

# THE WHETSTONE

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THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF WESLEY COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2015



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## Car Crashes into Tennis Court Fence

By Kristen Griffith  
Editor-in-Chief  
and Brandon Smith  
The Whetstone

A car crashed into Wesley's tennis court fence on Cecil Street when attempting to drive away from Dover Police about 8 p.m. on Dec. 3.

"I heard a car coming extremely fast across the street," said an eyewitness. "Then I looked out the window and saw a car coming from the New Street direction with a cop car in pursuit."

Police said Alex Durham, 24, the driver of the car, was arrested after running through the fenced tennis courts and trapping himself inside. The passenger, Ayana Caldwell, also 24, was arrested as well.

They were arrested on drug and firearm charges, according to Dover Police.

The red Pontiac Grand Am Durham was driving nearly hit a police car as it was driving on the wrong side of the road, according to police.



Dover Police stand next to crime scene on Cecil Street

Kristen Griffith/The Whetstone

Police said when they attempted to stop the Pontiac, it sped off.

Durham lost control, which resulted in one-half of the car on the tennis court, and the other half on the sidewalk.

Police said Durham was under the influence.

The eyewitness said cop cars were coming from every direction.

"Governors, Mary, Cecil, cops were everywhere,"

the eyewitness said, naming the streets around Wesley's tennis court.

The eyewitness, who did not want to be named for the protection of her family, also said she saw three or four passengers in the car, although the police report never mentioned any other passengers.

"Somebody from the right side [either from the passenger seat or the back seat] bolted through the

tennis court parking lot with at least six or seven police officers in pursuit," the eyewitness said.

She said one or two people stayed in the car.

She also said she heard an officer shout "gun" when chasing the man through the tennis courts.

"With all that went on, the cops were professional," she said. "They didn't pull any guns out, never got loud, never snatched anyone up."

She said the police arrested a bystander who refused to back away from the crime scene, but there wasn't much action after that.

She said police were on the tennis court looking for something.

Police said they found a stolen Smith and Wesson 9 mm pistol loaded with eight rounds of ammunition.

Durham was taken to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center on \$81,800 cash bond while Caldwell was released on an unsecured bond.

## Pageant Fliers Create Controversy

By Kristen Griffith  
Editor-in-Chief and  
Brittany Wilson  
Managing Editor

The flier pictured the profile of a black woman wearing tribal accessories. It read "Africa Rising!!!" and included a date, time, location and how to purchase a ticket.

Created by the multicultural student union (MSU) and the African student association (ASA), the flier advertised the Ms. and Mr. Africa pageant, an event meant to educate the campus about African culture.

But soon after the flier was posted, senior Teledalase Ogundipe, president of MSU, noticed the event was not listed in the Wolverine Weekly.

"I sent a copy of the flier to Student Affairs and asked

them to send a mass email," Ogundipe said. "The secretary of MSU did the same. We didn't get a reply."

After the committee members emailed Student Affairs a second time, Dean Wanda Anderson met with Essenam Danku, president of African student association. Anderson told her to change their fliers because they were receiving complaints.

"We were told that email complaints said our show was exclusive to a specific group of people," Ogundipe said. "In order to correct that misconception, they said we should include 'everyone is welcome.'"

Ogundipe replaced the fliers with "Everyone is welcome" at the bottom

But not all the previous fliers had been taken down, and the Student Government Association received more complaints about the

Ms. & Mr. Africa  
2015  
"Africa Rising!!!"

Date: Saturday, Nov. 21

Time: 7-10pm

Location: Wells Theatre

Ticket Sale: \$5, Nov. 9-17  
CC Lobby



Ms. & Mr. Africa  
2015  
"Africa Rising!!!"

Saturday, Nov. 21

7-10pm

Get your free ticket

"Everyone is welcome..."



Provided by the multicultural student union and the African student association  
The original Ms. and Mr. Africa flier, top and the edited one, below

- Please see Pageant p. 2



## From Pageant on p. 1: MSU and ASA Change Pageant Fliers

fliers.

When Dr. Cynthia Newton, student government association adviser, was told about the complaints, she emailed ASA member Francis Quartey three days before the Nov. 21 event to fix it.

"We have had follow-up complaints that there are several places on campus where the fliers have not been amended," Newton's Nov. 18 email read. "Could you please address this by tomorrow morning (Thursday). If it continues to be an issue, SGA may have to explore further action."

After a series of back-and-forth emails, President Robert Clark called a meeting of everyone involved, including Newton, Anderson, Dr. Agashi Nwobaga, who advises the ASA and MSU, and Ogundipe.

Before the meeting, Ogundipe said she and some

of the committee members felt discriminated against.

Dr. Agashi Nwobaga, adviser of both ASA and MSU, said changing the fliers was only part of the problem.

"After they [changed the flier] and already provided SGA with an updated copy that was already being shown publicly in the electronic notice board, some undisclosed people were still complaining that they sighted a stray copy of the old flier at an undisclosed location on campus, and that ASA and MSU should do something or else," he said.

Ogundipe said the committee members thought Anderson and Newton were making them adapt to other people's way of thinking.

"By making us put 'everyone is welcome' on the flier, and you're not requesting that from other student or-

**"By making us put 'everyone is welcome' on the flier, and you're not requesting that from other student organizations as well, in a way you're making us admit to those people that we were being racist at first. You're giving them that satisfaction that they were right and we were wrong."**

**- Teledalase Ogundipe**

organizations as well, in a way you're making us admit to those people that we were being racist at first," Ogundipe said. "You're giving them that satisfaction that they were right and we were wrong."

Newton said miscommunication exaggerated the concern about advertising the event.

"To the best of my knowledge this situation was settled when all of the involved parties came together to discuss it and agreed it was settled," she

said.

Clark said it was about miscommunication and the issue was resolved.

"We had a really good session a few weeks back when we got several of the concerned parties together," Clark said.

Newton also said the meeting ended on a good note.

"What started out as a bad day turned into a positive outcome with hugs and apologies all around," she said.

Ogundipe said during

the meeting that the group thought about making every organization say, "Everyone is welcome," on all event fliers.

"Are we really doing any good by doing that?" she said.

Ogundipe said she was happy with the meeting, but was still unhappy about the situation.

"It's sad when people act that way when we're trying to do something good for our continent," she said.

Of the 60 students who attended the pageant, about 10 were white.

Ogundipe said that made her happy.

"I imagined that it was going to be a mixture of white, black or everyone showing up," she said. "From the nature of the issue, having at least one, two, or three show up put a smile on my face."

## Opinion: I Don't Always Feel Welcome

By **Brittany Wilson**  
Managing Editor

As a white student, I have never felt personally discriminated against at Wesley College.

But I have felt "unwelcome."

When I first heard about the issue concerning the fliers for the Mr. and Ms. Africa Pageant, it was presented as a silly misunderstanding with an easy fix: "just add 'Everyone is welcome' in bold on the bottom of the flyer to instantly make the event inclusive of all races."

From my perspective, however, adding that phrase doesn't really change anything—the event was already intended for all students, regardless of race, to come together to learn more about African



Kristen Griffith/The Whetstone  
Brittany Wilson

culture.

As a student, I am automatically invited to the activities and events sponsored by campus organizations.

As a white student, I have never viewed any event as discriminatory or "racist" for celebrating a specific culture.

In fact, I think it is important for students to have

an understanding of not only their own culture, but others' as well—the willingness to embrace it all is what I believe America (and Wesley College) should stand for.

As a student, I believe everyone was already welcome, even before the flier said so.

But that doesn't mean I would ever attend.

Not because I am uninterested in the material being presented, or because I lack the motivation to get involved. It's my own ignorance, my own preconceptions that hold me back.

It is not the events, but the names of the organizations—Multicultural Student Union, African Student Association, Black Student Union—that seem exclusive. I am a white girl with Irish and English roots—there is nothing

'multicultural,' 'African' or 'Black' about my appearance. I personally would feel out of place, or even unwelcome, to join an organization that, by its title, sounds specific to one race not my own.

I know the organizations do not intend for people to feel this way, but I also know that I am not the only one. Of the 60 people who attended the Mr. and Ms. Africa Pageant, only ten of them—17 percent—were white. Why? Because regardless of what the flier says, the misconceptions about certain organizations still stand.

But isn't that just a reflection of our nation's current racial issues? Here, on a much smaller scale, it is visible how easily things become miscommunicated, profiled, divided and entirely misunderstood.

But it doesn't have to be this way. We are one nation, one college, one student body. Everyone is welcome.

In the words of Condoleezza Rice, "The essence of America—that which really unites us—is not ethnicity, or nationality or religion—it is an idea—and what an idea it is: That you can come from humble circumstances and do great things."

Adding a simple phrase to a flier may put this particular issue to rest, but the only thing that will truly solve the problem is education. If students understand that they are welcome within an organization, they will immediately recognize that they are also welcome to attend events.



### "5 PROGRAM"

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Turn in your "5 Program" card to the ARC (PL107) to be entered in a drawing for a monthly prize

Thinking about joining The Whetstone? The Whetstone is always looking for reporters and photographers to join the staff. Help us create impactful stories for the student body.

If interested, come out to our meetings every Tuesday on the fourth floor of the college center. We're located in room 419.

For any questions, contact:

Kristen Griffith (Editor-in-Chief) - kristen.griffith@email.wesley.edu  
Brittany Wilson (Managing Editor) - brittany.wilson@email.wesley.edu  
Victor Greto (Advisor) - victor.greto@wesley.edu



# SPEAK Hosts Open Mic in Underground

**By Kristen Griffith**  
 Editor-in-Chief  
 The Whetstone

SPEAK's second open mic night of the semester attracted about 50 students to fill the dozen couches and chairs facing the stage. "Open mic is a time for people to express themselves through art," Kevin Johnson, the spoken word club's president, said to the audience.

The spoken word club offered a sign-up sheet, microphone and small stage Dec. 3 for anyone who wanted to perform.

Freshman Mavin Willis was SPEAK's featured artist of the night. "A feature artist goes up during a certain time of the show and does a set of about three pieces," Willis said.

Willis stepped to the stage during the middle of the open mic with an introduction and explanation of her poems, "Step into my heart" and "Love song."



Adriane Fraser/The Whetstone

Mavin Willis performs one of her three poems at open mic

Willis said the poems are part of a series. "[Step into my heart] is getting to know the person you like, and [Love song] is now that I got you, here's how I feel," she said. Willis said she was nervous during her first poem. "For the second poem, I

was warmed up, and for the last one, I knew I had to kill it," she said. Snaps, hoots and hollering went on throughout the performance. The audience even demanded Willis to repeat certain stanzas to enjoy it one more time. "I like getting the crowd's

attention," she said. Junior Dominic McAnulty, vice president of SPEAK, said he was impressed with Willis. "Real big props to Mavin, she was phenomenal," he said. McAnulty performed a poem he wrote in 30 minutes during one of SPEAK's meetings. Junior Patrick Schlosser, SPEAK's treasurer, said

this open mic exceeded his expectations, although he had hoped for a bigger audience. "I think it was a big step for us," he said. "I think this one was a bit smaller than the last one we had." Schlosser previewed two original pieces that night, "Suicidal Steps" and "Old Souls." "I wanted to get a feel for how it sounded and the



Adriane Fraser/The Whetstone

Students react to the performance on stage

- Please see Open Mic p. 6

# Wesley's Admissions Process Wins Students Over

**By Eric Wainwright**  
 The Whetstone

Junior Anthony Sammons came to Wesley College because of its atmosphere. The people made him feel welcome. "The admission process at Wesley was really laid back," he said. "They gave me ample scholarship money and they were really friendly. I felt like Wesley wanted me more than any of the bigger schools I applied to."

That feeling Sammons got is part of the goal of the Admissions Office, said Chris Jester, an admissions counselor.

"We look at multiple factors," he said. "Certainly academics play a large role



Eric Wainwright/The Whetstone

Anthony Sammons was satisfied with the admissions process

in determining if a student can be accepted into Wesley, but we like to go beyond the academics as

well to try and help build prospective student's connection to campus." Jester said the admissions

process can be intimidating to people. "It's our job to try and make it less so by assisting in any way that we can," he said. Junior Nmandi Njoku, said his admissions experience was smooth. "It made me want to attend Wesley even more because of how helpful everyone was," he said. Jester said his office finds out as much as they can about a student. "If a student has a particular interest in an extra-curricular activity of any sort, we want to be able to encourage those students to feel comfortable in exploring those interests by connecting with those on campus who are taking part or leading this activi-

ties," he said. Not every student has been happy about his choice. Chantz Mckeller, a senior from Long Island, New York, said he chose the college because of the range of school activities. "However, they did not disclose to me how rural or centrally located the school was in Dover," he said. Jester said the Admissions Office is crucial to a student's initial feeling about Wesley. "The Admissions Office is the first exposure to Wesley that most students have and I think we do a good job of portraying the spirit of Wesley early on which allows families to feel comfortable when interacting with us," he said.

The Whetstone, Wesley College's INDEPENDENT, student newspaper, will provide students with accurate, ethical and well-balanced stories that impact and interest students, faculty, and staff.

The Whetstone is the medium for the student voice. It is run by and answers only to the students at Wesley College.

*Kristen Griffith*  
 Editor-in-Chief  
 kristen.griffith@email.wesley.edu  
 Follow us on Twitter: @WhetstoneWesley

*WHETSTONE STAFF - FALL 2015*

<i>Editor-in-Chief</i> Kristen Griffith kristen.griffith@email.wesley.edu	<i>Reporters/ Photographers</i>	<i>Advisers</i>
<i>Managing Editor</i> Brittany Wilson brittany.wilson@email.wesley.edu	Adriane Fraser	Victor Greto - print
<i>Online Editor</i> Emily Temple emily.temple@email.wesley.edu	Brandon Smith	Tery Griffin - online



# Senior Project: The City of Baltimore



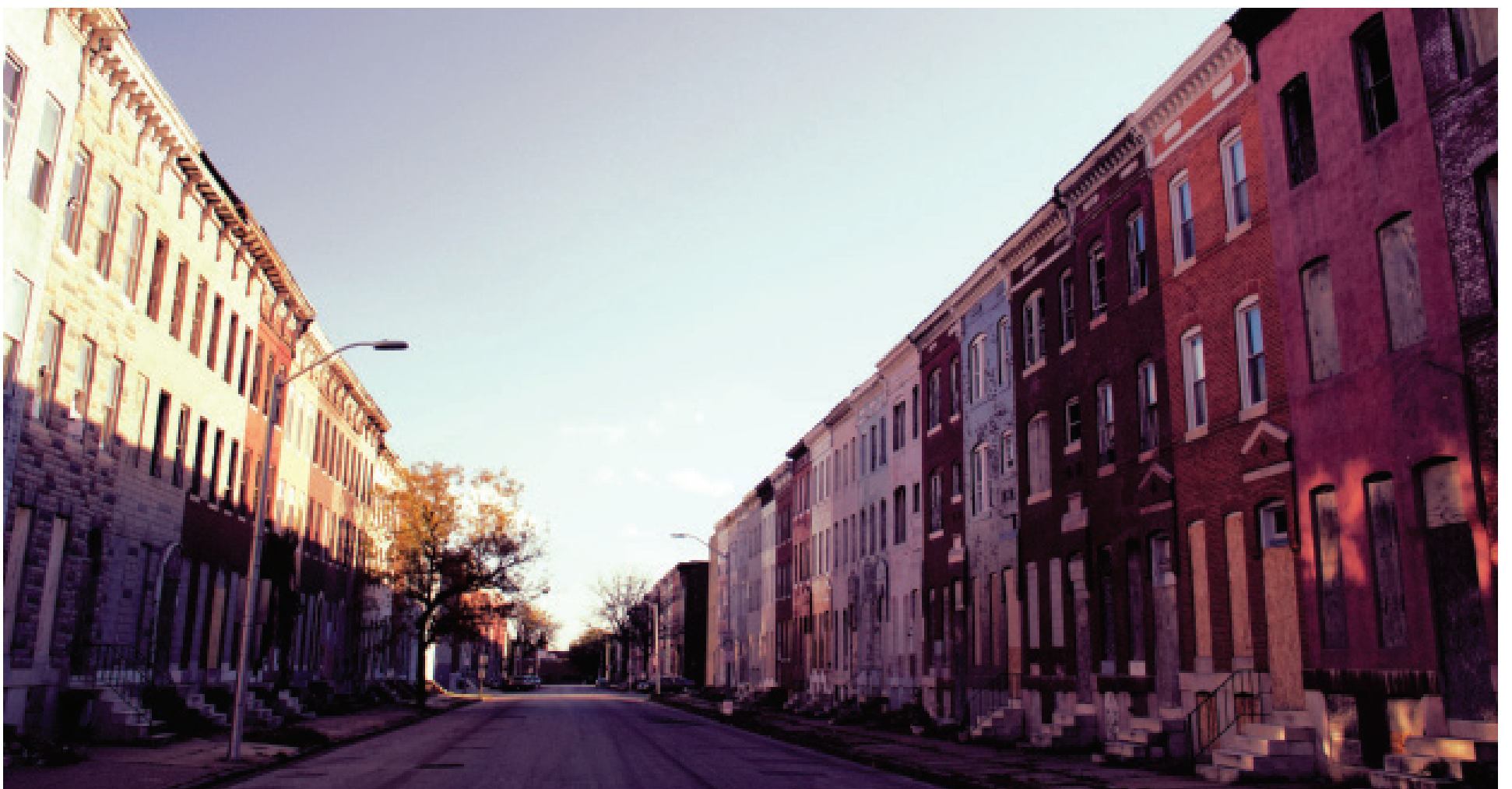
Photos by Kennard Squirrell

Squirrell, multimedia communication major, captured the inner city of Baltimore, his home town, using digital photography for his senior project.





# Senior Project: The City of Baltimore





# Students Spend Holidays on Campus

By Raiisha Jefferson  
The Whetstone

With Thanksgiving coming up and Christmas right around the corner, Sophomore Bruce Mosley couldn't be happier to be going home for Thanksgiving break.

"I don't stay on Thanksgiving break because I'd rather be home with my family," said Mosley. "However, I'll be staying on campus during the winter," said Mosley. "It doesn't cost me anything because I play baseball."

The story is different for other students.

"I stayed on campus for Thanksgiving break because the football team had a game," said sophomore



Wesley's decorated Christmas tree in the College Center

Kristen Griffith/The Whetstone

Ben Robinson.

With the addition of athletes staying on campus, there are also international students – those who stay for four years and the exchange students who stay for just one semester.

"We have 40 students that are on an educational visa," said Kevin Cullen, director of international programs.

Out of the 40 international students, 17 are undergraduate and 23 are graduate. However, of the 17 undergraduate students, 10 of them live in dorms.

"About five or six of the students will stay for the winter break," Cullen said.

If they decide to stay on campus, the school charges them \$500 for the winter

semester, said Rebecca Miller, Study Abroad Advisor and International Recruiter.

"We treat them like regular students, so they are charged the same amount," she said.

Junior Chancel Zorbelwu felt it was better for her to go back to her home country, Ghana, during the summer instead of Thanksgiving and Christmas break.

"I stay in Maryland [with my uncle] instead of staying on campus for the winter break," she said.

"The tickets for airfare is usually about \$2000 dollars or more depending on the time I go to my home country."

## New Year's Eve Traditions Differ Among Students

By Danae' Carter  
The Whetstone

Sophomore Mercedes Myrick said her roommates are her New Year's family.

"One of my roommates has a birthday on the holiday so we celebrate that together and turn it into a big party for both occasions," she said.

Many students are gearing up for celebrations and resolutions to bring in the New Year. Students also said they are excited to participate in their yearly family traditions.

"For New Year's, me and all my cousins come together and have a little get together," said freshman Domingo Johnson. "We



Mercedes Myrick spends New Year's with her roommate and her family

Kristen Griffith/The Whetstone

buy sparkling cider, snacks, and just wait for the New Year to come."

Freshman Maria Gonzales

says her family approach's New Year's a little different than most.

"Everyone in our house-

hold has to get rid of two old things that they don't use anymore, to make room for something new," she said. "This is a tradition that my parents have done, and our ancestors."

Junior Tyrik Thomas' family whips up a big meal.

"On New Year's Eve, my family cooks pig's feet and chitlins to bring in the New Year," he said. "We also wait by the TV all day for the ball to drop in New York City."

Senior Adeola James said his family typically goes to church on New Year's Eve.

"Afterwards, we then split up and go to parties," he said.

Senior Alayssa Thomas is

getting used to celebrating the New Year.

"I am from Guyana, so my family did not do much for New Year's," she said. "Since I have been in America we have adopted a tradition of watching the ball drop in New York on TV. Now we try to just spend time with as much family as possible."

Senior D'Ashia Walker said she believes in New Year's Eve luck.

"We all go over to my grandmother's house and everyone brings a good luck dish to eat that'll start the New Year off right," she said. "One of our dishes include black-eyed peas to give us a lot of luck throughout the year."

## From Open Mic on p.3: Spoken Word Club Entertains Students

audience's reaction," he said. "They both hit how I wanted them to hit."

Johnson said he was content with the performances.

"A lot of SPEAK members that performed showed their progression, especially Mavin and Kierra," he said.

Kierra Dukes and Savannah Love were other SPEAK members who performed a couple of original pieces.

Johnson also performed two pieces as well.

"The set I did today was kind of highlighting my new lifestyle," he said, referring to his closer relationship with God.



Jasmine Montalvo sings her own version of "Hello" by Adele

Adriane Fraser/The Whetstone

His poem, "An open letter to my past ways," was a personal reminder to remain who he is, and not who he was.

Open mic did not only consist of poets, but also singers, rappers and dancers.

Jasmine Montalvo played her guitar while singing Adele's "Hello."

Amber Roddy performed Lauren Hill's, "Can't take my eyes off of you," a cappella, as some of the crowd snapped its fingers and sang along.

Toward the end of the event, three students danced.

"I feel like I can bring a

lot of energy," Freshman Symere Brown, one of the dancers, said. "I just like making everyone laugh and happy."

He said all the performers at open mic did an amazing job.

Freshman Jeanerre Smith said she was entertained.

"Some had a lot of talent," she said. "And others need to work on it a little bit."

Sophomore Courtney Passeur said open mic was fun and interesting to watch.

"I enjoyed seeing different styles of talent," she said. "There wasn't anything I did not like."



# Multimedia Chair Announces Retirement

By Jake Bradner  
The Whetstone

Dr. Tery Griffin loves staring at the bookshelf in her office.

It contains rows of books on Photoshop, Alfred Hitchcock movies, and fiction and non-fiction nominated for Pushcart Prizes.

Sporting a dark blue buttoned-up shirt and glasses, Griffin says she yearns to read more, but just doesn't have the time as a full-time college professor.

"I really want to read," Griffin said. "My sort of dream for next winter is to stay inside on those big snowy days and read."

Now she can do that. Griffin has announced her retirement from Wesley after the spring 2016



Dr. Griffin has been chair of the department for two years

Jake Bradner/The Whetstone

semester.

Griffin wishes to do other things besides reading that she can't find the time for, including photography, playing guitar, watching more movies, and visiting family.

Griffin has been teaching since 1989, first as an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan. She taught three years at Westfield State University in Massachusetts, and 10 years at Wesley College.

She has taught many classes, including Digital Media Literacy, Web Design, Media History, Photography, and Desktop Publishing.

Despite her interest in those classes, Griffin's favorite class to teach was fiction writing. She taught this while an undergradu-

ate student and throughout her Master's program.

She said she realized, however, that a doctorate in English would probably not help her to get a full-time job, so she switched her doctorate into something more practical: communications.

Although not everything turned out as she wanted, Griffin said she enjoyed teaching Media Arts at Wesley College.

She's not happy with the tight budget of the department, but Griffin said she was glad she chose Wesley over a big state school.

"I went to a small undergrad college, I wanted to be at a small undergrad college," says Griffin. "So yeah, it's worked out pretty well."

## Q&A with Dr. Tery Griffin, Multimedia Communication Professor

By Dakota Smith  
The Whetstone

**Dakota Smith:** Where did you attend college?

**Tery Griffin:** I attended college at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. I did my MFA at University of Michigan and Doctorate at NYU.

**DS:** What did you major in?

**TG:** As an undergrad I majored in English with a concentration in creative writing. I have my MFA in creative writing fiction and my doctorate is in educational communication and technology.

**DS:** How did you end up coming to Wesley?

**TG:** I needed to work in Delaware. I ended up finding this for family reasons.



Dr. Griffin will be teaching two new classes in the spring semester

Dakota Smith/The Whetstone

**DS:** How long have you been teaching at Wesley?

**TG:** This is my tenth year.

**DS:** Why did you start teaching?

**TG:** I started because I began working as a teach-

er's aid as an undergrad in an English department. I liked it.

**DS:** Has your teaching style changed over time?

**TG:** I've taught so many things it's hard to say. I do

prefer discussion to presentation; new classes end up being more presentation, though.

**DS:** What classes do you enjoy teaching the most?

**TG:** It varies by semester because of the students. When a class has good students I enjoy teaching it; it is better when the students are more engaged.

**DS:** What effect has teaching had on you?

**TG:** It's turned me into a workaholic; it has much more hours than I expected. I can remember jobs where I didn't go home and do more work.

**DS:** What are your feelings about the Media Arts department changing into Multimedia Communication department?

**TG:** I am excited about it.

It is great for the students and the department.

**DS:** How are you going about the conversion?

**TG:** Lots of discussion with professors Douglas and Greto. We look at our strengths and use them to help them to help the students.

**DS:** Were there any downsides to the change?

**TG:** The amount of work because there are a lot of new classes. I have two new classes this semester and two next. Creating new courses is very labor intensive.

**DS:** How do you like to spend your free time?

**TG:** Photography is one of my old hobbies and I write fiction. I also try to read things that are not related to work.

### Attention Creative Writers!

Musings – Wesley College's literary magazine – is back!

Let us know if you would like to see your poetry, short story or creative writing published in the next issue of The Whetstone.

Submissions will be accepted from students, faculty and staff.

Send your submissions to:

Sarah Lynch

Sarah.Lynch@email.wesley.edu

or

Brittany Wilson

Brittany.Wilson@email.wesley.edu



## Crime Log for November 2015

Date Reported	Date Occurred	Nature of Crime / Classification	General Location	Disposition
11/17/15	11/10/15	Alleged Theft	Gooding Hall	Opened
11/17/15	11/17/15	Criminal Mischief	Williams Hall	Opened
11/18/15	11/18/15	Communicating a Threat	Carpenter Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
11/19/15	11/19/15	Malicious Mischief	Carpenter Hall	Opened
11/20/15	11/19/15	Dating Violence	Carpenter Hall	Closed
11/20/15	11/20/15	Suspicious Activity	Roe Hall	Closed (Negative Findings)
11/21/15	11/21/15	Vandalism	Roe Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
11/21/15	11/21/15	Criminal Mischief	College Center	Opened
11/21/15	11/21/15	Failure to Comply	Carpenter Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
11/21/15	11/21/15	Hit and Run Vehicle Accident	Parking Lot B	Opened (Reported to DPD)
11/22/15	11/22/15	Disorderly Conduct	North Plaza	Closed (Non-Student / Left Campus)
11/22/15	11/22/15	Failure to Comply	Malmberg Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
11/22/15	11/22/15	Vandalism	Off-Campus	Closed (Advised to contract DPD)
11/24/15	11/24/15	Theft from Vehicle	In Front of Carpenter Hall	Opened (Reported to DPD)
11/28/15	Unknown	Vandalism / Suspicious Activity	Roe Hall	Opened
11/28/15	11/28/15	Failure to Comply	Zimmerman Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
11/29/15	11/29/15	Disorderly Conduct	Off Campus - New and Fulton Streets	Closed (DPD Responded)
11/29/15	11/29/15	Vandalism	Zimmerman Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
11/30/15	11/30/15	Burglary / Theft	Maintenance Complex	Closed (Items Recovered)
11/30/15	11/30/15	Physical Altercation / Communicating a Threat	Carpenter Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)

## Q&A with Helen Pepper, Food Worker

By Jocelyn Collins  
The Whetstone

**Jocelyn Collins:** How old are you?

**Helen Pepper:** I'm 53 years old.

**JC:** Where are you from?

**HP:** I was born and raised in Smyrna Delaware.

**JC:** How long have you been working here at Wesley?

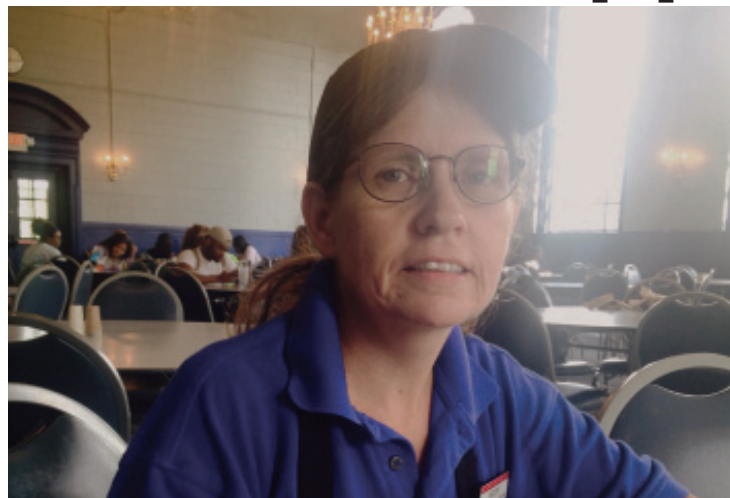
**HP:** This will make my ninth year.

**JC:** Where were you work previously?

**HP:** I was working for Smyrna school district as a substitute teacher.

**JC:** Do you have any children?

**HP:** Yes, I have two



Jocelyn Collins/The Whetstone

Helen Pepper works with Wesley's dining staff

daughters. My oldest is 23 and my youngest is 18.

**JC:** What brought you to Wesley?

**HP:** A friend recommended Wesley College to me for college benefits for

my children.

**JC:** Did you go to college?

**HP:** No, college wasn't so important back in my time as it is now. However, I was the first out of my fam-

ily to graduate from high school.

**JC:** What would you major in if you did attend college?

**HP:** I would major in psychology; I would be a marriage counselor.

**JC:** What is some advice you would give to a college student?

**HP:** Try to make sure you pick your major up front. Otherwise, studying four years is a waste of time. At this point in life you have to find your way.

**JC:** Do you enjoy working here at Wesley?

**HP:** Yes, I like to interact with the students and I get along with the staff here very well. We are a team when it comes to getting

the job done. I am a dining hall attendant. The work environment is very good.

**JC:** What do you do on your free time?

**HP:** I don't have much of it but I enjoy playing horseshoes. I actually came in second place in worlds last year and I have a state tournament this Saturday.

**JC:** Are your children in college?

**HP:** Yes, my youngest attends college at Golden Beacom College; she is majoring in Forensic Science. As for my oldest, she did attend Wesley, she was majoring in music, but Wesley didn't provide what she wanted out of music. She now works at a local Walmart.

## Ghost of Christmas Past Haunts Student's Holiday Memories

By Claudette Richards  
The Whetstone

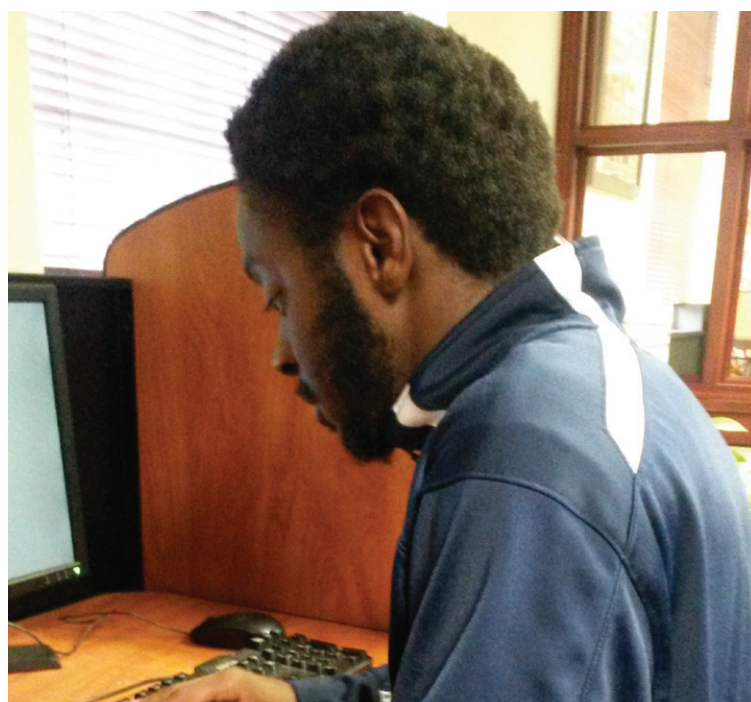
Sophomore Will Taylor doesn't have many good memories of Christmases past.

"One time we were supposed to have a big family dinner," he said. "So, I asked my mom if she could drop me off at my aunty's house."

Taylor thought his aunt's children were going to be at the house.

"But they were at their father's house," he said. "So I was the only kid there." His aunty didn't have cable.

"I was so bored," he said, "so I just watched 'Big Daddy'" – the Adam Sandler movie – "over and



Claudette Richards/The Whetstone

Will Taylor gets his work done before winter break

over again."

But that wasn't the worst of it.

"My aunt is a bad cook,

so her food was nasty," he said.

Taylor's mother left him at his aunt's house for three

days.

"I was calling my house repeatedly, asking my mom to pick me up," he said. Still at his aunt's on Christmas Eve, he opened his presents.

"There was no toys, just clothes," he said. "I had nothing to play with. That's why I was bored." There were other bad Christmas Eves.

"My mom tricked me one time," he said. "She didn't give us our presents until New Year's Eve."

But here's where the trick came in.

"She wrapped empty boxes like toaster boxes and cereal boxes under the tree," Taylor said. "We were so excited to open our presents, then we found out that it was just empty

boxes wrapped in wrapping paper."

He and his sister had been bad the whole month of December, he said.

"We got caught stealing my mom's cigarettes out of her cigarette pack," he said. "Then we turned around and had a small house party with some of the kids in the neighborhood, and my sister and I got suspended for cursing out the vice president of our school."

But all these bad Christmases haven't turned Taylor off to Christmas.

"My ideal Christmas would be spent in St. Louis," he said. "I'd like to see my nephews there. I want to give them anything they want."