Log on now to make your gift today at www.weare.wesley.edu/onlinegiving.
1946
Pauline “Polly” (Ellingsworth) Thomas and husband Bill are now in their 52nd year of marriage – they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December 2007. After graduating from Wesley, Polly went on to University of Delaware, where she received her degree in Elementary Education in 1948. In her 10th year of teaching, she married Bill, a minister and widower with three young children. They had a fourth child together and had a busy and happy time raising their family. Retired since 1988, Polly and Bill enjoy living in their country home outside Lexington, Virginia. Polly also volunteers at the library and is involved in various church activities.

1946
Bill and Pauline “Polly” (Ellingsworth) Thomas

1962
John Atkins is currently the vice district governor for the nine counties of the Eastern Shore, Lions District 22B. In July, he will become the district governor at the international convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1964

1967
Tom Merkle writes, “The 1967 class was represented by three stalwarts of the defensive line of the 10-1 1966-1967 Wolverines football team at the 2008 homecoming: Jerry “the hammer” Alampi, Tom “the padre” Merkle and Matty “the mangler” Sellitto.

1967
(I to r): Jerry Alampi, Tom Merkle and Matty Sellitto

1969
Hey Class of ’69 – it’s our “BIG” year. See you at our reunion over Homecoming Weekend – October 2-4. I hear that the plans are in motion. Don’t miss it! Lyn Faulkner Buckhammer can be reached at lynfaulkner@yahoo.com

40th Reunion Class Contacts Ginny Paul (joep49@aol.com) or Jim Gibson (Highendbuilder@aol.com) can be contacted for more information. Details will also be posted soon at www.weare.wesley.edu

1969
Judie (Taylor) Barroll and her husband Stewart

1972
James E. Heinly reports that he is presently working at Selinsgrove Center, a Pennsylvania state facility for the physically and mentally challenged, in the Recreation department. He is also coaching track and field at Selinsgrove Area High School. He writes, “I was a member of the 1970/1971 football team and I am trying to locate missing game films from those years. Any players from those years that have them, please contact me. I would like to have them changed over to DVDs and share them with players and coaches.” Jim can be reached at: 6 Lost Creek Drive, Selinsgrove, PA 17870 or 570-743-9221.

1972
Judie (Taylor) Barroll

1974
Judie (Taylor) Barroll wrote in to report that she is the director of alumni programs at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. She and her husband, Stewart, participated in the recent inauguration of Dr. William Johnston, 16th president of Wesley College. Judie represented her other alma mater, Washington College, while husband Stewart represented his alma mater, Wake Forest Law School. Married three years in February, Judie and Stewart have four children and two grand-children between them both.

1981
Tom “T.C.” de Groot would like to say hello to classmates and friends. He writes, “I’m living in Moorpark, Maryland raising 3 daughters, working in radiology sales now for over 10 years. It’s an interesting and ever changing industry with new technology and healthcare demands evolving very rapidly. I get back to Dover often as Kent General Hospital is a busy client. Special greetings to Sydney Lipsen, Toni Scalise, Joe Cerko and Pam Bakely.” Any past acquaintances are encouraged to drop him a line and say hello at tdegroot@tams.com

1994
Wayne Hurd and Dan Kimmel ’95 are putting their Wesley baseball experience to use. Growing up together in Milford, Delaware and as teammates at Wesley and Milford High School, they have spent many days on the field honing their skills and continue to pass them down to area youth. In addition to time
spent coaching Little League baseball over the last several years, the two have recently joined together to coach a 10U travel baseball team. They look forward to the coming year and time spent teaching their favorite sport.

1997

Melissa Spadaccini is pleased to announce her marriage to John Wallo. They were wed on September 27, 2008 at Southside Baptist Church in Woodside, Delaware. The couple currently resides in Dover.

2001

Brian and Lauren (Decker) Shanklin ’02 are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Dana Elizabeth Shanklin. Dana was born on February 8, 2009. She weighed 6 lbs., 13 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. Brian and Lauren bought a house and remained in Dover since graduating from Wesley. Brian is the manager of the Fastenal Company store in Milford, Delaware and Lauren is a physical education teacher at Clayton Elementary School in the Smyrna School District.

2000

Jeremy Seilheimer ’00/’03 is employed as a physical education teacher and head football coach at W.T. Chipman Middle School in the Lake Forest School District. He recently led his team to a 2nd consecutive undefeated season in 2008. The 7th and 8th grade team posted four shutouts and outscored opponents by an average of 24 points per game, compiling back-to-back 7-0 seasons. The team’s season is detailed at www.chipmanfootball.com

2005

Pongthep “POM” Srisawaneekul reports that after graduating from Wesley, he returned to Thailand and started his first career with Thailand’s largest conglomerate, Siam Cement Group. He has been working in the department of international business (paper business) as an assistant regional sales manager since January 2006. He is responsible for Singapore, Malaysia and Australia markets. POM plans to pursue a master’s degree in Marketing at Royal Holloway (University of London).

In Memoriam

Esther DiBello
Viola Takaro Dougherty ’48
Andrew Geyer ’09
Anna Perry

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? Send or email your engagements, marriages, births, promotions or other news to be published in Wesley magazine to:

CLASS NOTES
Office of Alumni Affairs
Wesley College
120 North State Street
Dover, DE 19901
downesam@wesley.edu

LOG ON to the We Are Wesley online community to post your class notes and connect directly with old classmates. Find your first time login code above your address on the back of this issue.

www.weare.wesley.edu/classnotes

All submissions must include name, maiden name, class year and daytime phone number. PHOTOS WELCOME! Instructions for photo submissions can be found at www.weare.wesley.edu/faq

Due to limited space, submissions for Wesley magazine may not be printed in their entirety. Printing and/or editing of submissions is at the discretion of the Director of Publications.

Deadline for inclusion in the next issue of Wesley magazine is July 1.
HOMECOMING

WEEKEND EVENTS NOT TO MISS...
HOMECOMING PARADE
TAILGATE PARTY
WOLVERINE FOOTBALL VS. FROSTBURG
REUNION DINNER
YOUNG ALUMNI PARTY
GOLDEN GRADS BRUNCH
HISTORY & AMERICAN STUDIES ALUMNI GATHERING
AND MUCH MORE!

SPECIAL REUNIONS
CLASS OF ’59 – 50TH
CLASS OF ’64 – 45TH
CLASS OF ’69 – 40TH
CLASS OF ’99 – 10TH

FOR SCHEDULE UPDATES, ACCOMMODATIONS, ATTENDANCE LIST AND OTHER INFORMATION, VISIT THE HOMECOMING WEBPAGE ONLINE AT WWW.WEARE.WESLEY.EDU/HOMECOMING09

EVENTS WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND AND DOVER LODGING SELLS OUT QUICKLY, SO PLEASE BOOK NOW FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS! IF YOU’RE LIKELY TO ATTEND HOMECOMING 2009, GO TO THE WEBPAGE TO ADD YOUR NAME NOW TO OUR ONLINE LIST!

WESLEY COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 2-4
2009
Upcoming Wesley Activities

Visit www.weare.wesley.edu for more details. If you have questions or suggestions for future events, please contact the Alumni Office at 302-736-2318 or email downesam@wesley.edu

Wesley Contemporary Music Ensemble
Tuesday, April 21
7 p.m.
Schwartz Center for the Arts
Admission is FREE

Grad Finale & Career Fair for Spring Graduates
Wednesday, April 22
3 p.m.
Dover campus

Alumni Soccer Game and Post-Game BBQ
Saturday, April 25
3:30 p.m.
Scott D. Miller Stadium

Wesley Choir Spring Concert: Woven with Melody
Sunday, April 26
7 p.m.
Wesley College Chapel
Admission is FREE

Grad Finale for WCNC Graduates
Thursday, April 30
5:30 p.m.
Wesley New Castle campus

16th Annual Football Golf Outing
Friday, May 8
12 noon
Jonathan’s Landing
Magnolia, Delaware

Commencement
Saturday, May 9
10:30 a.m.
Dashiell Amphitheatre

Service Trip to Birmingham
May 16 – 23
Sponsored by the Chaplain’s Office

Wesley New Castle Alumni Gathering at Celebrity Kitchens
Saturday, May 30
12 noon
Wilmington, Delaware

Alumni Gathering at Candlelight Dinner Theatre — Oklahoma!
Friday, June 19
6 p.m.
Ardentown, Delaware

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend
October 2-4
Dover campus
Winter Sports Wrap-Up

**FOOTBALL WINS ACFCC FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE SEASON**

**FOOTBALL**

The start of the season brought about several questions for Wesley College football, but the program answered nearly all of them and advanced to the NCAA Division III Football Championships and an Atlantic Central Football Conference Championship for the fourth consecutive season.

Along the way, Wesley set several NCAA records on special teams, as well as garnering numerous conference accolades. The Wolverines set a Division III record by allowing a negative-five punt return yards. Return man **LARRY BEAVERS** set a new Division III record with 13 career runbacks for touchdowns. After the season, the Wolverines had 19 players named to the All-ACFC team, more than any other school in the conference. Wesley also won four of the five conference awards. **SHANE MCSWEENEY** was named Offensive Player of the Year, **SEAN MATTHEWS** was named Defensive Player of the Year and the Special Teams Player of the Year went to Beavers. Head Coach **MIKE DRASS** won his sixth ACFC Coach of the Year Award.

The Wolverines’ first game of the season at Christopher Newport was wiped out due to Tropical Storm Hanna. Then, an underrated Delaware Valley team converted a fourth and goal from the one yard line with 11 seconds left to defeat Wesley.

The Wesley team entered its home opener the next week with a new starting quarterback in sophomore McSweeney. But the signal caller and Beavers formed an immediate connection, hooking up eight times for 143 yards as the Wolverines routed Widener 41-9. A lopsided road win over ACFC foe Frostburg followed before the Wesley team traveled to Iona of Division I FCS. The defense was up to the challenge and a defensive point after a touchdown by **EDDIE DONISI** and a fourth quarter touchdown by **MIKE PENNEWELL** put the game out of reach for a 23-12 win.

Homecoming started what would prove to be an unprecedented run for the Wesley special teams. Beavers returned both a kick and a punt for a touchdown in a 48-0 conference win over Apprentice. Two more kick return scores followed the next week in the Wolverines’ fifth straight win, a 42-13 victory over Webber International.

Next up was Wesley’s annual game against Salisbury in the Route 13 Rivalry with the ACFC Championship on the line. The Wolverines became the first team all season to outrush the Sea Gulls and picked up a 36-21 win highlighted by 16 tackles from linebacker Matthews. Beavers scored three more times on special teams the next two weeks as Wesley outscored Lake Erie College and Gallaudet 92-33 to end the regular season.

Wesley awaited word on an NCAA bid and when the bracket was
announced, the team received its fourth straight trip to the postseason and traveled to Muhlenberg to face the Centennial Conference champions. Leading just 7-0 with one play left in the half, the Wolverines’ Irish Prayer was answered as McSweeney found tight end SEAN MCANDREW in the back of the end zone on a Hail Mary as time expired for a 13-0 lead. The defense did the rest, holding the Mules off the scoreboard for the first time in 11 years in a 20-0 victory.

Unfortunately, a familiar face, the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, ended Wesley’s season in the second round. The two teams have met in the NCAA playoffs in each of the past four seasons with each school winning twice. While the Wolverines graduate a senior class that went 46-7 over the course of four years, the cupboard will be far from bare. “We’re very proud of the tradition that Wesley College has built on the gridiron,” said Drass. Ten of Wesley’s 19 all-conference selections will return in 2009 as the Wolverines seek to continue their recent run of success.

MEN’S BASKETBALL
While most would say it is not a good idea to sprint a marathon, it seemed to work out fine for the Wesley College men’s basketball team in 2008-09. Over the long haul of the four month season, the Wolverines did not slow down, finishing fourth in NCAA Division III in scoring offense and winning a school record 18 games. The Wesley team also won its first conference title in 21 years by winning the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Championship Tournament and punching its ticket for the first NCAA bid in the program’s history.

Without a player on the team taller than 6’4”, Wesley was forced to rethink its philosophy on the court. Head Coach JERRY KOBASA and his staff came up with the frenetic style that wore out opponent after opponent in the second half, while the Wolverines just got better. Wesley averaged over 87 points per game in the season and with an abundance of perimeter players, finished second in the nation by making 10.7 threes per game.

“What these guys did this year was amazing,” noted Kobasa, “especially when you consider the size we lost in the offseason.”

There was an adjustment period to the new style of play, however. Wesley started the season just 3-5 before outlasting Westfield State 73-70 on January 4. The Wolverines picked up the pace and just kept winning from there. Starting with that game, Wesley won 11 in a row and was held under 90 points just twice during the streak. The Wolverines also won their first 10 CAC games and finished the season 12-4 to earn the second seed in the conference tournament.

After receiving a bye in the first round, the Wolverines received 48 points and 12 threes from their all-conference senior duo of Johnson and Martin. From there it was on to the finals against Marymount (Va.). The Saints stifled the Wolverines’ offense
High Scores
120 Wolverines Earn over 3.0 in Fall

DURING THE 2008 fall semester, 128 Wesley College student-athletes, representing each of the college’s 19 athletic programs, earned a 3.0 or better grade point average.

The fall semester overlapped with eight fall sports and two winter sport seasons. Impressively, 86 Wolverines competing either in fall and/or winter sports earned at least a 3.0 during their season. Also impressive is the fact that of Wesley’s 21 student-athletes participating in more than one sport, 10 of them reached this mark.

The field hockey team posted the highest team grade point average of 3.11. “These student athletes are to be both celebrated and commended for handling the rigors of their academic programs while ably representing Wesley on the field of play,” noted President William Johnston. “I am thrilled for each of these students and congratulate them on this tremendous achievement.”

in the first half by holding Johnson and Martin in check, and led by 10 points at halftime. Wesley’s supporting cast stepped up and quickly erased the lead, but still trailed before RUDY THOMAS hit three threes in less than two minutes as part of a 14-0 run that snatched the conference title for the Wolverines with a 64-51 win.

Wesley drew nationally ranked Franklin & Marshall, one of the winningest programs in Division III history in the first round of the NCAA Championships. The Diplomats finally slowed down the Wolverines and cut Wesley’s postseason trip short.

This year’s Wesley team featured just two seniors in Johnson and Martin. The duo combined to score over 3,300 career points and their names are littered all over the school’s record book. However, the remaining 11 players on Kobasa’s roster all have at least another year of eligibility. The squad looks to add distance to the most successful four-year run in school history and continue its postseason journey.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Wesley College’s 2008-09 women’s basketball team had its share of record-breaking achievements this season. The Wolverines were the most prolific team in the NCAA Division III in three-point field goals per game, canning 8.7 per game — a school record. Many of those came from junior forward COLLEEN THOMAS, who sank a Wesley record 93 and finished in the top seven in the nation.

Thomas’s record made her one of three Wesley student-athletes on the team to set school records during the year. Sophomore forward ANGIE OWENS set a Wesley record with 22 rebounds in a win over NCAA qualifier Greensboro, then tied it the following game against Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) rival Stevenson. The Seaford, Delaware native ended the season on top of the conference leader board in rebounding and a school record 332 boards on her way to All-CAC first team honors.

Sophomore point guard CORY BOYD
obliterated the Wolverines’ assist record, dishing out 207 on her way to a place on the All-CAC second team. The Point Pleasant, New Jersey native averaged 6.7 assists per game and was fourth in NCAA Division III. Many of those assists went to Owens and Thomas, who finished with the fourth and fifth most points in a season at Wesley College, respectively. Thomas, a Howell, New Jersey product, also became the seventh student-athlete in program history to score over 1,000 career points, reaching the milestone in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) semifinals.

While the Wolverines would later win 17 games and advance to the ECAC South Championship game, the season did not start out smoothly. Wesley won just once in its first six games, before picking up a win over Gallaudet in the squad’s CAC opener. The Wolverines then hosted Mount Saint Vincent and Greensboro in the Wesley College Classic. After beating a Dolphin team that would later finish second to the Wolverines in threes per game, Wesley dispatched a Pride Squad that would not lose again for 21 games.

That may not, however, have been the biggest victory of the Wolverines’ season. That win might have been on January 21, when Wesley used a tough defense to shut down nationally ranked Mary Washington, who would eventually win the CAC and advance to the NCAA playoffs, 52-48.

The Wolverines also won three postseason games, winning once in the CAC Championships, before advancing to the ECAC South Tournament and winning in both the quarterfinals and semifinals. Wesley won 10 games in the CAC and finished fourth in a conference where the top three teams all went to the NCAA Championships.

Seeded seventh in the eight team field, Wesley knocked off second seeded Gwynedd-Mercy, then traveled to Manhattanville College, host of the final four, and pulled off its second upset of the tournament to advance to the finals for the first time in school history. Wesley fell to a Juniata team that had been on fire throughout the tournament.

Wesley’s 17 wins are the fifth most in school history and mark the second straight year that Head Coach James Wearden’s crew produced a five-win improvement. More impressive is the fact that Wesley accomplished all it did without a single senior on its roster and just a pair of juniors to team with six sophomores and four freshmen.

The Wesley team also won its first conference title in 21 years by winning the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Championship Tournament and punching its ticket for the first NCAA bid in the program’s history.
Late on a Sunday night in August 1990, STEVE CLARK, now Wesley College’s head men’s soccer coach and director of international programs, first arrived on campus with just an orange backpack and a small suitcase. Clark recalled, “I remember my first visit here with former athletic director and baseball coach BOB REED on a hot May day in 1990. Following the job interview, I took a two mile walk out along Division Street to Route 8 so that no one would see me hitch-hike back across the Bay Bridge to Maryland where I was staying.”

Clark’s compensation that first year was just $4,000 and a room in the basement of Gooding Hall. Reminiscing about those early days, he said, “At our first practice we had just nine lads out on the old intramural field (now the tennis courts) with no goals. In that first game, we had one shot from 40 yards and that was as close to scoring as we came. Then at the other end, our keeper (DAN MARTIN) was sensational and his reward was conceding six goals and a broken nose.” Fortunately for Clark and his players, the team improved. “I had no TV and no money, so I recruited hard and got to know the lads well,” he continued. The 1990 team finished 9-9 after having won just 8 games the three previous seasons. That same year, Clark was recognized with the Eastern States Athletic Conference Coach of the Year Award.

Now 19 years later, Clark is still “loving the coaching — the constant challenge that each season brings and working in a dynamic college environment. Plus, I have a beautiful family that keeps me laughing and on my toes.” He now resides in Grasonville, Maryland with his wife Lisa and daughters Gabrielle and Devon.

Clark has tackled many jobs while at Wesley, including instructor, resident director, assistant lacrosse coach and director for study abroad and international admissions. He has worked with three College presidents and numerous deans of students and athletic directors and even served a stint as the athletic director for six years during the 1990s. Clark’s tenure in that position remains one of the longest since Wesley became an NCAA member. During that time, he took Wesley to the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC), initiated several new sports and hired some of the Wolverines’ most successful coaches to date, such as ED MUNTZ, head women’s soccer coach; TRACEY SHORT, head field hockey and softball coach; and RICK MCCALL, head golf coach. Under Clark’s leadership as athletic director, men’s and women’s cross country, women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse were all added as intercollegiate sports at Wesley.

“It was a period of transformation for the College and tough as an administrator. We had limited resources, but still the pressure to recruit and perform well,” Clark explained. Although some of the teams at that time, including his own, suffered the consequences of a transitional period and a small budget, he is pleased at how far the soccer program has come. “We are back now, and if I can get this present squad to invest in the program and each other and to balance their lives academically, socially and with their passion for soccer, then we will crack the nation’s Top 25,” Clark said.

This past fall, the current team, despite playing
without a senior on the roster and just two juniors, successfully advanced to the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Championship, knocked off the No. 2 team in the nation and received an invitation to the ECAC Championships. In addition, Clark was voted CAC Coach of the Year in the program’s second year in the conference. “Coach Clark is one of the winningest coaches in Wesley College history, in any sport,” said Wesley College Executive Director of Sports and Recreation MIKE DRASS.

“2008 was a great year for Wesley College soccer and we are proud of Coach Clark becoming the first coach to earn CAC Coach of the Year honors.”

In addition to his duties on the soccer pitch, Clark currently helps with the college’s study abroad program and provides assistance to the international students at Wesley. A native of London, England, he is always encouraging students to travel. “I firmly believe that exposure to another culture and to other people with a different history, a different education system and different business practices is a great learning tool,” said Clark. “The experience helps students mature and develop as they tackle the challenges of learning overseas and often gives those students a better appreciation for what they have at home,” he continued.

Practicing what he preaches, Clark has taken his teams on tours overseas to England. “It is quite a responsibility, but I love these trips, and the feedback from alumni reflecting on their tour has always been wonderful,” he said.

When Clark was a student at Manchester University in England, he used his summers to hitchhike around Europe and the United States. Following graduation, he spent some time playing soccer, coaching and traveling before founding Sports Communications, a small sport tour business. His love for soccer, however, pulled him back into coaching, first as a graduate assistant at Frostburg State University before coming to Wesley.

“As a coach, you want your players to graduate, develop friendships, win games and most importantly, to leave feeling connected, stronger mentally and better prepared to help themselves as well as to help others.”

It is that passion for soccer that has Clark constantly looking for ways to improve the program. Fundraising for a team locker room is a priority now. “You need a home, a place to prepare and bond before and after the game and each practice. The ‘human huddle’ is not conducive to developing a nationally ranked program,” he explained.

While there are still some items on his agenda, Clark takes pride in the successes of his program and former players. Wesley is one of an elite group of schools in small college soccer to have had a graduate appear in a Major League Soccer match, when G.R. Cannon played for DC United in 2005. Yet, Clark knows that each student-athlete is here first and foremost to earn his degree and to develop his character, his confidence and resume for success after college. “As a coach, you want your players to graduate, develop friendships, win games and most importantly, to leave feeling connected, stronger mentally and better prepared to help themselves as well as to help others,” he said.

Looking back on his experiences at the College over the years, Clark expressed, “I am very grateful for all at Wesley and the opportunity that I have here to coach the game I love.” He may have retired that orange backpack and given up his hitchhiking days, but his journey is far from over. He added, “Hopefully my players can forget my occasional mistakes. I know I remember more of the losses than the wins, but always feel excited about the future.”

The Clark family enjoys a night out at a Wesley event (l to r): Gabrielle, Lisa, Steve and Devon.
Crease is the Word

WESLEY WELCOMES NEW MEN’S LACROSSE COACH BILL GORROW

The coming of the New Year is often a time for change. This was true for one of Wesley College’s most successful athletic programs in recent years when BILL GORROW was chosen as the Wolverines’ new men’s lacrosse coach in January.

“We had several outstanding candidates for the position,” Drass noted. “Through the process, it became evident that Coach Gorrow was the most qualified for the job. We look forward to a bright future with Bill Gorrow as our head coach.”

If his prior coaching experience gives any indication, the future undoubtedly should be bright for the men’s lacrosse program under Gorrow. While he may be new to Wesley College, Gorrow is no stranger in lacrosse coaching circles and brings an impressive resume to Dover. He won the 1998 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championship and has nearly 28 years of collegiate coaching experience, including 21 as a head coach. During that time, he has posted 171 career victories and a .643 winning percentage.

Most recently, Gorrow was the head coach at Franklin & Marshall College, where he ended his tenure with the second-most wins of any head coach of the Diplomats, one of the top programs in NCAA Division III. His teams were nationally ranked each year from 2003 through 2005, rising as high as ninth in the rankings when the team advanced to the NCAA Quarterfinals and posted a 12-4 record. Gorrow’s 2002 squad won the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship in 2002 and his teams have produced eight All-Americans and two Academic All-Americans.

Prior to his time at Franklin & Marshall, Gorrow coached at Anne Arundel Community College from 1993-2001, posting an astounding 106-29 record. He led his team to the NJCAA Quarterfinals or better for nine consecutive years, including four appearances in the title game. In 1998, Anne Arundel claimed the NJCAA National Championship, and Gorrow was named the National Junior College Coach of the Year in 1999. In addition, he was named the Conference Coach of the Year from 1994-1996 and from 1998-2000.

Having earned his bachelor’s degree in Physical Education and Sports Management from SUNY Brockport in 1979, Gorrow became the first full-time head lacrosse coach at Georgetown University in 1983, a position he held at the NCAA Division I institution until 1989. During his tenure as head coach, he also served as the Hoyas’ director of athletic support services and facilities. In that capacity, he coordinated practice schedules for all teams and organized support staff for event management of home athletic contests.

Before becoming a head coach, he was an assistant coach at Washington College, Ithaca College and North County Community College. He also served a stint as an assistant coach at the United States Naval Academy from 1989-92.

While the Wolverines have been successful in recent years, winning 39 times in the past four seasons, Gorrow hopes to take the program to even greater heights. He can often be found in his office late into the evening making recruiting calls and preparing for the 2009 season. “I’d like to thank Dr. Johnston and Mike Drass for the opportunity to coach at Wesley College,” Gorrow said. “I’m honored and excited to take over a program that has been built on a solid foundation as we try to move to the next level.”

He inherits a Wesley program that has won at least eight games in each of the past four seasons while winning over 70 percent of its conference games, and received votes in the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Top 20 in 2008. The current squad also features one Preseason All-American in defense man KIRK WALDIE.

It may be a new year and a fresh start for the team, but the challenge of building a stellar men’s lacrosse program is nothing new for Gorrow. Creating winning teams is what this hardworking coach knows best. The Wesley community will look forward in anticipation to what lies ahead in this lacrosse season and beyond. W
Sure Shot

THE RECORD-BREAKING RASHAWN JOHNSON

During his senior year at Sussex Tech, RASHAWN JOHNSON was named the Gatorade Boys’ High School Player of the Year in Delaware. Typically, an athlete who wins a state player of the year award goes on to a large Division I institution. But when Johnson’s high school coach, Jerry Kobasa, took over at Wesley College, his choice was simple.

“He is like a father figure to me,” Johnson said of COACH KOBASA. “I have known him for eight years now and if it were not for his toughness and leadership off the court, I don’t know what I would be doing today.”

Luckily for the Wolverines’ men’s basketball team, two of the things Johnson has been doing for four years now are scoring points and winning games. The only member of his freshman class to play each of the past four years (two others sat out seasons and have eligibility remaining), Johnson is the winningest player of the Wolverines’ Division III era with 59 wins.

The win record is just one of many Wesley standards set by the Selbyville, Delaware native during his career. He became the Wolverines’ all-time leading scorer early during his senior season and finished up with 2,388 points, over 600 more than Larry Bryant’s previous record. Johnson also set Wesley records for three pointers in a season with 83, breaking his own record, and three pointers in a career with 294. By averaging 24.3 points per game, Johnson was the leading scorer in the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) and was named the conference’s Player of the Year.

While the Wolverines’ season came to an end in March after the NCAA Tournament, Johnson was named one of the 10 finalists for the prestigious Jostens Trophy, the Division III Player of the Year Award. The award takes into account three vital components: basketball ability, academic prowess and community service. The trophy models the Rotary motto of “Service above Self” by recognizing those who truly fit the ideal of the well-rounded Division III student-athlete. Johnson’s selection to the final list made him the first student-athlete in Wesley College men’s basketball history to earn the honor.

In addition to his basketball ability, Johnson has demonstrated his community involvement by working with area youth and serving as a camp instructor. In addition, Wesley’s basketball program has done clinics for the Special Olympics and has read to local elementary school children.

For Johnson, more important than his personal accolades are the team accomplishments. Wesley won a school record 18 games in 2008-09 and won its first CAC Championship, the team’s first conference title in 21 years. Along with the conference title was another first for the Business Administration major and his teammates — a trip to the NCAA Championships.

“Nothing compares to the team going to that next level. That’s everyone’s dream,” said Johnson. “I still can’t explain that feeling. You work so hard to get to that level, and for it to actually happen…it’s unreal.”

Hard work has been a key to Johnson’s success. The 6’3” guard is known to shoot as many as 1,000 jump shots daily in an effort to hone his game. He is hoping that the NCAA Tournament is not the end of his basketball career and would like to continue his career professionally. Kobasa shares the sentiment. He said, “I’ve been fortunate enough to coach this young man for eight years. He’s a special young man. He loves the game of basketball and is a good student too. I just wish there were a way to continue the ride.”

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Thank You!

We express our sincere gratitude to those whose generous gifts have contributed to the welfare and advancement of Wesley College.

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