INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

INTERNSHIPS PROVIDE MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES
NEW HOME FOR COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
GWU Launches Five-Year Dual Degree for Pastors
Students Overcome Life Challenges
Softball Moves Forward with New Stadium
FEATURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>26</th>
<th>Field Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony Setzer Marks 25-Plus Years as GWU Men’s Soccer Coach, Life Educator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>38</th>
<th>Free To Be Me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Deanna Runney Finds Confidence, Second Home at GWU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>62</th>
<th>Eye of the Beholder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWU Alum Hal Bryant (’72) Pushes Artistic Limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>74</th>
<th>A Voice Set Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWU Graduate Thrives on Vulnerabilities to Connect with God, Listeners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEPARTMENTS

| 1 | Letter from Dr. Bonner |
| 4 | News & Notes |
| 24 | Scenic Impressions |
| 28 | Bulldog Nation |
| 36 | Student Profiles |
| 46 | GWU Advancement |
| 60 | Class Acts/Alumni Features |

Up Front

Gardner-Webb is an Experience

At Gardner-Webb University, providing a student-centered, comprehensive Christian higher education experience is a top priority. We strive to prepare graduates for professional and personal success, instill in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equip them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact.

In this issue of Gardner-Webb-The Magazine, we have highlighted our commitment to pragmatic student learning, including internships, social entrepreneurship endeavors, and experiential education through domestic and international adventures. Each of these stories are connected by the visual symbol of a directional compass (depicted below), to offer the reader a signifier of the unique, beyond-the-classroom opportunities Gardner-Webb University offers our students—opportunities that often lead them directly into the next phase of their life’s journey.

I understand the importance of these experiences all too well. When I was a student at Gardner-Webb, I engaged in five separate internships, gaining job offers from three. I also participated in travel abroad, Christian outreach, and community service during my time as a student. Those combined experiences, along with the strong academic offerings and spiritual development at Gardner-Webb, prepared me well for career, family and life.

But living life is not always easy, and in this issue you will also find stories about people who have triumphed in spite of unique—and often frightening—physical challenges. From football player Kenny Cook, who was diagnosed with lymphoma in high school, to recent graduate Ashley Harris, who was born with cerebral palsy and now serves people with special needs, you’ll find inspiration and motivation to never give up.

As always, this edition is filled with exciting information about new programs, projects and, of course, the people who make our institution great. We hope you enjoy these stories that we believe chronicle both individual and collective journeys at Gardner-Webb University.

Noel T. Manning II
The cover story in “The Atlantic” for September 2014 is entitled “Is College Doomed?” “The Economist” for June 28th-July 4th carried the article, “Creative destruction: Reinventing the university.” Recently Moody’s Investors Service published its “negative” financial outlook for higher education.

Concerns about the outlook for higher education in America are justified. I share those concerns, and I stress that we at Gardner-Webb are vigilant in our dedication to the quality and strength of the University, to strategic planning, and to carefully eyeing developments in American higher education. While the media seem almost to bask in negative indicators, I am pleased to report that the State of the University is quite strong. We finished the fiscal year 2014 in excellent shape. Enrollment and retention across the board at the start of this semester have surpassed most projections. We began the semester with a housing crunch on campus, and we are currently investigating the prospect of building new residential housing that will be needed on campus if the current momentum in enrollment and retention continues, as we are confident it will.

There are several factors involved in this fall’s strong enrollment and retention, including outstanding work in enrollment management and marketing. The primary factor, I believe, is that we are now more clearly identifying Gardner-Webb University to prospective students and are drawing students who understand Gardner-Webb, like what they see, and believe that they fit and that this is the place where their goals can be achieved. Progress and quality enhancement continue throughout the University. In the area of academic programs, the College of Health Sciences is making great progress and is flourishing in its new home. Within the College of Health Sciences, the School of Nursing has been named for Dr. Jack Hunt in recognition of his outstanding support of the nursing profession while serving in the North Carolina legislature and his generous contributions to nursing education at Gardner-Webb. The new Physician Assistant Studies program is doing extremely well with excellent students and a first class faculty. Joining these programs in the College of Health Sciences is the School of Preventative and Rehabilitative Health Sciences. The program formerly known as GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) is now the Degree Completion Program (DCP). The DCP is moving more and more into an online format, and enrollment is growing.

In the graduate programs area, the School of Education has launched the new Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership. Also underway is an especially exciting new program jointly housed in the School of Divinity and the Department of Religion, the Five Year Pastoral Degree program supported by the Kern Foundation. In the area of student life, the Center for Christian Ethics and Social Responsibility, working with the Office of Christian Life and Service, supports Gardner-Webb’s ultimate purpose—“to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education”—by engendering in students and in the campus environment a strong sense of social responsibility and commitment. The Office of Career Development provides comprehensive preparation for careers, while student development is enhanced by the programs in Student Leadership Development and Community Engagement. Campus development continues at a rapid pace. State-of-the-art artificial turf has been installed in Spangler Stadium and will benefit women’s lacrosse as well as football, adding to our stadium’s ranking as one of the most appealing venues in the region. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall on Brinkley Stadium for our softball program.

Recently the University purchased the building that formerly housed Crawley Hospital, along with more than 26 acres essentially contiguous to campus, providing prime land for future construction. Major renovation and expansion are now underway, and when completed will provide magnificent facilities for the College of Health Sciences.

A focused campaign is getting underway for a new Center for Performing Arts, and we anticipate at this time that O. Max Gardner Hall may be renovated to house the visual arts part of the School of Performing and Visual Arts. This will be an ambitious campaign, and we will move aggressively. We will keep alumni, supporters, and friends posted on progress.

For many years now, the University’s most pressing facility needs have been clear—new science facilities, student center, new space for academics and the Noel Program, new athletic facilities, more student housing, and significant enhancements to campus. Now that those needs have been largely met, when the Fine Arts campaign is accomplished we will encounter the very pleasant task of determining what should be next.

I conclude this letter as it began. Challenges to higher education in America are real, and we take them seriously. With the continued dedication of faculty and staff, and the support of alumni, trustees, and friends, Gardner-Webb will continue to prosper and to fulfill its mission of preparing students for success and for service “For God and humanity.”

Dr. Frank Bonner
President, Gardner-Webb University
GWU, CCC to Ease Degree Completion Process

Gardner-Webb University and Cleveland Community College announced a partnership that will further ease the transfer process for students who complete certain degrees with coursework at both institutions.

“Pathways agreements make it easier for a student to transfer all or most of the credits earned at the community college.”

Officials for both schools signed agreements to create a seamless degree track for accounting, business administration, entrepreneurship, industrial management, and nursing students who begin their studies at Cleveland Community College and finish them in the University’s Degree Completion Program. The agreements, called Pathways to reference the structured paths of study between the two schools, formalize a partnership that already exists between GWU and CCC, according to officials.

“Pathways agreements make it easier for a student to transfer all or most of the credits earned at the community college,” said Dr. Bobbie Cox, GWU Associate Provost of the College of Adult and Distance Education.

Additionally, Pathways allows students entering major programs to begin planning their educational path during their high school years, with academic advising assistance from both CCC and GWU.

More Cleveland Community College students transfer to Gardner-Webb than to any other university, according to Dr. Shannon Kennedy, CCC Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Development. “A formal agreement that very clearly directs a student in which courses to take is extremely beneficial,” Kennedy offered. “Knowing which CCC courses Gardner-Webb will accept ahead of time helps a student stay directed and keeps them from taking unnecessary courses. Having clear guidelines will help our faculty as they advise students who are planning to transfer to Gardner-Webb.”

Gardner-Webb officials are currently examining additional opportunities to formalize similar transfer agreements with other community colleges in North Carolina. The University maintains an active relationship with many community colleges, including Degree Completion Program sites on a half-dozen campuses.

GWU Honor Society Students Excel at National Convention

Gardner-Webb University students have long prided themselves on their academic fitness. Members of the Alpha Chi Honor Society flexed those muscles at the Alpha Chi 2014 National Convention held in St. Louis, Mo. For the first time in Alpha Chi’s 92-year history, the organization offered a $5,000 prize for the best collaborative, interdisciplinary project on the assigned topic of “The Future of Water.” The Gardner-Webb team took first place.

The five-member GWU team featured individuals each focusing on different disciplines. Team members prepared a scholarly paper, poster and presentation titled, “Water, Economics, Ethics and Fracking: A Cost/Benefit Analysis of Hydraulic Fracturing.” Josh Johnson (environmental chemistry), Brooke Rampy (biology), Kristina Grayson (chemistry), Kevin Mills (economics) and Carson Shoupe (philosophy) all concentrated on their specific fields and worked together for five months on the project.

Professors from the Godbold School of Business, Department of Natural Sciences and Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy all helped the students as mentors in their specific fields. Dr. June Hobbs, a GWU professor of English and Alpha Chi sponsor, served as the advisor for the group and helped in editing the final paper and overall project.

The group addressed the impacts of hydraulic fracturing, a way to extract natural gas from water sources. Looking at the issue as a cost/benefit analysis, the students decided to see if the potential economic benefit was greater than the damage done to water sources.

“This project was different because of the quality of each of the students involved. Every one of us did our part, which created a constructive and productive atmosphere within the group,” said Johnson. “We all really trusted and cared for each other by the end. Our teamwork culminated in a great product, new friends, and a good prize to boot.”

Group members are still coming to terms with the impact they left at the convention. “The experience was a little surreal. I had to convince myself that I deserved to be there, but I quickly found out that GWU has prepared us to be critical thinkers,” said Grayson.

“Attending the conference, if questions were asked after presentations, it was usually our group. I felt like we competed very well and were the most prepared group as a whole.”

Alpha Chi, which was founded in 1922, is a national college honor society that admits students from all academic disciplines. Membership is limited to the top 10 percent of an institution’s juniors, seniors and graduate students. Invitation to membership comes only through an institutional chapter. Some 300 chapters, located in almost every state and in Puerto Rico, induct more than 12,000 members annually.
GWU Magazine Featured in National Publication

The recent redesign of the Gardner-Webb University alumni magazine gained national attention following a front-page feature story in the March 2014 issue of the “Non-Profit Communications Report.”

Titled “Redesign Efforts Help Publications Stay Fresh, Relevant,” the feature (written by Sarah Ammerman) focuses on the recent decision by the GWU Office of University Communications to change the design and format of both the print and digital magazines. Noel Manning, chief communications officer for Gardner-Webb, and Ryan Gunter, design editor for the magazine, discussed the redesign and the positive feedback they received from constituents.

“We were thrilled to receive wonderful comments from our audiences about the changes, and to have those efforts recognized by experts in the non-profit communications field is yet another stamp of approval,” Manning said. “We hope our example of being proactive with a fresh layout concept will encourage other organizations to challenge themselves creatively and make necessary changes within their publications as well.”

Offering monthly communications ideas for non-profit agencies and institutions, the “Non-Profit Communications Report” is a monthly newsletter with a national audience. Delivered to thousands of professionals across the country, the goal of the newsletter is to provide concise written articles offering practical tips and techniques that will strengthen an organization’s communications, community relations and media relations efforts. For more information about the report, visit nonprofitcommunicationsreport.com.

Connecting on the Court

Now, for five or six hours most weeks, Dolan plays racquetball, often with others like Blevins and Vaughn on campus.

“The sport’s basically like playing tennis in a closet. It’s real chaotic tennis,” he shared. “You want to hit the ball where your opponent can’t. You want the ball to bounce two times before your opponent can hit it back. It’s a fast-paced game, so you want to conserve your energy. Sometimes, it’s hitting a soft shot. Sometimes, it’s angling it.”

Dolan’s now played in numerous North Carolina Racquetball Association-sanctioned tournaments in the past few years, including his under-35 title earlier this year. He said he hopes to see how he can improve on his state age group ranking in the top 100 range. Despite his success, his main goal is to use the sport to continue to make meaningful relationships with other players on campus and beyond.

“Playing with Dr. Blevins, he’s really lifted my game up. We’ve really connected on the court,” Dolan said. “The fellowship in this game is the best part.”

Thwacks echo through the white-walled room. Chips and cracks dot the paint on the wall.

A blue rubber ball ricochets like a pinball, and Stephen Dolan angles his body to strike a return with his racket. Dolan dives to connect racket with ball and win the point against Kent Blevins.

Dolan is familiar with winning points in racquetball, a sport in which he earned an under-35 state championship title earlier this year. But for Dolan, Gardner-Webb University’s Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, his investment in racquetball is more about fellowship than conquest. He enjoys meeting new people during tournaments and sharing time with others in the GWU community during regular racquetball games each week in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

“It’s a great way to exercise, but to also get to know each other,” he shared. “I was just playing Dr. Blevins, and if he hits a great shot, I’m excited for him, I applaud him, and he does the same for me. Dr. Blevins is a faculty member in a department that has little to do with athletics, but because of racquetball, we’ve become close friends.”

Dolan’s work at Gardner-Webb crosses athletics with both academics and rules enforcement.

“My job is to make sure our department is operating within NCAA rules and institutional rules,” he said. “We’re doing grades, drug testing, we’re monitoring recruitment, we’re making sure athletes aren’t practicing too much and have a day off. We’re teaching coaches, student-athletes, financial aid, professors, to make sure the rules are being enforced and make sure our staff understands the rules as they relate to athletics across campus.”

As his job links him to different parts of campus, racquetball has also connected Dolan, 30, and a resident of Gastonia, N.C., with a variety of people at the University. Common playing partners during Tuesday and Thursday play include Blevins, a professor of religious studies, and Brad Vaughn, assistant director of Alumni Affairs.

The sport started as a hobby for Dolan, who was first introduced to racquetball as a student at N.C. State University. When he joined Gardner-Webb’s NCAA compliance office in 2008, he started playing with more competitive former coaches and student-athletes.

Thwacks echo through the white-walled room. Chips and cracks dot the paint on the wall.

A blue rubber ball ricochets like a pinball, and Stephen Dolan angles his body to strike a return with his racket. Dolan dives to connect racket with ball and win the point against Kent Blevins.

Dolan is familiar with winning points in racquetball, a sport in which he earned an under-35 state championship title earlier this year. But for Dolan, Gardner-Webb University’s Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, his investment in racquetball is more about fellowship than conquest. He enjoys meeting new people during tournaments and sharing time with others in the GWU community during regular racquetball games each week in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

“It’s a great way to exercise, but to also get to know each other,” he shared. “I was just playing Dr. Blevins, and if he hits a great shot, I’m excited for him, I applaud him, and he does the same for me. Dr. Blevins is a faculty member in a department that has little to do with athletics, but because of racquetball, we’ve become close friends.”

Dolan’s work at Gardner-Webb crosses athletics with both academics and rules enforcement.

“My job is to make sure our department is operating within NCAA rules and institutional rules,” he said. “We’re doing grades, drug testing, we’re monitoring recruitment, we’re making sure athletes aren’t practicing too much and have a day off. We’re teaching coaches, student-athletes, financial aid, professors, to make sure the rules are being enforced and make sure our staff understands the rules as they relate to athletics across campus.”

As his job links him to different parts of campus, racquetball has also connected Dolan, 30, and a resident of Gastonia, N.C., with a variety of people at the University. Common playing partners during Tuesday and Thursday play include Blevins, a professor of religious studies, and Brad Vaughn, assistant director of Alumni Affairs.

The sport started as a hobby for Dolan, who was first introduced to racquetball as a student at N.C. State University. When he joined Gardner-Webb’s NCAA compliance office in 2008, he started playing with more competitive former coaches and student-athletes.

Now, for five or six hours most weeks, Dolan plays racquetball, often with others like Blevins and Vaughn on campus.

“The sport’s basically like playing tennis in a closet. It’s real chaotic tennis,” he shared. “You want to hit the ball where your opponent can’t. You want the ball to bounce two times before your opponent can hit it back. It’s a fast-paced game, so you want to conserve your energy. Sometimes, it’s hitting a soft shot. Sometimes, it’s angling it.”

Dolan’s now played in numerous North Carolina Racquetball Association-sanctioned tournaments in the past few years, including his under-35 title earlier this year. He said he hopes to see how he can improve on his state age group ranking in the top 100 range. Despite his success, his main goal is to use the sport to continue to make meaningful relationships with other players on campus and beyond.

“Playing with Dr. Blevins, he’s really lifted my game up. We’ve really connected on the court,” Dolan said. “The fellowship in this game is the best part.”
Gardner–Webb University hosted Spring Commencement on Monday, May 12 and Summer Commencement was held on Monday, Aug. 4. In total, more than 900 graduates were honored during the ceremonies.

Spring Commencement

The Spring Commencement ceremonies featured the conferring of over 700 degrees from the University’s undergraduate and graduate programs. Several graduates were honored for outstanding leadership, citizenship, and academic excellence. The Most Outstanding Male Graduate medal was presented to biology major Cody Lee Meyers of Mobile, Ala., while Kate Frances Oliphant, a music major from Chantilly, Va., was awarded the Most Outstanding Female Graduate medal.

Mary Jeanine Hellstrom (Boiling Springs, N.C.), a biblical studies major, was recognized for academic achievement with the Senior Scholastic Award. The Degree Completion Program Scholastic Award was presented to Ivy Faith Oates (Nebo, N.C.), who majored in accounting.
Kimberly Denise Moore of Gastonia, N.C., who earned a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministries, offered one of the commencement speeches. She experienced many emotions at the conclusion of her time at GWU, but said most of all, she feels grateful. “I’m thankful that my time here has not been all about the academia,” she shared. “It has been a life-enriching experience that has been more impactful that I ever thought possible. I am thankful that in the midst of all of the theology, I was reminded to always practice ‘knee-ology’ and always find time to pray and spend quality time with God.”

Keon Williams, Jr. also shared a speech with his fellow graduates. An economics/finance major from Charlotte, N.C., he encouraged his classmates to focus on God’s will for them both in the future and in the present. “This will be our tool of personal guidance through this place of unfamiliarity we are about to enter,” Williams reflected. “It does us no good to invest in speculation in the future, because it will draw our passion for the now. In the process, let’s not allow our dreams to die in the wilderness of change and transition. Claim victory over all obstacles and challenges, while believing and receiving the truth that all things work for the good of those who love the Lord.”

**Summer Commencement**

Summer Commencement featured the conferring of degrees on nearly 200 graduates, who were honored for a range of achievements during the ceremony. Many graduates participated in the ceremony through prayer, scripture reading, and commencement speeches, and awards were given to stellar graduates. T. Faith Lambeth (Statesville, N.C.) received the Degree Completion Program Academic Award; Jonas C. Nader (Mt. Gilead, N.C.) was given the Senior Scholastic Achievement Award; and the 2014 Darlene J. Gravett Citizen Scholar Award was presented to Karen Cochran (Candler, N.C.), who earned a Master of Science in Nursing in May.

Commencement speakers were Amber N. Parsons (Mount Holly, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting through the Degree Completion Program; Vahisha Steadman (Charlotte, N.C.), who earned a dual Master of Divinity/Master of Arts/Education Specialist in Mental Health Counseling; and Rick S. Thompson (Moore, S.C.), who received a Master of Accountancy.

Parsons began her academic journey at Gardner-Webb more than 12 years ago. Although at times she admits she was intimidated and overwhelmed, she is grateful she persevered. “I’m not just walking away from this accomplishment with my degree. I’m also walking away with a level of confidence and enthusiasm I’ve never experienced before,” she told graduates. “There were many times I considered giving up, but knew I couldn’t. I couldn’t give up on myself. I had a goal of getting my bachelor’s degree, and I was determined to reach that goal!”

Gardner-Webb’s support of the national “Reach Higher” campaign was also evidenced during recent graduation ceremonies. The University encouraged students, graduates, and attendees to use the hashtag #ReachHigher when posting photos and updates to social media outlets. The campaign was initiated by First Lady Michelle Obama in early May, and is designed to inspire every American student to complete an education beyond a high school diploma. A 2014 U.S. Department of Labor survey of American workers shows both employment and earnings increase as an individual completes levels of higher education programs beyond high school.

The new White House initiative seeks to motivate students by highlighting others’ success, and to prepare them to complete their education through:

- Exposure to college and career opportunities;
- Information about financial aid that can make college affordable;
- Resources for academic planning and summer learning programs; and
- Support from high school counselors who can guide more students to colleges.

“Gardner-Webb University fully supports the Reach Higher campaign at the national level,” said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner. “We admire the effort to encourage students to pursue and complete a college degree. At Gardner-Webb, we want to do all we can to enable our students in their goals to graduate and move on to successful experiences in their lives.”

Kimberly Denise Moore of Gastonia, N.C., who earned a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministries, offered one of the commencement speeches. She experienced many emotions at the conclusion of her time at GWU, but said most of all, she feels grateful. “I’m thankful that my time here has not been all about the academia,” she shared. “It has been a life-enriching experience that has been more impactful that I ever thought possible. I am thankful that in the midst of all of the theology, I was reminded to always practice ‘knee-ology’ and always find time to pray and spend quality time with God.”

Keon Williams, Jr. also shared a speech with his fellow graduates. An economics/finance major from Charlotte, N.C., he encouraged his classmates to focus on God’s will for them both in the future and in the present. “This will be our tool of personal guidance through this place of unfamiliarity we are about to enter,” Williams reflected. “It does us no good to invest in speculation in the future, because it will draw our passion for the now. In the process, let’s not allow our dreams to die in the wilderness of change and transition. Claim victory over all obstacles and challenges, while believing and receiving the truth that all things work for the good of those who love the Lord.”

**Summer Commencement**

Summer Commencement featured the conferring of degrees on nearly 200 graduates, who were honored for a range of achievements during the ceremony. Many graduates participated in the ceremony through prayer, scripture reading, and commencement speeches, and awards were given to stellar graduates. T. Faith Lambeth (Statesville, N.C.) received the Degree Completion Program Academic Award; Jonas C. Nader (Mt. Gilead, N.C.) was given the Senior Scholastic Achievement Award; and the 2014 Darlene J. Gravett Citizen Scholar Award was presented to Karen Cochran (Candler, N.C.), who earned a Master of Science in Nursing in May.

Commencement speakers were Amber N. Parsons (Mount Holly, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting through the Degree Completion Program; Vahisha Steadman (Charlotte, N.C.), who earned a dual Master of Divinity/Master of Arts/Education Specialist in Mental Health Counseling; and Rick S. Thompson (Moore, S.C.), who received a Master of Accountancy.

Parsons began her academic journey at Gardner-Webb more than 12 years ago. Although at times she admits she was intimidated and overwhelmed, she is grateful she persevered. “I’m not just walking away from this accomplishment with my degree. I’m also walking away with a level of confidence and enthusiasm I’ve never experienced before,” she told graduates. “There were many times I considered giving up, but knew I couldn’t. I couldn’t give up on myself. I had a goal of getting my bachelor’s degree, and I was determined to reach that goal!”

Gardner-Webb’s support of the national “Reach Higher” campaign was also evidenced during recent graduation ceremonies. The University encouraged students, graduates, and attendees to use the hashtag #ReachHigher when posting photos and updates to social media outlets. The campaign was initiated by First Lady Michelle Obama in early May, and is designed to inspire every American student to complete an education beyond a high school diploma. A 2014 U.S. Department of Labor survey of American workers shows both employment and earnings increase as an individual completes levels of higher education programs beyond high school.

The new White House initiative seeks to motivate students by highlighting others’ success, and to prepare them to complete their education through:

- Exposure to college and career opportunities;
- Information about financial aid that can make college affordable;
- Resources for academic planning and summer learning programs; and
- Support from high school counselors who can guide more students to colleges.

“Gardner-Webb University fully supports the Reach Higher campaign at the national level,” said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner. “We admire the effort to encourage students to pursue and complete a college degree. At Gardner-Webb, we want to do all we can to enable our students in their goals to graduate and move on to successful experiences in their lives.”
GWU Trumpet Ensemble Featured at National Trumpet Competition

The Gardner-Webb University Trumpet Ensemble was selected as a semi-finalist for the 2014 National Trumpet Competition (NTC), held in March at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pa. The ensemble was one of just over 20 groups from colleges and universities across the nation—and the only one in the Carolinas—to receive this prestigious honor. Other participants included Baylor University (Waco, Texas), University of Connecticut (Storrs, Conn.), Florida State University (Tallahassee, Fla.), and University of Georgia (Athens, Ga.).

Each year, the NTC features both solo and ensemble divisions. Video submissions were required to enter the event. The GWU Trumpet Ensemble video featured their performance of “Dreams Lost in Dry Sand,” a number written by Dr. Jeff Richmond, the former band director for Gardner-Webb. The video was shot under the direction of Mark Houser, media convergence specialist for the GWU Office of Communications. The audition was reviewed and semi-finalist selections were made by a group of judges consisting of orchestral artists and faculty members from across the nation.


Tim Hudson, assistant professor of music, directed the group. “It was a great honor to compete, especially considering the GWU Trumpets were up against master’s and doctoral students across the country,” Hudson said. “We plan to compete each year, and hope to make the final four and eventually win the national title, after getting past schools like Eastman, Indiana and Juilliard.”

The Ethical Standard: GWU Team Excels at State Competition

A team of students from Gardner-Webb University finished second during this year’s North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) Ethics Bowl. The event was held at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, N.C., and featured 20 colleges and universities, including Campbell (Buiess Creek), North Carolina Wesleyan (Rocky Mount), Wingate, and this year’s champion, Wake Forest (Winston-Salem).

This was the third year for the relatively new event, and GWU has participated each year. Making their accomplishment even more significant was the fact that not a single participating student had prior competition experience.

“I had to recruit an entirely new team,” said Dr. Kent Blevins, professor of religious studies at Gardner-Webb and campus coordinator for the ethics team. The new members were A.J. Francioni (Hendersonville, N.C.), Jeremiah Hamby (Lenoir, N.C.), Jessica Saltijeral (Oswego, Ill.), Austin Story (Huntersville, N.C.), and Dylan Tate (Forest City, N.C.).

“The final round with Wake Forest was held in a large auditorium in front of all the other teams, plus other personnel including judges, moderators, and NCICU representatives. I’m very proud of our students and how they represented our school. Wake finished second last year. Next year, we’re going to bring home the first-place trophy,” Blevins predicted. “All of our students are committed to returning to the team, and they seem hungry for the championship.”

Your Donation Completes the Picture

Your gift, no matter the size, helps students put everything in place. Annual Fund dollars are undesignated and help with every piece of the student puzzle.

Donate to the Annual Fund. Help us help more students.

704.406.2118      gardner-webb.edu/give

Help solve the student puzzle. Give today.
GWU Theatre + Community = Classic Collaboration

The Gardner-Webb University Department of Theatre Arts presented “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe” at GWU and offered special performances for elementary and middle school students. The theatrical production was packed with drama, adventure and mystery, while portraying the struggle of good and evil. Adapted from the classic book of the same name, the play is part of the beloved Chronicles of Narnia series written by C.S. Lewis. The plot follows the journey of four siblings from World War II-era England after they are drawn into a magical world called Narnia. Greed, temptation, love, mercy and sacrifice are all themes woven throughout the story.

Dr. Chris Nelson, assistant professor of theatre arts at GWU, directed the play, which included a combination of Gardner-Webb students and the members of the community in the cast. Gardner-Webb students Rachel Sedota and Emily DeVries played Susan and the White Witch, respectively. Dr. Earl Leininger, associate provost for Arts and Sciences, offered the voice for Aslan’s character, while GWU students Lydia Hill and Kendall Godwin served as the lion apparatus/puppet operators.

Gardner-Webb also partnered with the community, with local residents participating in the production. The University’s theatre department often unites with the community for its shows.

COMING SOON!

Gardner-Webb University will present the five-time Tony Award-winning musical “The Music Man” from Feb. 25 - March 1. The show is set in 1912 in River City, Iowa, where a con man, Harold Hill, poses as a boys’ band organizer and leader. He sells band instruments and uniforms to the naïve townsfolk, promising to train the members of the new band. Harold is no musician and plans to skip town without giving any music lessons.

To participate in future productions contact GWU Theatre at 704-406-2777.

School of Education Announces New Doctoral Program

The Gardner-Webb University Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies has unveiled a new doctorate within the education department, which officials believe will offer substantial leadership training to individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds.

The Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership (DEOL) initiated its first cohort in the fall semester of 2014. University officials are excited about the addition and believe the changes will help Gardner-Webb provide quality leadership education that will address the needs of a wide range of modern professionals.

“This addition to our Ed.D. offerings is a logical extension of the School of Education’s commitment to cultivating transformational leaders in communities, schools, law enforcement, and businesses through its Center for Innovative Leadership Development,” said Dr. Jeff Rogers, dean of the Gardner-Webb University Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies. “The degree program is new, but the vision behind it and the expertise it harnesses have been years in the making.”

Dr. Douglas Eury, dean of the School of Education agreed wholeheartedly. “Gardner-Webb University is in the forefront of leadership development,” declared Eury. “This doctorate embodies the scholar-practitioner model of professional training and prepares students to seek out leadership roles in a variety of settings.”

Like the existing doctoral programs within the School of Education, the organizational leadership doctorate is designed to provide practical leadership skills with a strong theoretical foundation. Structured with the working adult in mind and utilizing a cohort model, candidates will contribute to their organization throughout the course of study. Dr. John Balls serves as assistant professor within the Graduate School of Education and is the director of the GWU Center for Innovative Leadership Development (CILD). He envisions a collaborative environment within the classroom.

“The degree program is new, but the vision behind it and the expertise it harnesses have been years in the making.”

“One of the major benefits of the cohort model is not only do you learn and appreciate the skills of your fellow classmates, but you’re able to build on their experiences as well,” Balls offered.

“This program will absolutely blend theory and practical application.”

Core course modules within the program will address concepts such as cultural development in organizations, change management, ethics, conflict resolution, and more. Specialized course modules will include policy development, business law, and self and collective efficacy, among others. Classes will be taught at the main campus in Boiling Springs as well as at the Charlotte (N.C.) campus.

“The timing is right to do this,” Balls said. “We’re really excited about it and we know from the early returns that the community at large is excited about it as well.”
GWU Faculty and Staff Members Honored for Service

Gardner-Webb University recognized faculty and staff for outstanding service and teaching contributions, tenures of service, and retirement honors during the annual “Apples and Accolades” ceremony.

The Gardner-Webb Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient for 2014 was Dr. Paul Etter, associate professor of music in the School of Performing & Visual Arts.

Staff Member of the Year Awards were presented to Gardner-Webb employees who go beyond the call of duty for the University and its students, and they are nominated by their colleagues.

Jeff Powell, Operations Manager and Program Director for WGWG.org and adjunct professor for the University, was honored as Outstanding Male Staff Member of the Year.

Bailey Davis, former director of L.E.A.P. (Learning Enrichment and Assistance Program) was honored as Outstanding Female Staff Member of the Year.

Community engagement awards were presented to faculty member Dr. Denise Smith, Assistant Professor of Business, and staff member Ashley Koch, Secretary to Math and Natural Sciences Department. Koch was honored for her work with a community student math camp.

Retirement awards were presented to Dr. Carolyn Billings, Dr. Ron Nanney, Jack Kaufhold, Dr. Faye Rucker and Dr. Ron Williams.

Employees were also recognized for 10, 25 and 30 years of service.

Thirty-year service awards went to Dr. Glenn Bottoms, Kevin Jones, and Z. David Jones.

Awards for 25 years of service were presented to Dr. Robert Munoz and Dr. Anthony Negbenebor.

Ten-year service awards were presented to Rev. John Bridges, Dr. Sydney Brown, Cindy Clary, Dr. Bobbie Cox, Travis Cunningham, Leif Hanrick, Melissa Hollifield, Barry Lane, Dr. Felice Policastro, Lois Radford, James Reeves, Richard Reeves, James Simmons, Annette Spurling, Joseph Wallace, and Lisa Yerrick.
The most unsettling time for a majority of college students is hidden in the midst of senior year finals and graduation preparation. As questions about their futures loom—sometimes ominously—soon-to-be-graduates are working hard to figure out what the next phase of their lives will look like. This is when the experiences afforded through college internships and other opportunities can be used to leverage confidence in spite of so many unknowns.

Lisa Yerrick is the director of the Gardner-Webb University Office of Career Development, and she is driven by a desire to see students succeed. Too often, she believes, they wait too long to pursue relevant internship experience, which is key to securing relevant employment after graduation.

“The most important advice I can offer to students is not to wait until they are a junior or senior to start thinking about an internship,” Yerrick urged. “Ideally, doing one after their sophomore year and no later than junior year is best. That way, these experiences can be added to their resumes as they seek employment during your senior year.”

According to Yerrick, the goals of an internship are to offer practical experience in a professional setting; draw connections between student learning (classroom theory) and the work environment; assist the student in establishing strategies for employment; and enhance networking and professional skills that can’t always be developed in class.

“Good internships have structural components like learning contracts between student and employer, guidance from an advisor, student learning objectives, supervisor evaluation of student performance, student projects, and reflection assignments,” she stated. “This is where a student begins to make the connections between the classroom and the workplace, between theory and practice.”

While variables within internship experiences are to be expected, Yerrick is convinced students will receive an opportunity to further develop some—if not all—of the seven skills most needed for employment.

“Written and verbal communication, teamwork, interpersonal relations, initiative, analytical ability, leadership, and technical aptitude are fundamentals that employers have identified as important professional skills,” she explained. “Internships and experiential learning opportunities typically offer some element of growth in these areas. For example, a student may be given a project to develop during the internship that really displays their level of initiative. They may be given a chance to serve on a committee that is evaluating a product or process, allowing them to contribute to a team decision. These are the kinds of real-life opportunities that an internship offers that augment classroom learning.”

Beginning the process as early as possible is key to avoiding the senior-year panic that often sets in. And for students who may be struggling to find the right fit for their internship experience, Yerrick and her team are positioned to assist. “We have helped find internship sites for those who need assistance,” she reflected. “We exist to educate students about work and life beyond school. Preparation for employment is so different now than it was just five or 10 years ago. Our tagline is ‘Fostering character, expanding skills, advancing futures.’ And we aim to deliver on those expectations.”
While some internships might be best described as an experiential resource for future, unrelated jobs, others serve as a direct bridge to full-time careers. This is true for Gardner-Webb alumnus Drew Ford ’14, of Wasilla, Alaska. He secured employment in his field of study on the heels of May commencement. Today, Ford is employed as a legislative staffer for District 9 Representative Lynn Gattis in the Alaska House of Representatives.

Ford’s path to his current job gained momentum with an internship during the summer of 2011 when he began work for the Alaska Redistricting Board. The board is responsible for reapportioning the state House of Representatives and the Senate according to the population reported in each decennial U.S. census. From May to August, his duties included maintaining legal files, researching, preparing materials for board meetings and running various errands.

“My internship was an amazing experience, and I was fortunate to be able to work with people that were competent, professional and excellent communicators,” Ford said.

During his time at Gardner-Webb, Ford earned the 2012 Outstanding SGA Member award. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Global Studies and a minor in Communication Studies.

“One thing that was special about my internship was that I got to work for younger people, around late 20s and early 30s,” Ford said. “Working with people that were close to my generation helped build my communication skills and professionalism in a comfortable and laid back environment. This was a good stepping-stone for where I am today.”

Ford’s current job as legislative staff is broad in definition. A typical day consists of working with constituents, writing press releases and collaborating with local press. Afterhours attendance is sometimes required at events relating to local, state and federal politics affecting the district—from local Chamber of Commerce meetings to national conferences, such as the Council of State Governments hosted in Anchorage, Alaska.

Ford believes his internship experience was vital to receiving the subsequent job offer. “The internship was a big plus on my resume,” he reflected. “Having experience in state issues and proximity to people in the political field were boosters to both my résumé and interview. I learned some important and invaluable lessons.”
ONE STEP AT A TIME

GWU ALUM (’14) ASHLEY HARRIS SERVES DISABLED POPULATION IN BREVARD, N.C.

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

“I fall down a lot,” laughed Ashley Harris. “I mean, a lot!” She giggled at this, and pushed her long, dark hair behind her. Seated and smiling, she explained. “Humor is my go-to approach to most all situations in life. Sometimes it makes things awkward, but I’m OK with that.”

Harris gestured at the office around her, which is actually the workspace of her boss and mentor at Transylvania Vocational Services (TVS) in Brevard, N.C. She was hired last spring to serve as the administrative assistant to executive director Nancy Stricker, a position that Harris worked hard to keep her physical challenges from slowing her down, and her junior year at Gardner-Webb was particularly eventful. She completed an internship at Heart of Brevard, an economic and tourism development non-profit organization located in downtown Brevard, her hometown. “I did a lot of commuting. I did a lot of virtual work and a lot of Skype work,” she explained. “I learned how to operate in an unconventional setting.”

As a political science and public relations double major, Harris didn’t initially see the direct application between her schoolwork and the internship experiences. “I made a lot of connections and I met a lot of people,” she reflected. “I met the mayor, the county manager, and the city planner. I really learned how to concern myself with this community and the issues that it faces. I learned about tourism versus manufacturing jobs. I learned about community dynamics that I wasn’t really aware of prior to my internship. Now, I can’t stress enough how important it is to take advantage of those opportunities. If Gardner-Webb orchestrates an opportunity, take advantage of it!”

Toward the end of her junior year, she decided to exercise her leadership skills and was elected Student Government Association (SGA) president, a role in which she served throughout her senior year at GWU. That opportunity offered her a chance to develop additional skills needed for future employment. While all of those experiences helped shape her future direction, she believes the internship in Brevard was most instrumental in leading her back to her hometown following graduation—a step that ultimately brought her a full-time job with TVS.

“That was part of the reason I decided to take a year and come back here to Brevard before I leave to go somewhere else,” she stated. “In my internship experience, I got to do event planning. I got to answer the phone a lot. I got to do a lot of thankless grunt-work. So it builds character. More important than all of that, is I learned about my community—how it operates and how I can operate as a grown-up within it.”

As a political science and public relations double major, Harris didn’t initially see the direct application between her schoolwork and the internship experiences. “I made a lot of connections and I met a lot of people,” she reflected. “I met the mayor, the county manager, and the city planner. I really learned how to concern myself with this community and the issues that it faces. I learned about tourism versus manufacturing jobs. I learned about community dynamics that I wasn’t really aware of prior to my internship. Now, I can’t stress enough how important it is to take advantage of those opportunities. If Gardner-Webb orchestrates an opportunity, take advantage of it!”

Toward the end of her junior year, she decided to exercise her leadership skills and was elected Student Government Association (SGA) president, a role in which she served throughout her senior year at GWU. That opportunity offered her a chance to develop additional skills needed for future employment. While all of those experiences helped shape her future direction, she believes the internship in Brevard was most instrumental in leading her back to her hometown following graduation—a step that ultimately brought her a full-time job with TVS.

“That was part of the reason I decided to take a year and come back here to Brevard before I leave to go somewhere else,” she stated. “In my internship experience, I got to do event planning. I got to answer the phone a lot. I got to do a lot of thankless grunt-work. So it builds character. More important than all of that, is I learned about my community—how it operates and how I can operate as a grown-up within it.”

As a political science and public relations double major, Harris didn’t initially see the direct application between her schoolwork and the internship experiences. “I made a lot of connections and I met a lot of people,” she reflected. “I met the mayor, the county manager, and the city planner. I really learned how to concern myself with this community and the issues that it faces. I learned about tourism versus manufacturing jobs. I learned about community dynamics that I wasn’t really aware of prior to my internship. Now, I can’t stress enough how important it is to take advantage of those opportunities. If Gardner-Webb orchestrates an opportunity, take advantage of it!”

Toward the end of her junior year, she decided to exercise her leadership skills and was elected Student Government Association (SGA) president, a role in which she served throughout her senior year at GWU. That opportunity offered her a chance to develop additional skills needed for future employment. While all of those experiences helped shape her future direction, she believes the internship in Brevard was most instrumental in leading her back to her hometown following graduation—a step that ultimately brought her a full-time job with TVS.

“That was part of the reason I decided to take a year and come back here to Brevard before I leave to go somewhere else,” she stated. “In my internship experience, I got to do event planning. I got to answer the phone a lot. I got to do a lot of thankless grunt-work. So it builds character. More important than all of that, is I learned about my community—how it operates and how I can operate as a grown-up within it.”

Although she plans on heading off to law school within the next year, Harris is looking forward to learning all she can during her time at TVS. “Don’t pigeonhole what your degree can do for you,” she shared. “It doesn’t have to look a certain way for it to be a valuable, worthwhile experience. This job would have never been on my radar, and it’s turned out to be the best thing that’s happened to me in a long, long time.”

Harris gestured at the office around her, which is actually the workspace of her boss and mentor at Transylvania Vocational Services (TVS) in Brevard, N.C. She was hired last spring to serve as the administrative assistant to executive director Nancy Stricker, a position that...
Scenic Impressions

“Education is all a matter of building bridges.”

— Ralph Ellison
Tony Setzer remembers when Gardner-Webb’s men’s soccer program had one scholarship available. He recalls a time when the team lacked a permanent field on which to play. And he recollects the days when the campus had residence facilities without air conditioning.

Setzer has just about seen it all in 27 years as the University’s head men’s soccer coach. That’s because he’s led the program for all but the first year of its existence. Over the course of more than a quarter-century, the coach has successfully developed the Runnin’ Bulldogs soccer brand from the ground up, and he has educated a growing list of student-athletes. Yet, Setzer passes the credit for Gardner-Webb’s success on the pitch to the mentors, assistants and friends who have surrounded him during his tenure. “I am an amalgamation of all of those who have left strings in my life,” he said. “Those strings have bound me together into who I am now.”

After playing collegiate soccer at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., Setzer first visited Gardner-Webb in 1987. He said he didn’t get GWU’s soccer coaching job on the first attempt, but after the position reopened following the program’s first year he got another call and interviewed. Woody Fish, now GWU Associate Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, was the athletic director who hired Setzer. “I was so impressed with Tony, being young and right out of college,” Fish shared. “He had a lot of fire and enthusiasm. I felt like if our program was going to succeed, we needed a young guy who was going to work and do whatever it took to get our program going.”

A balancing act followed for Setzer, as he traveled back and forth from Boiling Springs to Charleston, S.C., to simultaneously complete his graduate degree in education at The Citadel and take the reins of the GWU soccer program. “I fell in love with the place when I first walked onto campus,” he reflected on Gardner-Webb. “That first season, though, was a trial-by-fire year. It was a tough season, and we had to do everything. We had to cut the grass. We had to paint the field. We didn’t have fences.”

Despite challenges, Setzer said he found his way through the tangle of members of the campus and greater community. Local insurance businessman (and now Boiling Springs Mayor) Max Hamrick encouraged him that he had great athletes. GWU leaders like Dr. Dee Hunt and Dr. Tony Eastman helped teach him how to conduct himself on campus. “Eastman, he told me, ‘Tony, it’s the students. We’re here to serve them. The rest of this stuff is just politics of a campus. You’re here to serve your students,’” Setzer said.
Setzer’s service to his students will be the legacy he eventually leaves in Boiling Springs, according to Fish. “Tony has helped mold men,” Fish said. “His players have gone on to do great things. A lot of them are in the business world. A lot of them are in coaching, thanks to Tony Setzer.”

David Steeves is among those who played for Setzer and forged successful coaching careers afterward. Steeves, a 1993 GWU alumnus, has coached at Shelby (N.C.) High School for about 20 years. “Coach Setzer was a big influence,” Steeves reflected. “He gave me the chance to develop my talents. The knowledge I received from him took me to a new level.”

Even as he coached players on the field, Setzer said his major role has been as an educator. “I get more contact hours with my student-athletes than anyone on campus,” he offered. “I’m an educator who teaches soccer, not a coach who is in athletics. We’re part of the educational process. We just teach in a different way than a professor. If you look at my degrees on the wall, they’re both in education. We’re on the same team as the professors. We teach life lessons.”

Life lessons have been plentiful for the coach, too, in his time in Boiling Springs. He credits his assistant coaches with keeping him focused on how to instruct players. “If you played for me in 1988, 1989, 1990, I’m sure I treated it more like a Navy seal regiment than a soccer team,” he shared. “We’ve since gotten more higher-level players, and they require training. They require encouragement more than the out-and-out drill instructor approach. I’ve learned that.”

He said he also believes his wife and children have mellowed him through the years. He married the former Kristen Lott, a four-time All-Conference women’s soccer player for Gardner-Webb. They now have four daughters, including a set of triplets born in 2007. “I’m sure 100 percent that my wife and her professionalism and the way she motivates people to get things done and take the high road has had a positive effect on me,” Setzer shared. “She’s been a coach’s wife for 16 years. She understands the job because she’s been in soccer herself.”

Soccer wasn’t Setzer’s first sport. He played football and baseball growing up. When a high school football coach tried to get him to play wide receiver instead of quarterback, he migrated to soccer. “I chose the one position that was most like the quarterback. I was a goalkeeper,” he said. “I loved that because there was action, there was contact, and you could throw the ball. You could punt the ball. You were the last line of defense.”

After playing soccer at Lander on a scholarship, Setzer left school before his final year and played for the Columbus Capitals in an indoor soccer league. His coach advised him to return to school and finish his degree. “He said, ‘This is a cruel business. This is a bad business. You’re not going to make a lot of money,’” Setzer remembers. “I was making $1,000 a year, plus a part-time job at a shoe store. He told me to go finish my degree.”

Setzer did, and he then served as an assistant coach at The Citadel before coming to Gardner-Webb. He’s guided the GWU program through the University’s transitions from NAIA to NCAA Division II in 1993-94 and then to NCAA Division I in 2000-01. His 2006 team won the Atlantic Sun Conference soccer tournament and played in the NCAA Championship Tournament. After more than 25 years in Boiling Springs, he said his challenge is to continue to build a regionally competitive soccer program.

“Our challenge is also to identify players who fit the Gardner-Webb institution mission,” he offered. “Our president, Dr. Bonner, wants to run a clean, competitive program where kids graduate and also impact their community through service. We also want to recruit international talent, recruit players that can develop into Atlantic Coast Conference-level talent in several seasons, and to every year move one spot better in the Big South Conference standings than the year before.”

Setzer, who among other tasks announces Gardner-Webb basketball games, said he likes the challenges he handles in his job. “For us in Gardner-Webb’s soccer program, we are like surfers,” he said. “Every year, we get our surf board, put it on our Woodie, and we drive to the beach. Every August, we paddle out. If we catch a good wave and momentum, we can really compete. If we don’t hit any rocks, and there are no sharks biting at our board, our teams can win. This is a fantastic place, and it has been a fantastic journey. I’m still just learning every day and appreciate every opportunity I have to be here. Lord willing, I’ll get to sit in this chair a few more times.”
Brinkley Softball Stadium Construction Underway

The Gardner-Webb University Department of Athletics is constructing a new women’s softball stadium in the same location as the current field located on South Main Street in Boiling Springs. The facility will be named after lead donors David and Marie Brinkley, owners of Brinkley Financial Group, based in Kings Mountain, N.C.

Brinkley Softball Stadium will include spacious new dugouts, permanent seating for 350 spectators, a concession stand, and press box, which will house a main working area and two broadcast booths to accommodate radio and video operations. In addition, a new building behind the first base dugout will offer space for coaches’ offices, a locker room, conference room, and athletic training area. A practice facility will be built behind the outfield fence to offer athletes additional opportunities to train, even during times of inclement weather.

“This is a project many years in the making, and we are very fortunate and thankful for the Brinkley family’s generosity in offering the lead gift for this new stadium,” said Chuck Burch, vice president for athletics. “Very soon, Gardner-Webb softball will play in one of the finest stadiums in the region. Our student-athletes deserve the opportunity to compete in a first-class facility, and this project signals that opportunity.”

The project will also include a new scoreboard, artificial turf, and stadium lighting, which will allow the first evening softball game on Gardner-Webb’s home field. Alternative ball fields in the surrounding community will be utilized for team practices and games while construction is ongoing.

The Brinkley family enjoys sports of many kinds, and daughters Kristie and Carrie both played volleyball at Gardner-Webb. “About a year ago, I learned about the plans for a new softball field,” said David Brinkley. “I visited the current fields, talked with Coach Tom Cole, and Marie and I began praying about it. We felt these outstanding female athletes deserved to play in a phenomenal facility.”

Cole, who recently began his 15th year as head coach of the GWU softball program, believes current, future, and even previous players will be inspired by the project.

“Each player in our program will be thrilled to play in the new facility and every future player will be ecstatic to join a program with a ballpark of this caliber,” Cole shared. “Every former player will be proud to return to campus and see what we now have here. This is an exciting time for Gardner-Webb softball.”

The Brinkley family hopes their lead gift will inspire others to get involved and support the project. “I challenge others to look at the current field, consider the type of facility that is being planned, and step up with a donation to the project,” Brinkley encouraged. “Whether you give $100 or $1,000 or more, this is a much-needed project. Marie and I have always believed that in order to receive blessings, you must first bless others. When you have a chance to serve an institution whose values and mission lines up perfectly with your own, that’s exactly what you should do. We firmly believe this project will breed a winning atmosphere.”
Kenny Cook wields his 6-foot-4-inch body, leaps in the air, extends his lengthy arms, and snatch...
Gaining New Ground
University Installs First Artificial Surface in Spangler Stadium

Changes surfaced this fall in several of Gardner-Webb University’s athletics facilities. The University installed an artificial turf surface on Coach Norman Harris Field at Ernest W. Spangler Stadium, the first artificial playing field on Gardner-Webb’s campus. Turf surfaces are also planned for GWU’s baseball and softball facilities.

Officials say the turf will offer the University significant long-term field maintenance cost savings. Advanced Polymer Technology (APT), a global leader in high-performance engineered sports surfaces, installed RS+52T Gridiron turf on Norman Harris Field.

“With the addition of women’s lacrosse matches to the regular ledger of events at Spangler Stadium next spring, we were tasked with developing a solution that best fits the needs of our student-athletes in terms of safety and performance,” said GWU Vice President for Athletics Chuck Burch. “The benefits of an artificial surface, both in durability and consistency throughout a variety of seasons and conditions, were much greater for us. APT proved to be the best fit for our needs and allows us to deal with a single source manufacturer for this new surface. Their installations around the world have drawn high praise and we are excited to partner with an industry leader for this project.”

Spangler Stadium was built in 1966 with a natural grass surface, which has undergone several reconditioning projects throughout the past 40 years. The stadium benefitted from a major renovation in 2004, which resulted in the GWU Football Center and an overhaul of the Hamrick Field House—which now houses offices for men’s and women’s soccer, track and field, and women’s lacrosse.

The Gardner-Webb women’s lacrosse program, under head coach Jacquelyn Duggins, will begin play with its inaugural home game on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, against Limestone College, on the turf at Spangler Stadium.
Once she was enrolled in elementary school, Ramsey fully understood how her SED would affect her both physically and emotionally. “Everything was fine at the beginning of elementary school, but then everyone else started growing and I wasn’t,” Ramsey said. She hoped that the teasing would stop when she began middle school, but it continued to increase until she became a high school student. “There were times when I did not even want to leave my house because someone would point, someone would stare, someone would take a picture,” Ramsey said. “Then it just dawned on me that I wasn’t going to do that anymore. I finally was tired of feeling sorry for myself, and I wasn’t going to wallow anymore in this self pity.”

Ramsey says that prayer and a strong relationship with God helped her find herself and become the confident person she is today. “There were times that I would be so afraid to speak because I thought someone would say something back to me that was mean or just make fun of me,” Ramsey said. “Then I realized that I don’t care what those people think of me, and I am going to say or do whatever I want.”

While she says she found her self-confidence toward the end of high school, it was not until she enrolled at GWU in the fall of 2012 when her personality fully blossomed. Since then, Ramsey became part of a core group of friends on campus and participated in several different activities like her fellow college students. She competed in the Miss Gardner-Webb pageant and was voted the “People’s Choice” award winner. She also participated in the GWU Department of Theatre Arts production, “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe,” where she portrayed a creature in the Narnia forest.

Ramsey has also made an impact on handicapped or disabled students who are in need of assistance navigating campus. “As someone that needs a handicapped space or a shorter sink in the bathroom, I know how it feels to not have these things, so being able to work with the staff and get help is such a relief,” Ramsey said.

Since bullying is something that has impacted her life so much, Ramsey is dedicating her life’s work to try and stop it as much as she can. Through her education, she hopes one day to be able to teach young children about the importance of loving each other and that ridiculing or teasing is something that does not need to go on in the classroom. “I want to be a teacher so that I can be able to help those children learn that it is not OK to make fun of other people,” she said. “Being able to teach tolerance and understanding to children while they are young is something that will stick with them for the rest of their lives.”

Ramsey also believes that her time at Gardner-Webb has profoundly changed her outlook on life and what her future holds. “Once I stepped on campus, I realized that this was a place where I could be me and not worry about judgment or ridicule,” Ramsey added. “I am really happy to be where I am right now.”
Ben Payne helps feed malnourished families several thousand miles from home. With the aid of his family and business principles he’s learned as a marketing major, the Gardner-Webb University senior has assisted in the development of a sustainable nutrition program in one of Guatemala’s many impoverished villages. It’s work that’s earned him recognition in the local community and a mission he hopes will be replicated in other countries around the world.

Payne hails from Pendleton, Ind., where his father, Bert, works as a veterinarian who specializes in poultry. Several years ago, a family friend connected the Paynes with Pensacola, Fla.-based Global Business Solutions Institute (GBSI). The information technology training company maintains a nonprofit branch that conducts missions in several countries, including Central America’s San Pedro, La Laguna, a village in central Guatemala. Half of the country’s children five years and younger don’t get the nutrients they need to live healthily. That rate of chronic malnutrition is the fourth highest in the world.

In 2012, Payne visited Guatemala for the first time as GBSI delivered chickens and supplementary supplies to help feed the hungry. But the aid didn’t end with a simple food dropoff, according to Payne. “What started as bringing relief to people in Guatemala by providing them with chickens evolved into us determining how we could replicate this aid and make it something that could empower the people of Guatemala to do this on their own,” he shared.

“The idea is sustainable relief, not temporary relief. It’s very much the parable that you can give a man a fish and feed him for a day, but if you teach a man to fish, you can feed him for his life.”

GBSI worked with Guatemalan vendors to purchase wood, concrete, fencing, roofing, nesting materials, feed and other supplies to create small chicken houses in San Pedro. Now, the residents maintain those houses to supply chickens and eggs in the village. “If a family uses a dozen eggs a week, one farm will produce between 14 and 15 dozen eggs daily, providing enough eggs to help as many as 100 families in a week,” Payne shared.

Drawing on experience from his business school studies at Gardner-Webb, Payne has helped form a business plan to sustain the nutrition program in Guatemala. “I’m applying what I’ve learned at Gardner-Webb. We’re accounting for revenue, cost and making enough money to sustain and grow this mission. Now I’m going beyond focusing on just coming to Gardner-Webb and getting a degree,” he reflected. “I’m applying knowledge from the classroom to real life. It’s an empowering feeling.”

The nutrition project has changed lives in Guatemala, but it’s also impacted Payne’s life. He met his wife, Grace, in Guatemala while both were visiting the country for mission work. The two married in August 2013 and now live in Boiling Springs. Payne’s business plan for sustainable nutrition has also gained him recognition in the Cleveland County, N.C., community. His presentation about the project was honored in the University category at the 2014 Entrepreneur Expo at Cleveland Community College (CCC).

Plans call for growth of the chicken houses and their reach in Guatemala. The chickens, purchased in nearby Guatemala City, will be replaced with a new flock every two years, Payne said, and the older birds will be given to additional families that need eggs and meat. “We’re seeing success, and God’s bringing all these pieces together,” Payne said. “Now, we’re examining how we can replicate it and tailor it to other countries. We could take it overseas to Africa, provided local governments and leaders of villages cooperate.”

Payne is set to complete his undergraduate degree at Gardner-Webb in December. While he also works at a church in upstate South Carolina and said he’s felt a calling to youth ministry, he’s open to the possibility of a career in international mission work. “God has opened doors for me to be a participant in this project, and God enabled me to have the skills to add to what (GBSI) is doing. I’ve always had a heart for missions. You just have to be willing to see what God’s put before you.”
Wounded Healer

GWU Student’s Medical Trials Shape New Role in Helping Others

Written by Liv LuVisi
that doctors could take them off ventilators.

Developing the newborns’ lungs normally so babies. Within 24 hours, the trial drug began (now commonly used to treat premature newborns into a drug study on Surfactant and Rosalind McMahon entered their so they wanted to make our lives worth

Weighing a mere one pound, 10 ounces, she was delivered deprived of oxygen and put on a ventilator to help her breathe. Just minutes earlier, her brother was born with similar medical complications, leaving only her newborn sister breathing normally.

“They didn’t know if we would survive, so they wanted to make our lives worth something,” McMahon said. Parents Thomas and Rosalind McMahon entered their newborns into a drug study on Surfactant (now commonly used to treat premature babies). Within 24 hours, the trial drug began developing the newborns’ lungs normally so that doctors could take them off ventilators.

Four months later, the triplets finally left the sterile walls of the hospital to go home for the first time in their lives.

However, McMahon’s premature birth was only a foreshadowing to later complications. She began physical therapy from a young age to rehabilitate her cerebral palsy. Her jugular vein sits on her eardrum, causing deafness in her right ear. Two of her eight surgeries have corrected a lazy eye. She now has asthma and was placed in yet another medical study for hypothyroidism that caused her metabolism to slow down and her body to feel weak and cold.

Rather than allow her health’s uncertainties to restrict her lifestyle, McMahon chose to reach out of her comfort zone, ultimately turning what was once a vulnerability into a strength. She began taking aerial silk classes prior to her high school senior year at Aerial CLT of Charlotte, N.C.

“Aerial was one of the first things that truly helped me focus on becoming healthier, physically and mentally,” she said. “I started aerial at a very transitional point in my life, and it was the one thing that made me feel whole again. Some people’s stress outlet might be reading a book or photography, and it just so happens that mine is a little bit different.” Her time at Aerial CLT sparked a desire to begin to eat healthier and exercise more frequently.

While McMahon confesses that she despised rollercoasters growing up, hanging 20 to 30 feet up in the air does not faze her. “Aerial is a very disciplined and controlled form of art, and something that it has taught me is that I don’t have to be perfect. It’s about learning to trust yourself,” she said. “If you don’t re-grab the silk below you to secure yourself, you’ll most likely end up over a dozen feet below on the hard ground. Now, that’s scary. This is why control and trust are so important when it comes to aerial.”

McMahon’s pursuit of aerial silks has propelled her toward a path of physical, mental, and spiritual well being, ultimately paving the way for her to become a source of help to others. She chose to combine two of her passions—aerial silks and the National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA)—to coordinate a fundraiser in Charlotte.

“After I began focusing on my health, NEDA became important to me because they help people also struggling with health-related issues,” McMahon explained. As part of the event, Aerial CLT students performed self-choreographed routines. All proceeds from the event were donated to NEDA.

“Weeks prior to my performance, I had a mental scenario of how it would go, and although it didn’t go exactly as I had planned, it was better,” McMahon said. “It was perfectly imperfect. It was vulnerable, and it was real. Throughout this process, so many people have opened up to me about how eating disorders have affected them, and although it breaks my heart, it also mends it because I know that so many people are also passionate about becoming healthy.”

Her involvement with NEDA doesn’t stop there. McMahon is majoring in psychology at Gardner-Webb and plans to attend graduate school to become a marriage and family therapist, specializing with those who struggle with eating disorders.

The significance of McMahon’s medical trials in forming her new role as a wounded healer is not lost on her. “It’s important to me that I help people with my life,” she explained, “because people have always cared for me and helped me, even when I didn’t ask. I want to be able to do that for somebody else.”
Wendy Harmon grew up with the mountains, rivers, lakes, and streams of western North Carolina at her back door. Born and raised in Rutherfordton, N.C., some of her fondest memories are of outdoor exploratory excursions with her parents, Tommy and Darlene Harmon, where she literally first got her feet wet in ecology—the study of how organisms interact with their environments. When Harmon began looking at colleges, she wanted to find a place where she could further develop her love for science, biology, and ecology. “My mom graduated from Gardner-Webb and told me I needed to visit,” Harmon recalled. “Initially, I thought it might be a little too close to home, but after I visited, I knew this was the place I needed to be.”

During her holiday break last Christmas, she devoted much of her free time to applying for summer internships, based on advice she had received from biology professor and honors program associate dean, Dr. Tom Jones.

“He knew I wasn’t yet an upperclassman, and he told me if I wanted to land one summer internship, I needed to apply for 20,” Harmon explained. “So I set a goal of completing 20 applications during the holiday break.” By early January, she had sent off more than 16 applications, hoping that at least one opportunity would be offered.

Her hard work paid off. Not only did she earn a spot in the four-day SEEDS National Field Trip to Trout Lake Station in Wisconsin, but she landed her dream summer internship studying humpback whales and other aquatic life with the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance (NECWA) in Plymouth Bay, Mass.

“I had to take one of my spring finals early so that I could depart for Wisconsin in time for the trip,” Harmon reflected. She also had to pack for her summer internship, since she was leaving for Massachusetts as soon as her SEEDS program trip was complete. She believes the direct comparison between limnology (the study of inland waters) and marine ecology will help her make some important future decisions.

“The SEEDS experience prepared me for the NECWA internship in ways I did not expect,” she said. “I have always been torn between my desire to study limnology versus marine ecology. My transition from the lakes to the ocean has been interesting, to say the least. Since arriving in Plymouth Bay, the whales and other aquatic creatures have wooed me, but I am quickly learning that I may be more interested in returning to the mountains of North Carolina for my career than I had previously admitted to myself.

Overall, I am prepared that I may have a major turn in my interests around the corner.”

Harmon fully understands that her future success depends upon her willingness to take advantage of every opportunity and resource offered during her time at Gardner-Webb. She has discovered a level of support and concern she believes has been instrumental to her accomplishments.

“Since Gardner-Webb is a small university, I have the luxury of my professors investing in me as an individual,” she shared. “The science department has been absolutely wonderful to me, and I consider many of them role models. They may never know how truly thankful I am for each and every one of them.”

Harmon encourages her peers to secure internships, trips, and other related experiential opportunities as soon as possible to give themselves a competitive edge.

“Internships demonstrate that students can remove themselves from the mold of a college student and insert themselves into a professional position,” she explained. “The willingness to venture beyond one’s comfort zone, and the ability to excel in a challenging position can be factors that attest to that student’s true passion for their field. Opportunities such as these provide me with valuable field experience that many other candidates my age will not have.”
The Gardner-Webb University Board of Trustees announced the purchase of a 53,500-square-foot building that will house the new College of Health Sciences. Officials have confirmed the sale of Crawley Memorial Hospital, located at 315 W. College Avenue, to Gardner-Webb University. The property was previously owned by Carolinas Healthcare System, based in Charlotte, N.C.

Gardner-Webb previously utilized leased space within the Crawley building for the Physician Assistant (PA) program, which began in January, and the Hunt School of Nursing.

The acquisition includes the building, along with nearly 26 acres of property. Officials say the facility will offer many additional opportunities for university growth and will house other programs that are operating in separate locations on the GWU campus.

“Crawley Hospital’s foundational roots began at Gardner-Webb. Established on the Gardner-Webb campus in August of 1949, Royster Hospital (currently Royster Residence Hall) was named for Dr. R.R. Royster, a 20-year trustee of Shelby Hospital. According to the book “Dreaming, Daring, Doing: The Story of Gardner-Webb University,” the college had once operated Royster Hospital, but later the facility was managed by an independent board of directors. In 1958, a new wing was added, giving the hospital space for 30 beds. Then, in the mid-1970s, the new Crawley Hospital—named for John Crawley of Shelby—was built on West College Avenue and the Royster Hospital building was converted to a men’s residence hall.

As the concern over healthcare options for citizens continues to rise, university officials have worked to meet the needs of an under-served rural population and increase the number of primary care providers or practitioners entering and providing services in the rural marketplace. Laying the groundwork for academic infrastructure—and the corresponding classroom and lab facilities—to address these concerns is the next logical step, which leaders say builds on an already exceptional series of health-focused degree programs at GWU. Officials firmly believe a single building dedicated to the health sciences positions the University for growth in a critical area. The demand for healthcare professionals in our region is already quite high, and it is only projected to increase. We are proud to have the opportunity to help meet that demand with well-trained professionals who bring together Gardner-Webb’s unique blend of academic excellence and Christian commitment.”

As the concern over healthcare options for citizens continues to rise, university officials have worked to meet the needs of an under-served rural population and increase the number of primary care providers or practitioners entering and providing services in the rural marketplace. Laying the groundwork for academic infrastructure—and the corresponding classroom and lab facilities—to address these concerns is the next logical step, which leaders say builds on an already exceptional series of health-focused degree programs at GWU. Officials firmly believe a single building dedicated to the health sciences positions the University for growth in a critical area. The demand for healthcare professionals in our region is already quite high, and it is only projected to increase. We are proud to have the opportunity to help meet that demand with well-trained professionals who bring together Gardner-Webb’s unique blend of academic excellence and Christian commitment.”

Health-focused degree programs at Gardner-Webb will be included within the College of Health Sciences. The stellar reputation of the GWU School of Nursing and the excitement surrounding the launch of the Physician Assistant Studies (PA) program, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) programs, and the School of Preventive and Rehabilitative Health Sciences programs are elements that necessitated the purchase of a facility in which students could benefit from an experiential learning environment. Additionally, the door remains open for other potential health science preparation opportunities including speech, physical and occupational therapy programs.

Initially serving both the University and the community at large as an acute-care, 60-bed hospital, Crawley later transitioned to skilled-care beds and entered into a management services agreement with Cleveland Regional Medical Center in 1996. The hospital’s skilled-care operations were moved to Kings Mountain, N.C. and Gardner-Webb has leased the building for office and classroom space.

Substantial renovations are expected to be complete by the spring of 2015, and officials are planning a public unveiling of the updated facility upon completion of construction.
Officials are thrilled to announce a significant, undisclosed donation to the top-rated Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing. Dr. Jack and Mrs. Ruby Hunt, noted public servants and staunch supporters of a wide range of community projects, have committed a generous gift to the University to establish the Hunt School of Nursing.

Gardner-Webb University President Dr. Frank Bonner believes the Hunt family represents community service at its finest, and the partnership with the University will benefit both current and future nursing students.

“Jack and Ruby Hunt have had tremendous, positive impact on the quality of life not only in their community and region but throughout North Carolina,” Bonner said. “From the wonderful benefits of the Ruby Hunt YMCA in Boiling Springs, to Jack’s service as one of the great statesmen in the North Carolina legislature, to nursing education—it is simply impossible to fully describe the positive impact of this couple.”

A portion of the gift will be used to provide program enhancements, renovate nursing facilities, and supply educational technology. In addition, the donation will establish the Hunt Sisters Nursing Scholars Fund to offer scholarship opportunities for students in the Hunt School of Nursing.

“We’ve always had a passion for helping nurses and have a deep, deep appreciation for their call and their purpose,” Jack Hunt shared. “I’d really like to see others join in and assist with funds for the scholarship so that people can help nurses succeed with as little debt as possible.”

Hunt School of Nursing Dean Dr. Sharon Starr is eager to help facilitate the exciting changes within the program, which include classroom and lab space moving to the new College of Health Sciences building (formerly Crawley hospital), upon completion of ongoing building renovations.

“The School of Nursing is very proud to be the beneficiary of Dr. Hunt’s gift and to be named the Hunt School of Nursing,” Starr said.

“We feel this distinction is a reflection of the quality and excellence of the various nursing programs offered at Gardner-Webb.”

The Hunt School of Nursing will include the undergraduate two-year Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), and graduate nursing programs at Gardner-Webb such as the Family Nurse Practitioner Program (FNP), the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Hunt said he was proud to support degree programs that have given women a chance to exercise their calling and succeed in a corporate healthcare setting.

“I grew up in an era where there were few opportunities for women on a professional level,” Hunt explained. “They were either teachers or nurses. When I got involved in politics, I became more sensitive to that. I continued to advocate for both nurses and teachers. And that’s why this connection with an educational institution like Gardner-Webb and the School of Nursing is so perfect.”

John Jackson “Jack” and Ruby Hunt live in Lattimore, N.C. Jack excelled as a dentist, farmer, entrepreneur and a statesman of Cleveland County. A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Hunt earned the rank of Major in the U.S. Army. For 22 years, he served as an elected representative in the North Carolina General Assembly. He was the longest-running Chairman of the House Rules committee and also served as Speaker Pro-Tempore. The couple has financially supported many community projects for institutions including Cleveland Community College, the Ruby Hunt YMCA, the Earl Scruggs Center, and Gardner-Webb. In 2012, Hunt was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the Gardner-Webb University Board of Trustees. The Hunts are devoted Christians, proponents of education, and advocates for the community in which they live.

“Nursing is a calling,” Hunt reflected. “I don’t believe you can be a caring nurse without that call. I am happy to see that Gardner-Webb is supplying a place for those to meet that calling.”
Bilingual Benefits Revealed in New Studies

Written by Alyssa Gutierrez

The increase of international business and the globalization of worldview, products and ideas have raised the importance of learning a second language, something the Gardner-Webb University World Languages and Literature department knows all about.

“The world has now become a global village,” said Dr. Bernhard Martin, professor of German and chair of the GWU Department of World Languages and Literature.

“Most jobs, whether it be management, education or business include international contacts and even if the main language of the company is English it is important to try and get the outside view of your own culture and connect to these international business partners.”

Martin believes that the language education received during a four-year undergraduate program is enough to work efficiently in a foreign language but it is not until a person learns the culture of the language that they will become fluent. “People think that places like McDonald’s in another country is the same as here, but it’s not,” he said. As an example, McDonald’s must adapt to the culture and traditions of another country, instead of the other way around. This includes common English words that might come across as offensive in another country’s language. Plus, menu items like burgers made with rice, vegetables, lamb, or even squid elsewhere could be mentally active and use your memory for processing like a single language developed the first symptoms of dementia at age 61, versus 65-and-a-half years old in those who were bilingual.

“Learning a second language is a bit memory-jogging. Language instruction can help older people keep their memory abilities fresh which is important for anyone,” said Martin. “The longer you can be mentally active and use your memory for processing like language learning, it is certainly beneficial.”

Regardless of the reasons for studying a foreign language, whether it is for a competitive edge when looking for a job or mental sharpness, Martin believes it is important for everyone to have some basic knowledge of another language in a world that is growing more diverse each day.

On the opposite side of the age spectrum, long-term health benefits can also be seen in older adults. Psychologists report that the ability to speak more than one language can help delay the onset of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease later in life. According to a study (the largest of its kind to date) conducted in India at the Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences, speaking two languages slowed the onset of three types of dementia, including Alzheimer’s, by an average of five years. “Researchers found that patients who spoke a single language developed the first symptoms of dementia at age 61, versus 65-and-a-half years old in those who were bilingual.”

“Learning a second language is a bit memory-jogging. Language instruction can help older people keep their memory abilities fresh which is important for anyone,” said Martin. “The longer you can be mentally active and use your memory for processing like language learning, it is certainly beneficial.”

Regardless of the reasons for studying a foreign language, whether it is for a competitive edge when looking for a job or mental sharpness, Martin believes it is important for everyone to have some basic knowledge of another language in a world that is growing more diverse each day.

GWU Professor Guides Students Through Collaborative Publication

When Gardner-Webb University Assistant Professor of History Dr. Joseph Moore taught his first Colonial and Revolutionary America class at Gardner-Webb University, he had no difficulty engaging students in lively discussions full of energy and excitement. However, he discovered profound differences during the second offering of the course.

“Everything just fell flat,” he shared. “The time slot was different, the student make-up was different, even I felt different. Discussions went nowhere; paper topics seemed unenthused. We careened toward monotony. What’s a history professor to do when he can’t get people excited about the American Revolution?”

The answer came in the form of an unconventional opportunity. Moore was aware that a new online textbook called “The American Yawp” was in need of contributors. He immediately understood the benefits of a free online scholarly textbook for cash-strapped students. That’s when a new idea began to form, which he pitched to the book’s project manager, Benjamin Wright.

“I offered that my students—under guidance—would do in-depth research on aspects of the Loyalists in the American Revolution,” Moore explained. “Each would contribute, after which I would corrall their work into 500 words. The two-fold benefit being that my students would be immediately engaged in the content of the course and at the same time, assimilate The American Yawp in its journey toward completion.”

Dubbing themselves the “Gardner-Webb Loyalist Project,” the group devoured texts and information on anything and everything Loyalist. “A class blog became our nexus point to assign readings and post our notes,” Moore said. “Assignments were made by area of interest. Divisions of labor and reading notes were posted online throughout the process, and I operated as a first among equals.”

Moore noted a significant increase in enthusiasm for the course, and students reported they enjoyed seeing their professor take on the role of peer-writer. “Suddenly, they were the experts on things I had not read,” he shared. “This empowered students and kept them engaged with minimal effort from me. Also, the task helped them become extremely appreciative of judicious word choice. Five-hundred words suddenly seemed so short.”

The group debated inclusion or exclusion of material. They discussed concepts such as whether or not they should create ideological history in order to make room for social history, how much social history was too much; and how to appropriately account for space and time. “I observed, debated, fought, occasionally lost, and was generally ecstatic about it all,” Moore recounted. “I’m sure some will critique our final product, and of course, the editors will have the final say, but I’m quite proud of this group of young scholars and their collaboration,” he offered. “May it—or a version of it—live on in the free textbooks of future generations.”

Dr. Bernhard Martin

Dr. Joseph Moore
Police Capt. Travis Brittian is surrounded. There are men and women to his left, others to his right, and they have at least two things in common. They are criminal justice professionals, and they’re graduates of Gardner-Webb’s Degree Completion Program (DCP). Brittian completed his criminal justice degree at GWU in 2008. In addition to teaching courses as an adjunct professor for the University, he now serves as commander over the special situations division and captain of support services at the Gastonia (N.C.) Police Department. At any given time, about a dozen of his department colleagues are fellow Gardner-Webb alumni. “It’s the convenience and the variance of classroom instruction that makes Gardner-Webb’s program so respected,” Brittian offered. “It really dives into how agencies operate, how courts and the penal system operate, and it ties everything together.”

The state of North Carolina’s system of criminal justice professionals is saturated with Gardner-Webb alumni, and that number continues to grow as the needs of law enforcement agencies and courts expand and evolve, according to Dr. Bobbie Cox, associate provost of Gardner-Webb alumni, and that number continues to grow as the needs of law enforcement agencies and courts expand and evolve, according to Dr. Bobbie Cox, associate provost of Gardner-Webb’s College of Adult and Distance Education. “Over the past seven years the popularity of this program has gradually increased,” Cox shared. “As we continue to develop it, add courses and increase opportunities, I expect we’ll see continued increases in interest and enrollment.”

The University started the DCP, formerly called the GOAL Program, in 1978 with three majors, including criminal justice. “In the 1970s, it was a program that was identified as a need among adult students,” Cox reflected on the criminal justice tract. “A lot of law enforcement officers did not have the opportunity for education because they could not travel and sit in a classroom due to their schedules. Gardner-Webb saw the opportunity for degree completion.”

One of the University’s many criminal justice student success stories, Homer Craig ventured from his job in architectural drafting into a career as a police officer. Several of his supervisors completed Gardner-Webb’s program, and he noted the positive impact of their education on their careers.

Craig completed his GWU degree in 1992, and later earned his master’s degree at the University of Alabama. Longtime GWU Professor Dr. Barry Hambright then invited Craig to teach courses at Gardner-Webb, and since 1995 he has served as an adjunct professor. The retired Winston-Salem (N.C.) assistant police chief recently took the reins as criminal justice coordinator for Gardner-Webb. His duties will include teaching courses, managing adjunct professors, and serving as internship supervisor. “Gardner-Webb’s program develops good critical thinking skills,” Craig offered. “It also improves your discipline because you have to balance your school, your work, and your spiritual lives.”

Cox keeps a family picture in her office showcasing the day she graduated from GWU with a criminal justice degree. “It serves as a reminder that students can balance their lives and earn their degree under a variety of life circumstances. She worked full time in law enforcement and traveled to the classroom at night to advance her education in the field. “Gardner-Webb did this before anybody did it,” she said of the University’s offering of distance-education courses in the GOAL Program. “One thing I’m trying to bring to the table as the leader of this program is that we’ve got to stay current and we can’t be stagnant in what we teach and how we offer it. Otherwise, we’ll get behind other schools.”

Like educational offerings, criminal justice processes are changing, according to Cox. Internet crimes, for example, have changed the way law enforcement officers must be educated to defend the public and bring criminals to justice. A strong curriculum, Cox said, must include instruction in a diverse array of topics that include science, accounting and technology. “Law enforcement is changing,” she said. “This degree prepares you for how to address diverse issues, and it prepares you for increased opportunities, including promotions and administrative opportunities.”

Dylan Novak found an opportunity at Gardner-Webb searching for universities on his smartphone while moving to North Carolina from New Hampshire. A former student of a small New England college, Novak had experienced difficulties with the administrative requirements of completing his college degree. The former U.S. Marine spent four years on active duty, including tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, and he sought an avenue to enter law enforcement.

A fellow serviceman connected 26-year-old Novak with Gardner-Webb and, within 10 hours of applying, the University contacted him with information about the program, he said. Now, he expects to complete the program in 2015 and hopes to enter the law enforcement field as a policeman or state trooper. His experience at Gardner-Webb has opened doors for him, particularly as a veteran. “They’ve made it easy to meet the Veterans Affairs requirements as prior military,” Novak shared. “And the cost of attending the Degree Completion Program is significantly better than what I was paying at my previous school. I was to the point I was about to have to drop out of college because I couldn’t pay for it. This program really is the reason I’m able to be in school.”

Currently, nearly 150 students are enrolled in criminal justice courses at Gardner-Webb, with nearly all participating in the DCP. The University currently does not offer a traditional undergraduate major in the subject, but that’s among the targets for the future, according to Cox. “We’re seeing growth in the degree because of the program’s flexibility, and we’ll continue to seek ways to improve what we offer,” Cox said. “I’d love for Gardner-Webb to be known as the place to go study criminal justice.”

For more information on Gardner-Webb’s Degree Completion Program or the criminal justice degree, call 1-866-498-4625 or visit gardner-webb.edu/dcp.
The Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity and Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy announced plans for a new dual degree program, which will offer students who are called to pastoral ministry an opportunity to earn both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies and Master of Divinity degree in five years. The program, set to begin in fall 2015, is supported by a grant from the Kern Family Foundation.

“The Five-Year Pastoral Degree is a great opportunity to advance the University’s special role in assisting congregations with their leadership needs,” said GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie. “The program provides a more affordable route to theological education for highly motivated men and women who experience a call to ministry early in their educational journey. At Gardner-Webb, we are thrilled by the prospect of partnering with churches in a way that can so directly promote congregational vitality.”

The five-year cohort model program will feature approximately 180 hours of academic credit, which includes 30 hours in a church pastoral residency. By comparison, a traditional GWU undergraduate degree requires a minimum of 128 credit hours, and the Master of Divinity degree requires the completion of 90 credit hours. Officials say the new degree track will still offer Gardner-Webb’s foundational liberal arts core curriculum, while also consolidating certain courses that duplicate instruction in the traditional completion of the bachelor’s and master’s curriculums.

“We don’t have anything similar, in terms of a five-year bachelor’s and master’s degree program at Gardner-Webb,” said Dr. Robert Canoy, dean of the GWU School of Divinity. “This type of program may become the wave of the future, for private schools in particular.”

Each year, beginning in fall 2015, the program will enroll a new group of 10 students. When the first class reaches the fifth year, 50 total students will be enrolled in the five-year track. “This degree program will be academically rigorous, so students will be carefully screened to make sure that they are not only ready academically, but that they also have a specific call to the pastoral ministry,” Stepp shared.

In August, GWU announced it named Dr. Joseph Caldwell director of the program. “If I was asked to define what I hoped the end state would be,” Caldwell said, “I would say that my greatest desire is that the Five-Year Pastoral Degree Program will be the premier program in the nation from which churches seek their future pastoral leaders.”
Research papers and extensive end-of-term writing projects are higher education requirements of which students are aware long before they fill out their first college application. But what’s one to do when that 20-page paper is due in two weeks and must be referenced in a format that is completely foreign to the student?

According to Gardner-Webb University Assistant Professor of English Dr. Jennifer Buckner, the answer is surprisingly simple. For help in a wide array of areas, that student should visit the GWU Writing Center, located in the Tucker Student Center. As the director of the GWU Writing Center, Buckner believes its services can improve a writer’s skill no matter where they fall on the spectrum.

“A common misconception is that you only go to the Writing Center if you can’t write,” Buckner shared. “That simply isn’t true. Some students might be really talented performing in one genre, but then they have to move to another class with different rules about formality, headings, structure, and so forth. For instance, the science department doesn’t want you to be poetic in your lab reports, but the English department likes some craft in what they read. Sometimes that is difficult for students to navigate, and the staff members at the center are able to provide valuable assistance.”

Since 2012, when the center moved from its previous location in Craig Hall to the Tucker Student Center, officials have reported substantially larger numbers of people utilizing the services. “I knew we would have more traffic, but I did not realize that it would be that much more,” Buckner reflected. “In the first month, we had a 30-percent increase in attendance! The staff in the writing center are wholly committed to helping their peers, so they were thrilled with the increase.”

With up to seven student workers—five undergraduate and two graduate students—the center provides one-hour consultations in which clients can receive guidance on getting started with their project, organizing a draft, documenting sources research, formatting according to a style guide, proofreading, style, and more.

“The most common misconception—and this is universal and not unique to Gardner-Webb—is that the Writing Center is a ‘fix-it’ center,” Buckner offered. “People believe you just take your paper in there, and we all have giant red ink pens and we mark all of the grammatical errors and then hand the paper back. But that’s not what happens. I actually talk to the staff a lot about teaching, not fixing. The goal is not just to make that paper better, but to make that student a better writer, so they can transfer those skills to other writing situations.”

Open to all students—undergraduate, Degree Completion Program, graduate, on- and off-campus learners, native English speakers and those for whom English is a second language—the Center’s staff also represents a diversely educated group. “Just in the past two to three years, we’ve worked to emphasize that this is not just an ‘English majors’ center,” Buckner said. “We’ve had nursing, psychology, chemistry, biology, social sciences, Spanish, and English majors serve as student workers. That helps provide beneficial services to our students because these workers have been in these classes with these professors. They can say, ‘I took that class. This is the way you should write for that professor.’”

Each year, the number of off-campus students served through the GWU Writing Center has also increased. By using online programs and asynchronous communications, distance education students can access the staff by appointment as well. Staff members use programs to share information from desktop-to-desktop, and then offer feedback and assistance. Buckner is looking for additional ways to utilize technology to enhance accessibility for non-traditional students. “I’ve been mulling several ‘out of the box’ solutions for the writing center,” she shared. “Any technology we adopt has to be simple and accessible to individuals without sacrificing the quality of service.”

With consultations lasting one hour, and a maximum of six consultations in one week allowed per student, Buckner believes that great strides can be made in improving a client’s writing skills if they provide enough lead-time. “Consultants can share a variety of strategies and can offer advice about a wide range of writing situations and challenges,” Buckner declared. “Within those guidelines and with just two weeks, our staff can really provide some help with focus, organization, polish and style.”

The GWU Writing Center is a free service for all students of the University. Located on the second level of Tucker Student Center in Room 237, specific hours of operation are posted online at gardner-webb.edu/writingcenter. Students can make an appointment via WebbConnect or by calling (704) 406-4393 during operating hours.
A former English professor, graduate school dean, and associate provost at Gardner-Webb University has unveiled her memoir, “Army Brat, Army Bride, Civilian: A Life,” in which she shares the benefits and drawbacks to military living and the challenges her family later faced as civilians. Dr. Darlene Gravett has experienced just about everything the military life has to offer, including countless relocations, deployments, and transitions.

“I always knew I wanted to write a book,” shared Gravett, a self-proclaimed Army brat. “I just wasn’t sure what it would be about.” As she contemplated the lives of military persons, and their spouses and families, the subject of her future book emerged quite naturally. As she shared, “After more than 24 years here, when people ask me where I’m from, the most accurate answer for me is ‘Boiling Springs.’ Even though that’s not exactly true, I feel more connected to this community than any other.”

Born in Roanoke, Va., Gravett still struggles with the question, “Where are you from?” She said it is one of many common denominators among children who were raised in the military. “I always knew I wanted to write a book,” shared Gravett, a self-proclaimed Army brat. “I just wasn’t sure what it would be about.”

For many Christians, a visit to the Holy Land is a time to pay homage to the physical roots and birthplace of their faith. For Gardner-Webb School of Divinity students and professors, it was an appropriate setting for a transformative spiritual journey. More than 35 students and professors traveled to Israel as part of the school’s annual trip in May. For 11 days, the group visited many of the historic locations made famous by Biblical accounts.

Dean of the School of Divinity, Dr. Robert Canoy, offered theological insight for places and events alongside local guide Bader Rabadi, who provided historical and archaeological context. “I think offering the trip in such an accessible way really makes Gardner-Webb unique,” Canoy shared. “Experiencing the topography, the geography, the geology, the close proximity of these places to one another just radically deepens your Biblical understanding.”

The group traversed many of the locations of Jesus’s ministry as told in the Bible—from his birthplace in Bethlehem to the empty Garden Tomb—in addition to Old Testament sites, such as the city of Jericho. Notable sites included the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Mount of Ascension, and Nazareth. More than a physical journey, the school’s Holy Land trip is a time to be challenged by the spiritual lessons tied to each site. For example, the group stopped at a church marking the spot where Jesus prayed the Lord’s Prayer—called Peter Nostor (Latin for “Our Father”)—where the prayer is translated into all the world’s languages. “It’s a special time to gather there and find the language of our ancestors and to rub shoulders with believers from all over the world who stand before the mosaic of the Lord’s Prayer in their own language,” Canoy shared.

Divinity student Daniel Rushing spoke highly of the strongly camaraderie formed between both students and professors as a result of sharing their journeys with one another. “There is a bond built between people who experience this together—one that cannot be duplicated in any other setting,” he offered. “As a group, we were growing. We woke each other up in the mornings, encouraged one another as the toil of the travels took its toll on our bodies, and we worshiped with one another on a daily basis. All of this at the places Jesus walked.”

At the Jordan River, nearly the entire group participated in a baptismal renewal service as a reaffirmation of their faith. In addition, three Indonesian men, unknown to the group, asked to be baptized as Christians for the first time.

“At the Jordan I was baptized by Dr. McConnell [assistant professor of New Testament interpretation],” Rushing shared. “The baptism was surreal—one to commemorate my pilgrimage into the Holy Land.”

Alumna Aileen Lavintorre said she was changed by the opportunity to travel with spiritual mentors, friends and teachers. “It was great to walk where Jesus walked,” the 2010 M.Div. graduate said. “It was great to be there with people who are living as Jesus lived. In how they teach, how they pray, how they care about us individually as students, our professors showed us how Jesus lived.”

Canoy shared one of the group’s more important spiritual lessons at the Mount of Beatitudes, where they were reminded of Jesus proclaiming believers as the salt and light of the world. As much as a trip to the Holy Land is an individual blessing, he believes God is also capable of using that experience to benefit others as well. A visit to the Holy Land can be a reaffirming experience for any believer, no matter where they are in their personal spiritual journey. “We found the Garden Tomb just as the first disciples did—empty,” Canoy shared. “That’s the best word of all the words I have used to summarize our days in the Holy Land. An empty tomb still means that Jesus is risen from the dead!”

Written by Niki Bito-Carroll

A Most Holy Journey

GWU Divinity Students and Professors Make Transformative Holy Land Pilgrimage
Written by Matt Henler
The 1960s

REV. MAX PENDELTON ’64
was honored as Man of the Year at the 64th annual Mount Holly Community Awards banquet in Mt. Holly, N.C. Pendleton, now retired, served 33 years as pastor of Catawba Heights Baptist Church. He continues to serve the Mount Holly area with bereavement ministering and civic groups in need of pastoral care. Pendleton and his wife of 61 years, Virginia, are still members of Catawba Heights Baptist.

ROGER DIXON ’64
was honored by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. Dixon spent 31 years working in five schools in North Carolina, as well as nine years in South Carolina. He was one of eight high school athletic directors nationwide honored with an NFHS citation.

The 1970s

JOSEPH SOUTHARDS ’71 BS
was awarded the Silver Beaver Award at the 91st Annual Recognition Banquet of the Piedmont Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Silver Beaver is the highest honor a council can bestow on a volunteer and is awarded by the national Scouts council upon recommendation of the local council. He has been a Scout for more than 30 years, and he achieved the rank of Eagle as an adult Scout. He and his wife, Evelyn, reside in Cherryville, N.C.

JAMARIA JONES ’72 AA
recently published a new collection of poetry, “Legacy in Words.” Jones, who resides in Cherryville, N.C. as an adult Scout. He and his wife, Evelyn, in his youth.  He has held several positions as an adult Scout. He and his wife, Evelyn, reside in Cherryville, N.C.

LAURA COLEMAN ’90 BS
married Steven Wetzel on Nov. 2, 2013. She is the accounting manager for CFY Inc. of Clemmons, N.C.

JEFFREY S. LINNEY ’91 BS
completed his Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Information Systems at Nova Southeastern University, based in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Linney has worked more than 20 years in law enforcement, currently serving as police chief at Louisburg College in Franklin County, N.C. He resides in Johnston County, N.C.

Mark Ackerman ’93 BS
became head football coach and athletic director at Unity Christian School in Rome, Ga. He previously served as athletic director and football coach at Southwest Florida Christian Academy in Fort Myers, Fla., for four years.

Wilson Weaver ’93 BS
was promoted to assistant police chief for the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Police Department. He oversees the department’s field-services bureau.

The 1980s

JAY TEMPLE ’81 BS, ’86 MA
recently retired from Davidson County (N.C.) Schools after 30 years in education. He spent the past 15 years in the central office as the transportation director for 10 years and the executive director of auxiliary services for five years. In his retirement, he plans to work on model cars, hunt, fish and ride boats at the lake.

RONALD HARGRAVE ’85 BS, ’83 MA, ’86 EDD
was named superintendent of Scotland County (N.C.) Schools. He previously served as deputy superintendent of operations for the Freddoll-Stateville (N.C.) Schools district since 2009. Hargrave attended Gardner-Webb on a basketball scholarship. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves, attaining the rank of first sergeant, from 1985 to 1993.

Laurie B. Bush-Johnson ’89 BSN
now works at Conceptions Reproductive and Infertility Clinic in Denver, Colo., as well as at RidgeGate OB/GYN Clinic in Castle Rock, Colo. She and husband, John, have three children.

NOEL T. MANNING ’94 BA
was named as associate vice president for marketing and communications at Gardner-Webb. In the position, he directs operations that include public relations, marketing, WGWG.org and Gardner-Webb’s web design, and graphic design. He also serves as chief communication officer for the University. Manning was also recently elected as secretary for the Salvation Army Board of Advisors (Cleveland and Rutherford counties, N.C.) and for the Cleveland County Arts Council. He resides in Boiling Springs with his wife, Beth, and children, Kathryn and Thomas. He can be reached at nmanning@gardner-webb.edu

GWU Alum Expands Community Leadership Role

Hoyt Bynum Jr. ’93 Models Christian Leadership as BBBS CEO

Written by Matt Roder

An impactful mentorship can mean the difference between a troubled and thriving life. Gardner-Webb alumnus Hoyt Bynum Jr. ’93 never understates the importance of pouring guidance into someone in need of clarity. Having grown up with the help and love of others, Bynum has sought to pay it forward as CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of the Upstate region of South Carolina, a position he’s held since late 2013.

“My passion has always been with youth and seeing young people succeed,” Bynum said. “BBBS Upstate gave me the opportunity to use my talents and experience by becoming the president and CEO.”

BBBS Upstate matches children age six through 18 years with positive role models. Their mission is to provide those facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better. BBBS Upstate serves children in Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Laurens, Oconee and Pickens counties of S.C. Over 10,000 youth have been provided mentoring services by BBBS Upstate since 1974.

Helping others is no new venture for Bynum, who has spent the past 20 years of his career working with non-profit organizations including Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Children’s Shelter of the Upstate, Habitat for Humanity, and the Simpsonville, S.C., Area Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as pastor of Born Again Church, which he launched in August 2012 in the Spartanburg, S.C., area.

As the leader of BBBS, a non-profit whose goal is to build up strong youth communities, Bynum seeks to reverse the shortages of children without mentors, particularly in the African-American community.

Bynum recalls his experiences at Gardner-Webb as positively life-forming for what would be a future career in community service. “The education and experiences were pivotal for providing me with a solid foundation to serve,” he shared. After arriving on campus as a football scholarship recipient in 1991 with a role in business administration as a member of the football team, the golf scholarship and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Bynum is currently enrolled at Liberty University Theological Seminary and is working on a master’s degree in Religion and Christian Leadership. He continues to look toward the future. “My goals are to be the best CEO for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Upstate and the best husband and pastor of Born Again Church,” Bynum shared. “I’m excited about how the Lord is using me, and how he is going to position me to lead and serve His people. For over 20 years, I have been mission-driven to using my gifts and talents to make a difference within the community.”

Dr. David Walker ’94 MA, ’86 EDD
was named principal at Casar Elementary School in Casar, N.C. He started his career as a teacher at Burns High School and then taught driver’s education. He has been a school administrator and assistant principal for 12 years. He and his wife, Tonya, have two daughters.
Gardner-Webb alum Hal Bryant may have graduated in 1972 with a bachelor’s degree in Social Science, but his minor in art offered more of an indication of his future career path. Bryant enjoyed more than 30 years as an art instructor at Cleveland Community College in Shelby, N.C., where he helped shape the artistic technique of hundreds of students. In addition, he has received tremendous accolades for his own watercolor, acrylic and pastel renderings, for which he offers his alma mater much credit.

“It was at Gardner-Webb where I really honed my desire to create some type of paintings and some type of art,” Bryant explained. “Works in acrylic, watercolor, pastel are what I would consider my favorite type of media… depends on my mood at the time.”

Because he never had the luxury of full days to go out and paint a scene on location, Bryant developed some skill in photography. He became friends with longtime Shelby photographer, the late Elwin Stillwell. He said Stillwell taught him how to successfully develop images in a chemical darkroom. Bryant would then use those photographs as source pictures from which he could later paint.

As technology changed and images moved from film to digital, Bryant adapted. He continues to teach digital photography classes as an adjunct instructor at the community college. Yet, he maintains his foundational ideals of artistry.

“It would be real tempting to take a photo and run it through some of the Photoshop filters and make it look like a pastel or make it look like a watercolor and then print it out,” he shared.

Bryant uses elements of technology to enhance his photographs and offer the viewer an opportunity to experience subjects that he finds fascinating including nature, rustic farm life such as barns and old houses, and anything that depicts the passage of time.

“My favorite part of photography is trying to find the subject,” he reflected. “Just going exploring and as Charles Kuralt would say, ‘seeing what’s around the next bend.’”

He enjoys capturing scenes which might not seem worthy of closer inspection. “In my photography, I like to photograph subjects that a lot of people would just not have seen beauty in,” he offered. “That’s something I’ve always been interested in—what they call the ‘art of seeing.’ That’s true of both paintings and photographs—trying to discover beauty where most people would not think beauty existed.”
GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY

admissions@gardner-webb.edu
800.253.6472
gardner-webb.edu/referral

GWU Alumnus Joins College Baseball Hall of Fame

Gardner-Webb University alumnus Tim Wallace ’95 MA was elected to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. An induction ceremony was held in May 2014 in Grand Junction, Colo.

He has led Spartanburg Methodist College (SMC) to the Junior College World Series six times, including back-to-back appearances in 2012 and 2013. In 23 coaching seasons, he has amassed about 1,000 victories and set a winning percentage of about 75 percent, among the best in the country.

“It’s a great honor,” he said. “But it’s more a testament to the players than me. If you’ve got some horses, you can have some pretty good races. We’ve had some good horses through the years. I take my hat off to those guys.”

He has led SMC to Region 10 championships 11 times, and he has garnered six NJCAA Eastern District Coach of the Year awards. He is a member of the halls of fame at SMC and at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., where he was a standout player as a catcher.

He was a second-round Major League Baseball draft pick of the St. Louis Cardinals and played seven professional seasons, was an all-star in Triple-A and became a batting champion and home run leader in Italy.

Rodney Aldridge joined the department in October 2000 after receiving his degree from Gardner-Webb. In 2008, he was promoted to sergeant. He has served in the patrol, juvenile/missing persons investigation bureau and, most recently, as community coordinator sergeant in the city’s central district. He has also served on federal terrorism and safe streets task forces.

Ashleigh Bradford ’00 BS now teaches a pre-kindergarten class at the Discovery Preschool, part of the A.E. Finley YMCA in Raleigh, N.C. She lives in Raleigh with her husband, David, and their two children.

BRAD RICHARDSON ’99 MA was named the 2014 Wells Fargo Principal of the Year for North Carolina’s Region 8. Richardson is principal of Forest City-Dunbar Elementary School in Forest City, N.C. Since becoming principal at the school, he has implemented dress code, calendar and after-school remediation program changes to improve the quality of education for students. In fall 2013, he was selected by his peers as the Rutherford County (N.C.) Schools Principal of the Year.

Brandon Zoch ’00 BS, ’09 MBA was promoted to associate vice president for student affairs at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, N.C., and became chairman of the board of directors for the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) and currently serves as vice chairman of the NAPA Young Leaders. He is a member of the NAPA Young Leaders.

Rodney Aldridge joined the department in 2000.

Class Acts

Marty Cauley ’85 B.A. ’99 M.D. was ordained into the gospel ministry on Oct. 13, 2013, at New Hope Baptist Church in Donner, N.C., where he serves as assistant pastor with evangelism and outreach.

Joan BowenStine ’98 B.S. was named programs director for the McDowell County (N.C.) branch of the Partnership for Children of the Foothills. Previously, she worked 14 years with Smart Start, including nine years as executive director. She resides in Burke County and is married with one son and two grandchildren.

Brian Riggins ’99 M.B.A. joined the sales team at Weber-Hodges real estate agency in Boone, N.C. A 14-year resident of the Boone area, he assists property buyers and sellers in the surrounding region. He is a member of the High Country Association of REALTORS, and he serves as a deacon at High Country Christian Fellowship in Boone.

Tim Wallace

The 2000s

Ashleigh Bradford ’00 BS was recently named vice president of operations for Superior Paving Corp. in Gainesville, Va. He has worked for the company since earning his bachelor’s degree at Gardner-Webb in 2001 and has worked his way up through the company’s operations division. He also serves on the board of directors for the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) and currently serves as vice chairman of the board.

David White ’01 B.S. was recently named vice president of operations for Superior Paving Corp. in Gainesville, Va. He has worked for the company since earning his bachelor’s degree at Gardner-Webb in 2001 and has worked his way up through the company’s operations division. He also serves on the board of directors for the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) and currently serves as vice chairman of the board.

Brandon Zoch ’00 B.S., ’09 M.B.A. was recently named vice president for student affairs at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, N.C., and became chairman of the board of directors for the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) and currently serves as vice chairman of the board.

Ashleigh Bradford ’00 BS now teaches a pre-kindergarten class at the Discovery Preschool, part of the A.E. Finley YMCA in Raleigh, N.C. She lives in Raleigh with her husband, David, and their two children.

The 2000s

GARDNER-WEBB.EDU
She said Hospice provides an extra dimension of support for her and her family. “Here, I can get all the care I can possibly need but have the freedom to spend quality time with my family,” she said. “They are relieved and not overly burdened with caregiving, so the time I spend with them is special.”

She shares the lessons she’s learned and describes her life and 23-year battle with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in a book she has written, “Living Among the Dying.”

Writing a book is something Hamrick, 52, has always wanted to do, said her husband, Mark, also a 1984 alumnus of Gardner-Webb, where he received his bachelor’s degree in business. “The book is a real triumph considering she typed each letter one at a time with her eyes,” Mark shared.

Hamrick used an Ecopoint Eye Gaze Computer, which allowed her to select each letter from the keyboard. It is painstakingly slow. “I had it in my head, and if my eyes could type as fast as my brain, I could have written it faster,” she said.

“Lynn can no longer move below her neck, but we will have a very dear friend to write any request from Lynn or the person buying the book and I will be there to stamp Lynn’s signature,” Mark said. “The stamp was made from a signature from when we first got married back in March 1985 (29 years ago). We dated eight years, so we have been together 36 years.”

Hamrick, who taught school for 13 years, doesn’t exaggerate when she says that she has always loved to write. “My grandmother found a postcard that I had written and mailed when I was four years old,” she said.

She’s not sure how she did it—whether she had help or not—but there on the card is the note, “I hope you have a very nice Christmas.” When she was in the seventh grade, her teacher, Jane Scherger, gave her the next boost of confidence. “She said, ‘I love to read your writing,’” Hamrick remembered. “I think that was the first time I realized that I had a real love for writing.”

At Crest High School, she took creative writing. The teacher, Frances Kiser, asked her to write an essay for her. “That made me feel honored,” she said. “In college (at Gardner-Webb), I loved the classes that required term papers. I would rather write a term paper than take a test.”

Over the years, she wrote essays and poems for the family to celebrate special occasions and as a new first grade teacher, she broke the ice by writing something for her school. “When I started teaching and I was trying to make friends with the teachers, we were doing accreditation and I wrote a poem for the school,” Hamrick said. “After that, they would always come to me when they needed something written. I have files and files of poems, essays and thoughts.”

After spending time at Hospice and with help from her pastor at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C., Dr. Rit Varriale, the timing was right to finally publish a book. “Our pastor has a publishing company,” she shared. “And Westmoreland Printers is printing the book.”

Working with Lynn and Mark to publish the book has given Varriale a greater appreciation for the couple. “Together, Mark and Lynn have kept their faith in the Lord and their love for one another,” Varriale offered. “There aren’t many couples who could endure like they have. There aren’t many women who, given the context, would strive to find the best in life like Lynn does. There aren’t many men who would be as faithful as Mark has been over the last 29 years.”

He said the book is “a glimpse into Lynn’s thoughts and feelings while being in residential care at Wendover Hospice.”

“Our desire is that the book would benefit people who are receiving care at the end of life,” Varriale said. “Perhaps in some way readers can, like Lynn, find love in the midst of loss, joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the midst of pain, and life in the midst of death.”

WANT A COPY OF THE BOOK? For more information on how to purchase a copy of Hamrick’s book, contact Elizabeth Baptist Church at (704) 482-6339.
DR. LORY DILLNER MORROW ’01 MA, ’06 EDD
became superintendent of Davidson County Schools in Lexington, N.C., in January. Morrow previously served as deputy superintendent of instruction in Gaston County (N.C.) Schools. In that role, she helped the school system establish a career and technical education expo and create a robotics program for elementary, middle and high school students. She has been married to her husband, Jerry, for 20 years.

DR. AARON ALLEN ’03 MA
was promoted to assistant superintendent for human resources for Lincoln County (N.C.) Schools (LCS). He previously served as director of human resources for LCS. He is a former principal at Burns High School, Kings Mountain Middle School and West Lincoln Middle School. He has been an educator for 16 years. He and his wife reside in Kings Mountain, N.C., with their three children.

ROBIN CORNETT ’02 BS
was inducted as president of the N.C. Society of Radiologic Technologists (NCSRTR) at the 75th NCSRTR annual conference. She is program director of the radiography program at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, N.C. She has served as vice president, president-elect, chief sergeant at arms, student liaison committee chair and on other committees for the NCSRTR.

JOSH STROUP ’02 BS, ’11 MBA and LEANNA STROUP ’08 BM
welcomed their first child, Violet Marie Stroup, on Nov. 24, 2013. She was 6 lbs 9.5 oz and 18.5 inches long.

AMY MILLER ’03 BA
welcomed second child, Alessandra Grace, on Oct. 4, 2012. She weighed 7 lbs 13 oz and was 20 inches long. Her family resides in Haverhill, Mass., currently serving with OMF International for the New England region.

REV. SEAN MILLER ’04 MDV
was recently installed by the S.C. Synod of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America as pastor of St. Matthias Lutheran Church in Easley, S.C. He was born and raised in Greenville, S.C. During his senior year of seminary at Gardner-Webb, he served as chaplain resident at Greenville Memorial Hospital. He has served as chaplain of Lutheran Hospice since 2004. His family includes wife, Pastor Maria Miller, and son, Ethan.

MICHELLE PALACIO
CLASS ACTS

GWU Alumna Named State Superintendent of the Year

Gardner-Webb University alumna Brady Johnson ’98 MA was recently named the 2014 A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year by the North Carolina Association of Schools Administrators (NCASA) and the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA). Johnson serves as superintendent of Iredell-Statesville Schools and has been in that role since the 2009-10 school year. He has spent most of his life in Iredell County.

Johnson was selected among seven finalists for the award by a committee appointed by the NCASA and NCSBA. Achievements that led to Johnson’s selection included the school system’s successes in graduation rate, dropout rate and attainment of two federal grants.

“Johnson’s commitment to achieving positive results for the children of Iredell County is a shining example of visionary leadership in North Carolina’s public schools,” said NCASA Executive Director Katherine Joyce.
His answer came when he flew to Nashville, Tenn., in early 2013 to discuss the project with the LifeWay development team. As he listened to LifeWay Vice President Eric Geiger, King discovered God had perfectly orchestrated his involvement in the new project more than 20 years ago.

“When I was 20 years old and a student at GWU, there was a church in Louisiana that brought me in to speak on the issues of sexual purity and abstinence until marriage,” King explained. “In the audience that night, King learned, was Eric Geiger, then just a teenager. “He told me that God really convicted him through my message that he needed to give total control of his life to Christ, that he needed to straighten some things up in the area of relationships, and that he needed to practice sexual purity because he was a Christian,” King recalled. Geiger’s life path led him to pursue his doctorate, become a pastor and author, and eventually, a vice president at LifeWay.

When the president of LifeWay, Thom Rainer, was discussing the re-release of the True Love Waits material, he asked his team to offer suggestions on who should be contacted to write the curriculum. Geiger raised his hand and told them the story of what had happened to him as a result of Clayton King’s message in Louisiana more than 20 years ago. Without hesitation, Rainer replied, “Go get him.”

With the goal of reaching the next generation with relevant information relating to sexual purity, King’s message includes topics such as forgiveness, sexual abuse, pornography, and how to establish and maintain sexual purity in a decidedly over-sexed culture.

“We’ve talked more about making wise choices at a younger age and also about receiving God’s grace and God’s forgiveness if you have made mistakes,” King shared. “We’ve dealt with pornography issues because it is such an epidemic now among the younger generation. People are dealing with the same temptations that I think I dealt with 20 years ago when I was a teenager, but those temptations are more evident, and they are much more accessible than they used to be.”

LifeWay recently released three additional books in the True Love Project line: a 40-day devotional for girls, a 40-day devotional for guys, and a trade book. “We’re really excited about these materials, especially the trade book,” King explained. “The book really digs deep into the scripture regarding love and marriage, as well as scientific findings that explain human connections, addictions, and the way God hardwired us as human beings.”

The opportunity to become part of the legacy of True Love Waits and the chance to touch the lives of teens in the next generation has been overwhelming for King. “I never dreamed I would have an honor like this,” he said. “It’s been thrilling to be able to write something that has the potential to reach so many people and to really help people by preparing them for marriage and family.”

The True Love Project is an eight-session, video-driven Bible study for all students. It focuses on the gospel—as it leads to lasting heart change and transformation—serves as the catalyst for sexual purity in their lives. Students will take a look at how the world’s distorted view of sex compares with God’s true design for it. They’ll learn that sexual abstinence is centered in a desire to honor and please God as a result of spiritual transformation and not just behavioral modification. The materials are available at www.gardner-webb.edu/trueloveproject.
CAROLINA. The board works to help residents
Scott Johnson stutters when he talks. When he sings, there’s no evidence of stumble in his words or his faith in God.

On his album “Hemmed In and Set Free,” the ’03 sacred music alumnus showcases a mix of contemporary Christian, Americana, and rhythm and blues sounds he’s crafted in the 10 years since earning his bachelor’s degree at Gardner-Webb.

“I think the album really showcases my vulnerability a lot of times,” said Johnson.

“That’s evident in my speech. It’s kind of always on the table, so I’m not afraid to come to a topic in the scripture or a topic in life because all things are eligible. All things are able for us to come to, and God wants to engage us in all those. He wants to help us in our vulnerabilities. He gave me a stutter, but at the same time, He allows me to sing for His glory. I think that can resonate with the audience of Christ.”

Johnson’s musical journey harkens back to his childhood, when he started playing the trumpet and eventually joined a chorus. From those experiences, he decided his destined career path would be in music. When he arrived on campus at Gardner-Webb, he discovered new sounds and avenues to develop his talents. As he studied music theory and chords at the University, he started to write songs in O. Max Gardner Hall. Many of the songs he wrote were first tested by performing them in the campus’ music hall.

Johnson reflected on his study and performance habits. “I remember getting a lot of bad grades the first couple years. In piano, I’d always get a bad grade because I’d spend time on the piano and I’d compose, but I wouldn’t practice the way I should. I remedied that in the last two years [of college].”

In the past decade, Johnson has explored Americana and blues music. Among his studies, he spent time listening to folk performances from the 1960s and 1970s and says the genre’s best lyrics are “penned with poetry.” His music also draws from the contemporary Christian music influences of his teenage years, when he listened to popular bands like dcTalk, Audio Adrenaline and the Newsboys. Now, he also draws inspiration from Christian artists that include Derek Webb and Matthew West.

Johnson, who hails from Trinity, N.C., a town of about 7,000 residents and located southwest of Greensboro, crosses a mix of musical influences on his album. Tracks like “Turn The Light On” and “Give Me Away” rest on a foundation of contemporary Christian rock, while “Chains & Trains” exudes Americana influence with a merger of folk, country, blues and rock.

The title of Johnson’s album, released by Oklahoma-based Christian label Tate Music Group, comes from scripture, as do many of his lyrics. “Hemmed In and Set Free” references Psalm 139:5, in which the writer says God surrounds us and places his hand on us. “David goes on to talk about all the things that God is and all the things He can do if we surrender to him,” Johnson said.

During a recording session in 2013, Johnson was reminded of that need to surrender to God’s plans, even when that means the journey is difficult. He got bronchitis and couldn’t sing for the album that was in the works. “I had never gotten it this bad. It’s kind of a nightmare as a singer,” Johnson shared. “I went home and got a chance to ask for the Lord’s help. He brought me Shane Key. He’s a good friend of mine who plays all the lead guitar parts. He and I sat in his home studio and got to record all the vocals that you hear on the album. He’s a godsend and kind of my right-hand guy.”

Through that experience and others, Johnson said he’s come to believe that musicians are only as good as the people around them. He works to surround himself with people who encourage him both spiritually and professionally. “Kind of like iron sharpens iron in the body of Christ,” he related. “I want to encourage everybody in these tunes to be able to open up and break down a wall and be honest with God at all times.”

Johnson continuously searches for avenues to share his faith through testimony and his music. Each new experience helps him overcome the vulnerability of his stuttering to find his voice.

“Hemmed In and Set Free” is available via iTunes and Amazon.com

GWU Graduate Thrives on Vulnerabilities to Connect with God, Listeners

Written by Matthew Tessnear

Listen to Scott Johnson talk about his music and faith journeys at gardner-webb.edu/scott-johnson
Molly McKinney at the 2014 Miss NC Scholarship Pageant

Lenn Long / PageantPics.com

The glimmer of her crown is eclipsed only by a gleam in her eye. The 2012 Gardner-Webb alum is hoping the stars continue to align as she looks to the future possibility of once again competing for a state title that could ultimately earn her a chance to compete in the Miss America pageant.

Molly McKinney, a May 2012 graduate of GWU and the current marketing director at the LeGrand Center (Shelby, N.C.), recently competed in the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant, a preliminary to the renowned Miss America contest. She was crowned Miss Shelby in February, and earned the opportunity to compete at the state level in June. Although McKinney did not win that event, she admits it sparking a desire to possibly compete again in the future.

“It was fun. It was a learning experience and it was a networking experience,” McKinney explained. “It was an opportunity for me to meet people, for me to grow, and for me to make connections with girls all around the state of North Carolina. It definitely opened up a lot of doors for me and may or may not have planted that pageantry itch within me. So who knows? Maybe I’ll look at another preliminary pageant when I give my title up next year.”

Following a 40-year hiatus, the Miss Shelby preliminary pageant returned in 2014, offering local young women an opportunity to compete for the chance to represent their city and community at the highly competitive Miss North Carolina state pageant. Although she was born and raised in Shelby, McKinney was still not 100-percent convinced that she wanted to participate.

“The Miss Shelby event was my first preliminary pageant and I was really on the fence about whether I was going to do it,” McKinney shared. “I’ve done a lot of things that pageantry requires, but never participated in a Miss America organization pageant. Earning the title of Miss North Carolina sends you straight to the Miss America competition!”

In the Miss America Pageant Organization, contestants must actively work in their communities to raise awareness and offer service opportunities on an issue of their choice. For McKinney, deciding to focus on Children’s Homes of North Carolina was almost a foregone conclusion.

“Growing up, my mom was always sort of an easy target for me. If I couldn’t get something from my dad, I always asked my mom,” McKinney admitted. “I never understood why she would give in so easily. When I got older, I realized that she didn’t have a lot growing up. She grew up in a children’s home and wanted to make sure I had what I needed. She wanted me to have the things that she didn’t have while she was growing up.”

She continued, “That translated into the perfect platform to raise awareness for children’s homes. She had four sisters and they all went to different homes after their mom passed away. We recently were able to connect with all of the siblings, and I met my aunt for the first time. She has two girls about my age, and we look exactly alike! That meant so much to me, and I want it to mean something to other people, too.”

In preparation for the state competition, McKinney underwent intensive training and practice sessions to refine her skills and ensure that she was ready for the state pageant competition in June. She utilized social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to communicate with her hometown community. Throughout her experience, she has been thrilled by the way she’s been embraced by the city and county she calls home.

“Everyone has been so supportive, from my church family to my Bulldog family to my work family. The support coming out of this has been insanely immense,” McKinney shared. “I’m very humbled by it all.”

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Listen to Molly share her pageant experiences at gardner-webb.edu/mollymckinney

CLASS ACTS
Q&A
Living & Working Overseas

Doctor of Education Graduate
Josh Bishop is Principal in Mumbai, India
Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

GWU: How did you become a GWU student?  
JB: I initially learned of GWU through Dr. Doug Eury (Dean of the GWU School of Education). Dr. Eury spoke to me on many occasions about joining the doctoral program, which was a colt that met at the Charlotte campus. I completed my coursework for my Ed. D. in School Administration in June 2012 and am writing my dissertation.

GWU: Did you always know that you wanted to work internationally?  
JB: When I was a principal in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, a colleague of mine accepted a job with the Department of Defense as a principal in South Korea. This was my spark! Over the next three years, I began to look into international schools and began the process of applying for vacancies. In October of 2012, I was interviewing with the American School of Bombay. After several Skype interviews, my wife and I were flown to Mumbai, India, for our final interview. In late November, I was offered a job with the school and accepted.

GWU: Where do you live and work in India?  
JB: Currently, we live in Mumbai, India (population between 18-21 million people). We live in a complex composed of teachers and administrators from the school, along with other expats and Indians.

GWU: What sort of work do you do?  
JB: This year, I am the assistant principal of the high school. I will be the principal of the high school next year. The positions are very similar to U.S. positions. Each international school is different. Some schools follow an American style of education, others follow a European style and still others follow specific country’s. The majority of schools, American School of Bombay included, follow the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. As I started the process of applying for schools, I began to focus on two important factors: it had to be the right fit for both the school and me.

GWU: What has your education at GWU equipped you for success in your current post?  
JB: GWU’s doctoral preparation has been instrumental in providing the foundation and application of material. I do wish I had learned more about the many systems of education around the world. As a principal, even in the U.S., you will encounter students coming from these other systems and knowing more about them would allow me the opportunity to better meet their needs. There is a lot of value to knowing about and “borrowing” some of the great things that other educational systems use.

GWU: How important is learning a second language in India?  
JB: As this is an American School, English is the spoken language. We do offer ESL (English as Second Language) classes for our students who may not be fluent. As students enroll, they are given the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) to see if they meet the requirements for admission. As an expat, the vast majority of Indians speak English. There are a few instances where a translator is needed but there are always people around who are willing to assist.

GWU: Can you offer some notable similarities and differences with regard to the schools in India?  
JB: Because we are an American School, most things are very similar to what you would see in the U.S. A few of the commonalities are as follows: students in fifth through ninth grades are administered tests for formative analysis; our curriculum follows standards which are based on the Common Core; we typically follow the same calendar; and we use some of the same current research including Grant Wiggins, John Hattie, Ken O’Connor, Suzie Boss, etc.

GWU: Have you had an opportunity to tour the country? What have you learned about the culture?  
JB: We have had several opportunities to tour visit India since our arrival in July. To date we have spent time in the Kerala region, which is southern India, New Delhi, and Agra (the city of the Taj Mahal). The Indian culture is very welcoming. People are almost always smiling and willing to help.

GWU: What is your advice to GWU students who may have an opportunity to live/work internationally?  
JB: If they are truly interested in teaching abroad, they need to start the process early. There are several recruitment firms that cater to international educators such as Search Associates and International Schools Services. Both Search Associates and International Schools Services require a payment in order to access their database of posted vacancies and their job fairs, and this is where the majority of hiring is done. The hiring process runs from November through March for the upcoming school year. The one piece of advice I would offer is to keep your options open. In other words, don’t count a school out because it is in a country that you had not considered. Many schools offer comparable salaries, housing and airfare home in the summer, so keep your options open.

GWU: What are your future plans?  
JB: Typically, contracts are awarded for two years. Originally, I signed a two-year contract and because of the new role next year, I have signed on for an additional three years. That would make our stay here at least four years. We will reevaluate our plans at that time.

GWU: How valuable has this experience been for you?  
JB: Overall, we have been very pleased with the country and the opportunities that we have been exposed to as a family. To date, I would say that this has been the most rewarding experience both personally and professionally.
JOSEPH HAMBY ’09 BA recently became manager of Visitor Center Operations at Old Salem Museums & Gardens in Winston-Salem, N.C. He is responsible for customer care and experience at the Old Salem Visitor Center, which is the primary source of general information, programs, memberships, and tickets for the Museum and Gardens. Hamby previously served as manager of the Tucker Student Center at Gardner-Webb, as a student pastor at Westview Baptist Church, and a membership specialist at the Cleveland County YMCA, both in Shelby.

TAKAYO SIDDLE ’09 BA became an assistant basketball coach at UNC Wilmington in Wilmington, N.C. Siddle previously served four seasons as an assistant basketball coach at Gardner-Webb.

KATHRYN FARMER ’10 BS and JOSIAH FERNANDEZ ’10 BS married Oct. 12, 2013, in Lake Wylie, S.C. Kathryn is employed by Alliance Bank and Trust in Gastonia, N.C. Josiah is employed by Wells Fargo Bank in Gastonia.

TREVAR SIMMONS ’10 MDIV, MA married Sherry Roselyn Ingram on March 1, 2014, in Pembroke, N.C. Sherry is director of Residence Life & Housing at North Park University in Chicago. Trevar is studying at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago.

SAXON SIMPSON ’11 BA, ’14 MA became head coach of the Sharks Aquatic Club swim team. His father, Mike, is swimming coach at Gardner-Webb.

RESA HOYLE ’11 BA, AAS, ’11 MA was honored as the central office administrator of the year in Gaston County (N.C.) Schools. She is director of the academically and intellectually gifted program and the English-as-a-second-language program. She has worked 24 years in education.

CRYSTAL STOWE ’11 MBA now serves as marketing specialist for Meijer in Grand Rapids, Mich. Meijer is among the largest private companies in the United States.

JEANIE GROH ’13 BA recently became the education reporter at The Salisbury Post in Salisbury, N.C. In the position, she covers news in the Rowan-Salisbury and Kannapolis school systems, at Catawba and Livingstone colleges and at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. During her time at Gardner-Webb, she interned in the University’s Office of Media Relations.

JACKIE HUGHES ’45 AA passed away Feb. 19, 2014. She worked briefly at Oak Ridge, Tennessee as a member of the clerical staff of the top secret “Manhattan Project” to develop the first atomic bomb during World War II. She enjoyed singing in the choir at First Baptist Church in Shelby for many years and served her church as pianist and youth camp counselor. She was survived by two children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

JACKSON HOYLE ’47 AA passed away March 19, 2014. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Forest City, N.C., where he was a former choir member. He was married to a pastor, her husband, the Rev. T.A. Sheppard. She was survived by her husband, Robert, two children, and four grandchildren.

MARGARET MCMURRY ’47 AA passed away May 14, 2014. She served as a private practice and orthodontic nurse for 45 years and retired in 1995 from Dr. John Thompson Orthodontics. She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church Shelby. She is survived by her husband, Robert, two children, and four grandchildren.

FRANCES SHEPPARD ’47 AA passed away March 19, 2014. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Forest City, N.C., where she was a former choir member. She was wife to a pastor, her husband, the Rev. T.A. Sheppard. She was survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.
Former Gardner-Webb trustee and longtime donor Frank R. Nanney passed away Aug. 6 at Rutherford Regional Medical Center at the age of 93. Nanney was known for his generosity to the University in both service and notable gifts, including lead funding to his namesake building, Frank Nanney Hall.

Nanney is survived by four brothers and two sisters. During a 2007 speech, Nanney spoke of his conviction to give to the Noel Center for Disability Services that came shortly after an experience with a blind woman on campus. “I immediately knew that was a message I wanted to remember for at the University and in the community,” he said. “To assist handicapped students get an education was certainly ‘if you have done it unto the least of my brethren, you have done it unto me.”

“Mr. Nanney said at the groundbreaking ceremony that he wanted his gift to make a difference,” said Cheryl Potter, associate dean of the Noel Center for Disability Services. “He made a choice to invest not in a building, but in the education of students. His gift demonstrates his belief that all people, regardless of their differences or challenges, have a right to a quality education in a Christian environment.”

The 1950s

BOBBY DUNCAN ’50 AA

passed away Nov. 15, 2013. During a 32-year career with Colgate, he was the company’s No. 1 salesman for 10 years. He also worked for 28 years in the funeral industry. He loved animals and was known for giving them homes and improving their health. He is survived by two sons and three grandchildren.

The 1970s

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY Professor Emeritus, Athletics Hall of Famer and two-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Golf Coach of the Year Dr. Garland Allen passed away Tuesday, June 3 at the age of 91.

Allen began his tenure at Gardner-Webb in 1961 when the institution was still a junior college. During his first year, he served as an academic counselor. His taught history in 1961 and 1962 and served as the acting chairman of the religion department from 1962-64. He began his 21-year golf coaching career in 1962, a post he maintained until his retirement from the University in 1989.

While his achievements in Gardner-Webb athletics were substantial, his commitment to higher education was also monumental. Born in Tuckerman, Ark., he was a self-taught farmer and veterinarian. Without the benefit of a traditional classroom, he studied books and went to Little Rock, Ark., where he took and passed the Arkansas State Veterinarian Examination. At just 16 years old, his call to ministry was apparent, and he was ordained as a Baptist preacher. Although he graduated from a teaching degree from Ouachita College (Arkadelphia, Ark.) in 1944, he studied in Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he met his wife, Mary Evelyn Garrison, who was a native of Tuckerman, Ark. (N.C.).

Allen leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Evelyn Garrison Allen; two children Susan and William Henry; and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The couple has resided actively at Boiling Springs Baptist Church.
GWU Mourns Loss of School of Business Dean Emeritus Jim Crawley

Written by Matthew Tessnear

Gardner-Webb University Dean Emeritus Jim Crawley, instrumental in the successful growth and national recognition of the University’s business school, passed away June 21, 2014, at the age of 84.

Crawley began his tenure at Gardner-Webb in 1994, after retiring from DuPont, Inc. He served as the first dean of the University’s business school—during which time the school moved into its current home in E.B. Harrick Hall—as well as chairman of GWU’s undergraduate business program.

According to current GWU President Frank Banner, Crawley will be remembered as one of the great administrative and academic leaders in the University’s history. “Jim had the special ability to bring his business experience with the academic world with great success,” Bonner said. “He was a man of strong character and integrity, as well as an engaging personality. Jim truly cared about his students, and the administrators and faculty should be, and his place in the history of the University is secure.”

Among many accomplishments under Crawley’s leadership, the business school’s enrollment increased significantly, and the school increased the number of doctorates on its faculty, and served its church’s prison and bus ministry. He was survived by four children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

SARAH BUSH ’53 AA

passed away Dec. 28, 2013. She retired as a teacher from Tri-Community Elementary School, after spending 20 years as a teacher. She served on the Rutherford County (N.C.) Board of Education and, in 2005, was selected as an Honor Member of the Gardner-Webb Gallery of Distinguished Graduates. She was survived by her husband, Bobby, two daughters, and one grandson.

HARRY GRANT ROGERS ’50 AA

passed away Feb. 8, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, fought for more than 20 years and served as a personnel manager for both Lees Carpets and Blue Bell Industries. He was a member, a deacon, and Sunday school teacher at Robbinsville First Baptist Church, and served his church’s prison and bus ministry. He was survived by four children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

ED SCRUGGS ’56 AA

passed away March 1, 2014. He was a retired insurance agent and realtor. He played baseball at Gardner-Webb and at Wake Forest University. He was a member of the American Legion and former member of the Allison (Va.) Exchange Club.

Alumnus, Army Special Forces Serviceman Passes Away

Staff Sgt. Jerry Gass ’02 Posthumously Awarded Medals


Gass, 33, served his country as a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group and was stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C. He passed away following a non-combat incident while on patrol, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. He was posthumously awarded his second Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. Gass enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2008 and served with the Special Forces since 2011.

A highly decorated serviceman, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with valor device, Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistain Campaign Medal with one campaign star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, NAM Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 2), Professional Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Special Forces tab.

Staff Sgt. Jerry Gass

Gass graduated from Gardner-Webb in 2003 with a degree in business administration and minor in management information systems. Following his service in the Army, and after serving in Afghanistan, he was a participant in the Pathfinder Program. That success included back to back Big South Conference championships in 2002 and 2003, with a combined 17-5 overall record and an unblemished conference mark. As a starter at left guard in 2003, Gass helped GWU to an 8-4 record and helped pave the way for an offense that averaged 27.7 points per game and 416.9 yards of total offense per game. He was a preseason All-Big South Conference selection heading into his senior season.

PAUL CLINE ’58

passed away May 23, 2014. He was a member of the Gardner-Webb football team. He retired as a transportation dispatcher with Burlington Industries and Cone Mills. He was survived by his wife of 55 years, Maxine, and two children.

SUZANNE HUNSUCKER ’58 AA

passed away Feb. 2, 2014. She retired from Compass in Charlotte, N.C., where she was an office manager. She was a former member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. She was survived by her husband of 56 years, Mike, three children, and seven grandchildren.

BILL BYERS ’59

passed away May 13, 2014. He retired as vice president of operations with National Freight Brokers in Charlotte, N.C., with more than 45 years in the trucking industry. He was a member of Long Creek Presbyterian Church in Kings Mountain, N.C. He was survived by two children and five grandchildren.

The 1960s

JAMES EDGAR LOHR JR. ’60

passed away April 9, 2014. He retired from DuPont after 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Hawkins Loehr ’60, four children, and 10 grandchildren.

NELSON ALEXANDER CRADDOCK ’64

passed away May 19, 2014. He retired from Duke Energy, and he worked in textiles for many years. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and three children.

JIM CRAWLEY

GWU Mourns Loss of School of Business Dean Emeritus Jim Crawley

Written by Matthew Tessnear

Gardner-Webb University Dean Emeritus Jim Crawley, instrumental in the successful growth and national recognition of the University’s business school, passed away June 21, 2014, at the age of 84.

Crawley began his tenure at Gardner-Webb in 1994, after retiring from DuPont, Inc. He served as the first dean of the University’s business school—during which time the school moved into its current home in E.B. Harrick Hall—as well as chairman of GWU’s undergraduate business program.

According to current GWU President Frank Banner, Crawley will be remembered as one of the great administrative and academic leaders in the University’s history. “Jim had the special ability to bring his business experience with the academic world with great success,” Bonner said. “He was a man of strong character and integrity, as well as an engaging personality. Jim truly cared about his students, and the administrators and faculty should be, and his place in the history of the University is secure.”

Among many accomplishments under Crawley’s leadership, the business school’s enrollment increased significantly, and the school increased the number of doctorates on its faculty, and served its church’s prison and bus ministry. He was survived by four children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

SARAH BUSH ’53 AA

passed away Dec. 28, 2013. She retired as a teacher from Tri-Community Elementary School, after spending 20 years as a teacher. She served on the Rutherford County (N.C.) Board of Education and, in 2005, was selected as an Honor Member of the Gardner-Webb Gallery of Distinguished Graduates. She was survived by her husband, Bobby, two daughters, and one grandson.

HARRY GRANT ROGERS ’50 AA

passed away Feb. 8, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, fought for more than 20 years and served as a personnel manager for both Lees Carpets and Blue Bell Industries. He was a member, a deacon, and Sunday school teacher at Robbinsville First Baptist Church, and served his church’s prison and bus ministry. He was survived by four children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

ED SCRUGGS ’56 AA

passed away March 1, 2014. He was a retired insurance agent and realtor. He played baseball at Gardner-Webb and at Wake Forest University. He was a member of the American Legion and former member of the Allison (Va.) Exchange Club.
WAYNE ROCK '68 passed away June 2, 2014. He was co-owner of Elmo L. Rock Oil Company in Hopkin, Va. He retired from Foothills Correctional Institution in Morganton, N.C. He is survived by his wife, Jane, three daughters, and two grandchildren.

The 1970s

ROBERT BLANKS III '72 passed away March 26, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, and he served as a Spec-5 during the Berlin Crisis. He was a retired school art teacher and member of First Baptist Church of Chester, S.C.

REV. JERRY LAUGHTER '72 passed away Nov. 26, 2013. He served 37 years in ministry. He also graduated from Kings Mountain (N.C.) High School and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was active in his church following his retirement. He was survived by his wife of 54 years, Frances, and his daughter, Renee.

RONALD “RUDY” RUDISILL '72 passed away Dec. 3, 2013. He was a teacher and coached middle school football for more than 30 years. He coached Tuttle Middle School in Maiden, N.C., to eight football championships. He was survived by his daughter and grandson.

The 1980s

TOM A. FRIDY III ’83 BS passed away Dec. 6, 2013. He was an engineer consultant, primarily in the soil and concrete industry. Early in his career, he was one of 16 original employees of Spartanburg County (S.C.) Emergency Medical Services. He served in a variety of roles in his church, performed in a number of bands, and he was an active Mason. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

BEATRICE BARBER ’92 BS passed away Feb. 14, 2014. She was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church. She worked in the Department of Social Services in Shelby, N.C., for 32 years as a child support enforcement agent. She was also employed part time as an adjunct instructor in Office Systems Technology at Cleveland Community College. She was survived by her husband, Elton, and daughter.

The 2000s

ROBIN LYNN MORRIS ’06 BS, ’07 AAS passed away Dec. 4, 2013. She lived in Tryon, N.C., and was an accountant at J.F. Floyd Mortuary. She was survived by three children.

The 1990s

FRED MARTIN JR. ’73 passed away Nov. 29, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War. After a 23-year career with architectural and engineering firm J.E. Surrine, he owned and operated a photography business. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed restoring classic cars. He was survived by his wife, Barbara, three children, and four grandchildren.

SAMUEL MATTISON ’73 passed away May 19, 2014. He played on the Gardner-Webb golf team for Garland Allen, who also recently passed away. He is survived by four sons and his wife, Martha Wright Mattison ’74.

WILLIAM GARDNER ’74 BS passed away April 12, 2014. He worked for J.W. Davis Company prior to opening his own business, Bill Gardner Construction Inc. in 1984. He also served as past president of the Rutherford County Homebuilders Association. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. He was survived by his wife of 40 years, Denise, and two children.

ISABELL SETZER ’76 BS, MA passed away March 27, 2014. She worked and later retired from Crest Middle School and Kings Mountain Middle School (N.C.) after 30 years of teaching. She was a member of Boiling Springs Baptist Church. She was survived by her husband of 55 years, Manuel, three children, and two grandchildren.

424/7 ONLINE/ON DEMAND

RELIGION, POLITICS, EDUCATION, THE ARTS, HEALTH AND WELLNESS, MUSIC, FILM REVIEWS, GWU ATHLETICS

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!
Dr. Bob Blackburn helped establish Gardner-Webb’s undergraduate and master’s programs in physical education. Now, almost 20 years after retiring from the University, he continues to champion the importance of physical fitness.

“Exercise has always been important,” Blackburn reflected. “It was in 1969 during a speech that I started referring to the three S’s—Sitting, Stuffing and Smoking—as things that could damage the body. Today, just like then, we must educate the public and deal with these types of issues.”

Still a resident of Boiling Springs, the Mooresboro native has continued to serve the public in a variety of health-conscious roles following his retirement from GWU in 1995. That includes service as an American Heart Association volunteer, a position he has maintained for more than 40 years. He also stepped up his volunteer efforts with organizations like the YMCA, where he served on an advisory board that helped bring a YMCA presence to Gardner-Webb’s campus.

Dr. Dee Hunt, now GWU vice president and dean of student development, recalls being hired by Blackburn in the late 1970s to work at the University. “I will always be grateful to Dr. Bob for affording me the opportunity to be a part of the Gardner-Webb family,” she offered. “He was the voice and face of Health and Physical Education for many years in his role as department chair, and his influence on students has roots because he always displayed a passion for his content.”

Blackburn, now in his 80s, served Gardner-Webb for 30 years, including 19 as chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education and as a professor in the department. He also carried Gardner-Webb’s name locally and nationally as he served organizations that included the Cleveland County (N.C.) Board of Health and a long list of national health organizations. Blackburn still participates in health advocacy work with several organizations.

“I am convinced that the progress made in health programs on the state, regional and national level are a result of his passion, dedication, and leadership in furthering the profound importance of a healthy lifestyle,” Hunt said. “In my view and experience, Dr. Bob is one of the personal and professional pillars of the University.”

Dr. Philip Elliott, president of Gardner-Webb from 1943-1961, stressed the importance of community service, Blackburn said, recalling the influence that had on his life. “That impressed me as a young student,” Blackburn said. “I tried to do that my whole life.”

Sharing with others the importance of healthy life choices continues to be a top priority for Blackburn, who also holds an associate of arts degree from Gardner-Webb. He attended the University as a student from 1950-52. “Taking better care of yourself has a similarity with this University,” he shared. “It’s an evolving process that matures over time. Gardner-Webb matured into a university with amazing leadership. Only we can take leadership over our bodies.”