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Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2016, Spring (Volume 51 No. 1)

Noel T. Manning II

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GARDNER-WEBB

VOL. 51, NO. 1, 2016

THE MAGAZINE



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ALUMNUS FINDS FORTUNE THROUGH MINISTRY

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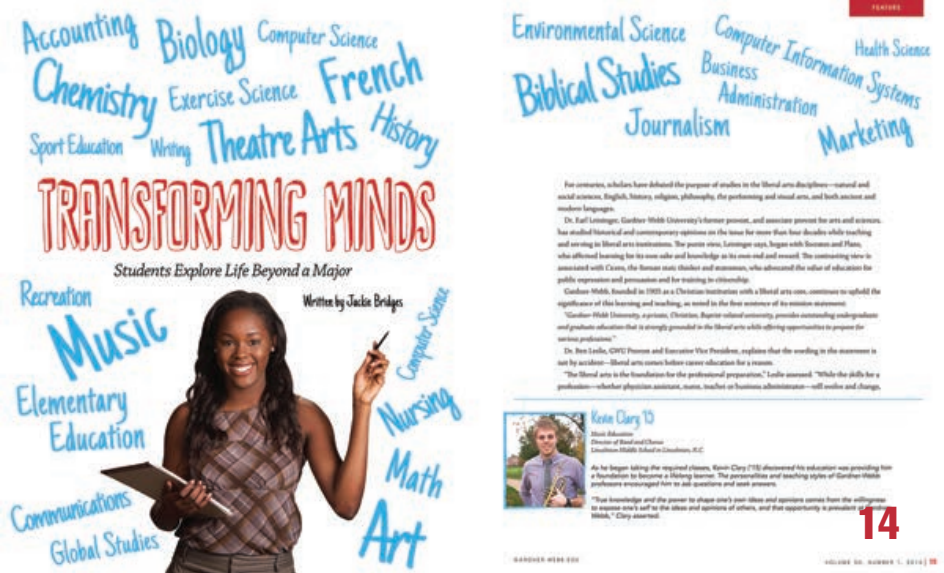
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Gardner-Webb-The Magazine

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ON THE COVER: The liberal arts model at Gardner-Webb offers a wealth of opportunities for students to explore. Tyra Montour '16 is one of those students who understands the path to a career is fostered in an environment rich with classic instruction and professional training.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

It is not exactly writer's block, but I have had an unusually difficult time deciding on a topic for my letter for this issue of Gardner-Webb the Magazine. The challenge is not a shortage of topics. On the contrary, it is difficult to limit myself to one, as there is so much I would like to share. So, I am resolving to share more information and ideas later through other means. Here, then, are some of the topics I want to discuss in the near future:

The challenges facing higher education at the national level, and Gardner-Webb as well. Although there is a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding—and I would like to address them at the appropriate time—many challenges are real. But we are facing them effectively, and I insist on treating challenges as incentives to get better and better.

Much of our response to these challenges can be found in the Strategic Plan, which I would also like to discuss along with my vision for the future of Gardner-Webb University.

The “value message” of Gardner-Webb, and how it differentiates us from other universities. The “pillars” of our brand are genuine, but we must do a better job of explaining them to all of our constituencies. We are truly a welcoming Christian community that encourages and supports spiritual growth and facilitates faith in action. We are student-centered and strive to partner with students in pursuit of their personal and educational ambitions and goals.

Finally, I want very much to address outcomes. Much is being said and written about the role and the value of higher education, especially with regard to preparing students to get jobs. That is certainly important, and we are intensifying the efforts of our Center for Career Development. Our mission statement includes reference to “opportunities to prepare for various professions,” but there is much more involved in our mission if we are also to prepare our graduates “to make significant contributions for God and humanity in an ever-changing global community.”

I am anxious to share my ideas and vision for these topics and others, so consider this a preview. More to come!

Sincerely,



Dr. Frank Bonner
President, Gardner-Webb University



University Salutes Supporters with Colorful Display



Dr. Frank Bonner, GWU President

The center of Gardner-Webb University’s campus shone brightly with the sparkling red, orange and silver colors of more than 2,000 pinwheels spinning in the breeze during a unique event last fall. As GWU Homecoming week festivities began, the radiant display on the University Quad paid tribute to the institution’s generous donors who provide the core financial support for students and scholarships.

“We love our donors and wanted to thank them as we headed into a high-traffic time on campus,” shared Mary Carlson, GWU Director of Donor Relations. “We decided Homecoming week was the perfect time to thank donors and, at the same time, engage students. We hoped to show that all gifts, no matter the amount, can have



a huge impact on students’ Gardner-Webb experience.”

In addition to recognizing each donor for the 2014-15 year, the “Plant Your Pinwheel” project offered an opportunity for students to donate to the University’s Annual Fund. The proceeds of each \$3 pinwheel sold on the Quad during the recognition week benefited Gardner-Webb scholarships.

Fundraiser organizers hope the pinwheel display will lead to annual events that publicly show appreciation for the University’s supporters. “Gardner-Webb’s donors are especially kind and thoughtful,” Carlson offered. “We are very grateful for their generosity and good will.”

GWU Partners with Scholarship Program Offered by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Gardner-Webb University will offer numerous opportunities for students to earn money to help pay for college, thanks to a new partnership with a program supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. GWU has joined Raise.me, an organization that seeks to empower prospective college students by providing individual scholarships for a variety of academic, extracurricular, service and work achievements during high school.

“Gardner-Webb University and Raise.me agree that students should be recognized for accomplishments beyond just a grade-point average and test scores,” explained David Hawsey, GWU Vice President for Enrollment Management. “Students should be rewarded for achievements such as exceptional attendance, taking challenging classes, after-school work, volunteer and service in the community, and activities and hobbies that provide a foundation for career interests and leadership growth.”

Raise.me allows students in grades nine through 12 to keep track of personal achievements—such as grades, club involvement, volunteer efforts and athletics participation—via a free website account and connect those activities with scholarship opportunities for college. Students can visit raise.me/edu/gardner-webb-university to connect with the institution and find which scholarships GWU offers as part of financial aid packages.

“Gardner-Webb serves students from every demographic, including those who don’t have many of the academic opportunities offered in wealthier school districts,” Hawsey added. “Raise.me provides a way for students from all walks of life to earn financial support for college, and GWU is pleased to partner to help motivate students to continue to strive for success.”

GWU and Earl Scruggs Center Collaborate for History Class

The Earl Scruggs Center and Gardner-Webb University’s Department of Social Sciences established a unique partnership by co-presenting a class on museum collections management, instructed by Annmarie Reiley-Kay, who formerly served as curator for the Center.

“Gardner-Webb has spent the last two years exploring opportunities for students to gain entry into museum careers. A large part of that decision was driven by knowing they could gain exposure to a world-class cultural museum right in our own back yard,” said Dr. Joseph Moore, assistant professor of history at the University.

The course served as an introduction to collections care in museums and discussed issues museum staff members face every day. GWU student Elisabeth Moore believes the class provided participants with a variety of information relevant to public history. “We discussed everything from legal procedures to insurance matters to pest control,” she offered. “Each of these things can drastically impact the overall function of a museum.”

“I am able to add so much experience to my resume before I even graduate with my bachelor’s degree,” said GWU student Sarah Lynch. “This course reinforced and added to my excitement about a future career in the field, as well as to my qualifications to one day enter the field. The opportunity to take this class as an undergraduate is helpful for making a decision about a future career, as well as offering a good working knowledge on how museums work. I am very thankful that Gardner-Webb has made this experience a reality for me.”



Sarah Lynch

Students Present Academic Research at GWU, National Conferences



LOTS award winners and mentors

Gardner-Webb University students showcased original research in an array of academic disciplines during spring academic conferences. Nearly 60 students participated in the Life of the Scholar (LOTS) Multidisciplinary Conference on Gardner-Webb’s campus in March, and 22 of those scholars were delegates to the Alpha Chi 2016 National Convention in Washington, D.C., in April.

The Alpha Chi delegation was GWU’s largest since beginning its honor society chapter in 1972, and several students earned significant prizes for their national presentations.

• Rebekah Rhea received one of only 12 national Nolle Scholarships for her essay, “Not Quite Alive: A Discussion of Disability in Terms of Mortality.”

• Madison Swift won a Region III scholarship for “Female Reproductive Health Challenges in Africa and the Middle East,” which she also offered as a poster presentation.

• Kevin Mills received the Best Presentation Prize for Business Administration for his paper, “Creating an Alternative Meal Plan Using Cost Accounting Principles at Gardner-Webb University.”

• Emily DeVries won the Anthropology/Sociology Best Presentation Prize for “Socially Conscious Coffee: An Examination of Fair Trade Programs in the Coffee Industry of Central America.”

In addition to the Alpha Chi awards, LOTS recognized elite scholarship through undergraduate presentation awards to Jeremiah Hamby, Christian Jessup, Mariana Mellado, Kevin Mills, Elisabeth Moore, Rebekah Rhea, Taylor Schwartz, Mary Toohey and Susan Ward. Karen Taylor was recognized for top graduate research, and the Alfred and Shirley Wampler Caudill Best Presentation prize was awarded to Wendy Harmon.

“What we are trying to do is bring a life of intellect to the Gardner-Webb campus,” Dr. June Hobbs, director of Undergraduate Research, Alpha Chi sponsor and GWU Professor of English, asserted following the LOTS conference. “These students are representative of all that is to be celebrated at Gardner-Webb.”

GWU RECOGNIZES SERVICE OF MILITARY MEMBERS WITH “FREEDOM HALL”

In honor of Veterans Day in November, Gardner-Webb University officials joined members of the campus community to dedicate the institution's new military wall of honor, “Freedom Hall.” Around 50 people attended the ceremony, which was held in the Dover Campus Center at GWU.

Freedom Hall honors the military contributions of the extended university family, including faculty, staff, current students, alumni and members of their immediate family. The University's strong support of military service personnel has been evidenced in the past year by multiple honors that recognize the institution's exceptional educational services for troops and their families.

“Freedom Hall further affirms GWU's commitment to providing post-military education while also spotlighting the University's role in connecting veterans with career opportunities,” said David Hawsey, a U.S. Navy veteran and the University's vice president for enrollment management.



David Hawsey, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Within the past year, Gardner-Webb has consistently been recognized for its support of the nation's troops. Among those honors, the University was recently named a military-friendly institution by Military Advanced Education, an organization that promotes higher education opportunities for military personnel and their families, and by G.I. Jobs/Victory Media, which advocates for educational and career opportunities for veterans and active-duty service members. The military-friendly rating is annually determined through voluntary surveys that measure the campus military support, graduation and employment outcomes, military spouse policies and other criteria of various colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools across the country. U.S. News & World Report also ranked GWU best in the Carolinas among schools that offer online graduate business degrees to meet the needs of veterans.



Visitors viewing Freedom Hall



Dr. C. Oland Summers, GWU Professor Emeritus and Military Veteran

According to Hawsey, GWU currently serves more than 100 military veterans, active-duty personnel and dependent family members in undergraduate and graduate degree programs. “Freedom Hall confirms our commitment to our active-duty personnel, veterans and their families,” Hawsey offered. “We are grateful for the many veterans in our region, the state of North Carolina and nationwide for their service and sacrifices that ensure our freedom.”

Special thanks to Rick Hollifield for the design, and construction concepts for Freedom Hall.

GWU ALUMNA NAMED NATIONAL MILITARY SPOUSE OF THE YEAR

Gardner-Webb alumna Corie Weathers ('99) was chosen from among five other military branch nominees as the National Armed Forces Institute (AFI) Military Spouse of the Year.

Weathers and her husband, Capt. Matthew Weathers, a U.S. Army Chaplain, met at Gardner-Webb. She earned a degree in counseling from GWU in 1999 and uses her professional skills to help military families, particularly soldiers who are struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Now married for several years, Corie still remembers how difficult life became after Matthew's first deployment.

“My husband came home changed,” Weathers recalled. “I was different, he was different, and we had to struggle through re-integration just like any other military family. I remember he had made this big batch of blueberry pancakes and he was so excited and I came downstairs and had to tell him that our son doesn't like blueberry pancakes anymore.”

Those struggles, which they knew were so common among military families, prompted the couple to offer marriage retreats and web-based marriage-strengthening curriculum. “Our passion has always been to strengthen military marriages through marriage retreats, teaching, and events,” Weathers shared. “We developed a website called Insight Care and Connection that provides free marriage material that we have professionally created and collected, blogs for soldiers and spouses, and vetted organizations that are readily available to serve them.” They also co-wrote curriculum that couples can work through together even if separated by the distance of a deployment.

“In order to deal with the growing trends and stress of bullying, cyber-bullying, cutting or self-harm, promiscuous behavior, and self-esteem, I created a successful outpatient program for teen girls that includes individual therapy, family therapy, and group therapy,” she reflected. “As a military spouse that frequently moves, I have become more comfortable developing programs that are needed within the community I am planted in, and being prepared to hand it off to the next person who is meant to continue it.”

photo by Elias Photography

School of Psychology and Counseling Providing Family Focus



Gardner-Webb University Charlotte Campus

The School of Psychology and Counseling at Gardner-Webb will relaunch the Master of Arts in Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling program at the University's Charlotte, N.C., campus in the fall of 2016. The program will be offered in addition to other established graduate counseling programs, such as school and mental health counseling.

"Healthy marriages and strong families are essential components of a well-functioning society," said Dr. Jasmine Graham, assistant professor of mental health counseling and director of the program. "The strength and stability of these relationships are increasingly challenged and as licensed marriage and family therapists, students will be equipped to provide effective services to marriages,

couples, and families with varying degrees of therapeutic needs."

Graham believes the 69-semester hour coursework, while similar to the University's current Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling, will benefit potential students by giving them a chance to focus their counseling skills.

"This MA program gives prospective students yet another choice for advancing their career goals," Graham offered. "Our practicum and internship classes will give students a first-hand opportunity to work with clients. Students graduating from the new program will be eligible to apply for licensure as a licensed professional counselor and as a licensed marriage and family therapist."

Gardner-Webb's professional counseling programs are qualified by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The updated Master of Arts in Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling degree program has been designed within a traditional face-to-face model, which officials believe creates an appropriate level of intimacy and mentorship for students.

"Whether as a licensed professional counselor who specializes in marriage, couples and families or as a licensed marriage and family therapist, a graduate of the program would be prepared to fulfill their professional calling to counsel both couples and families," Graham shared. "Family is considered the domestic church, where people first learn about faith. We do intentionally include a spirituality component in our classwork and course assignments."

ASL Students Volunteer at Camp for Deaf-Blind Individuals

Three Gardner-Webb American Sign Language (ASL) students volunteered at a 10-week camp for the deaf and blind at Lake Norman, N.C. Hosted by the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Associates, Camp Dogwood entertains hundreds of weekly visitors for recreational enjoyment through myriad outdoor activities.

ASL students Natalie Cardwell, Madison McMahon and Marissa Richardson served as support service personnel (SSP) for campers. Their roles involved acting as sighted guides between activities and assisting with communication using sign language for those who have some degree of hearing and vision handicap.

"Volunteering at Camp Dogwood was an incredible experience that I was honored to be a part of," Richardson said. "I learned so much from the campers, other SSPs and interpreters, and camp coordinators linguistically, culturally, and personally."

Students initially learned about the opportunity to volunteer at Camp Dogwood through Gardner-Webb's Noel Center for Disability Services and personal connections, but took it upon themselves to get involved.

"The deaf and blind communities don't consider themselves as a disabled population," Cardwell said. "They are not a population that needs help and pity. They are a group of people that we can learn and benefit from. Learning to adjust and adapt to the hurdles life throws at you is important. I help assist them with communication and equal access."

Students Experience Service, Culture During Chicago Trip



By serving the homeless at the longest-operating mission in the country and volunteering with a citywide 10K race to feed the hungry, a group of Gardner-Webb University students experienced service needs and opportunities during a trip to Chicago.

For the second straight year, the University's Community Engagement and Campus Recreation offices teamed to offer the Fall Service Trip, with assistance from Brian Arnold, assistant director of student activities, and Micah Martin, director of student leadership development and community engagement.

"God calls us to serve others," Martin explained. "This trip provides our students exposure to the world outside of Boiling Springs and outside of the South, and it allows students to wade out into the deep waters of service in a big city with many in need."

The group helped with setup and cleanup for the Run 10 Feed 10 Chicago 10K. The race, which traveled through the city's downtown, benefited the hungry, as each runner's entry fee covered a meal expense for 10 families.

"Events like this are just as good to volunteer for as something your church or organization is hosting, and we want our students to see that," Martin offered. "Things like the 10K are community-wide events that have great benefit for others."

GWU's team also visited the Pacific Garden Mission. Founded in 1877, the rescue agency provides shelter, a food pantry and other resources to the needy. During the visit, students served meals and worked to provide other forms of aid to the homeless.

"When you think of mission and service trips you think of going to places like Honduras or Guatemala," shared David Cole, a GWU student. "Those are places that need our help, too, but there are people all across our own nation who need our help just as much if not more, so we liked the concept of going to Chicago. The service trip's a life-changing experience, both the work and service element, as well as having fun and meeting new people."

Following this year's trip and last year's visit to New York City, there are plans for future fall break service journeys to cities like Baltimore, Boston and Washington, D.C. "Gardner-Webb is a school that provides great opportunities to serve," added GWU student Kelsey Carithers. "Whether it's across the country or right in your own back yard, there are always ways to step outside your comfort zone and help others."



Students Offer Helping Hands During Fall Break Mission Trip

With paintbrushes in their hands and a spirit of joy in their hearts, nine Gardner-Webb University students spent their fall break helping people in an impoverished North Charleston, S.C., neighborhood.

Just a few weeks after devastating South Carolina floods and only a few months after the Charleston church shooting tragedy, Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister to the University, accompanied nine students to Charleston County, S.C., during fall break. The group worked with Metanoia Community Development Corporation and was privileged to attend church services in downtown Charleston at Mother Emmanuel AME Church, a predominantly African-American fellowship where nine people were shot to death during a Wednesday night prayer meeting on June 17. Metanoia was birthed when the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina decided they could not be faithful Christians without addressing issues of poverty within their own state. Based in North Charleston, S.C., Metanoia focuses on holistic community development by building youth leadership, establishing quality housing and generating economic development while nurturing people and allowing them to grow their faith in God and one another.

Megan White was one of the GWU students who went on the trip. She said she learned a lot about selfless service in just a few short days. “The first full day of our mission trip, we painted a middle school classroom and office,” White reflected. “This was a lot of fun for our group, but also a lot of hard work. We spent about seven hours painting the rooms we were assigned. But thinking about how amazed and excited the children would be made it enjoyable.”

On another day of work, the team spent about six hours clearing brush and trash away from the yards of two homes in the community. Although the work was exhausting, the group could clearly feel the impact of their efforts as residents of the neighborhood shared words of encouragement and gratefulness.

“A couple that lived across the street from the house we worked on even brought us some apples in case we got hungry while we were working,” White shared. “Although the people in that neighborhood had very little, they were all very friendly and willing to give us what they did have to make us feel welcome.”

A highlight of the trip, students say, was their Sunday morning visit to the historic Mother Emmanuel AME Church. Jessup said the congregants were incredibly kind, and they were eager to hear about the efforts of the mission team.

Throughout the extended weekend together, the team developed unity both emotionally and spiritually. “I hope they are deliberate about asking themselves ‘How am I going to be ‘on mission’ with God when it’s not built into my schedule?’” he reflected. “That is something we want all students to be able to do as they transition from their time at Gardner-Webb into what their future holds. We want them to use their time here to develop those skills and then carry that spirit of Christ-minded service with them wherever they go.”



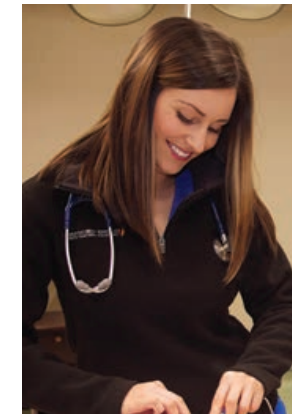
GWU students cleaning up debris

Homeless Clinic Developed by Students Furthers Mission of Physician Assistant Studies Program

Launched to help meet the healthcare needs of an underserved rural population, the Gardner-Webb University Physician Assistant (PA) Studies Program has been recognized for its students’ leadership and service in the community.

The N.C. Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA) presented the PA program a \$2,000 Joyce Nichols Community-Based Project grant that will be used to support a screening clinic for homeless patrons served by the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association in Shelby, N.C. The clinic was established through the time and efforts of the PA students under the supervision of Assistant Professor Dr. Nancy Winker and Assistant Professor Ashley Kernicky, PA-C, MPAS, and continued by the Student Government Association (SGA).

“The mission statement and focus of the PA Studies Program is to promote primary care in medically underserved communities,” Winker noted. “These students saw a need and are trying to fulfill it by serving homeless men and getting them access to care.”



Christen MacKorell

The PA Class of 2017 president, Christen MacKorell, wrote the grant request, because her fellow students desire to do more to help the homeless population.

“Our goal as a program is to eventually progress to a full-functioning, student clinic,” MacKorell explained. “The funds from the Joyce Nichols Community-Based Project Grant provided us with the opportunity to provide more resources, additional services, and as a result—better patient outcomes. We chose this profession out of a desire to give patients a better quality of life. I do not see any reason we should wait until after graduation to pursue this passion. Now is always the right time to help those who are in need.”

With the supplementary funding, homeless patrons will receive influenza vaccinations, blood pressure screenings, dermatological screenings, foot care, blood glucose screenings, hair care, toiletries, and have access to a laptop to search for jobs, apply for food stamps, or reach out to other resources. The PA students are also developing a guide listing additional medical and housing needs in the community.

PA student Morgan Warthan (’17) helps to coordinate the clinics with churches in the area. “This is a small way that we are trying to give back to our community and hope our efforts continue as new classes come through,” she explained. “While we are students and are not licensed to diagnose or treat illnesses, we can detect the possibility of diagnoses and refer patients to the community centers that do provide care. We hope one day local healthcare offices—from pharmacies, dental offices, and medical offices—can collaborate with us to achieve adequate healthcare for all who reside in Cleveland County.”

PLEASE
HELP

GWU Hosts Inaugural “MLK Day of Celebration & Service”

Written by Tyra Montour

Civil Rights leader, humanitarian and activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” Gardner-Webb answered the question and honored King’s legacy with the University’s inaugural MLK Day of Celebration and Service on Jan. 18.

With an abbreviated course schedule during the morning hours and select hands-on service opportunities offered during the afternoon, staff members and students followed King’s humanitarian example by getting involved in the community. Dr. Tom LeGrand, director of GWU’s Center for Christian Ethics and Social Responsibility, believes that as the years pass people tend to forget the intensity of his battle during the Civil Rights Movement. “It has become a national movement to serve on King’s day. It was a fight in many states in the beginning to have MLK Day recognized. Now, we’re trying to move beyond just having a holiday to also honor King’s legacy through service.”



Dr. Albert Brinson



On the morning of MLK Day, the University welcomed speaker Dr. Albert Brinson of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., a longtime friend of King. In addition, some of King’s sermons played throughout the morning in the Tucker Student Center.

During the afternoon, various groups provided aid at local homeless ministries in Shelby, N.C., and Gaffney, S.C. Others built wheelchair ramps and spent time with senior adults throughout the community. More than 120 students and staff members participated in the service projects.

A group of Student Government Association (SGA) students collected food donations for the Cleveland County Backpack program, which allocates food to kids who go home hungry on weekends and holiday breaks.

“I’ve been blessed to never worry about a meal, yet so many are not as fortunate,” said GWU student Jake Kennedy. “We collected five shopping carts full of food in the span of three hours. To truly serve, you

have to serve with love, not pride. Dr. King served with love. Christ served with love. Love is lacking in our society, but a glimmer is still shining, especially in the hearts of GWU students.”

Those involved with the service projects shared the impact of helping others. “It’s nice to reflect on what Martin Luther King did and being able to help people and advocate for people has been a really good way to honor him,” explained Gardner-Webb student Katie Gwaltney, who helped a group build a wheelchair ramp. “This is actually something that I really want to do in the future—just help with service projects and help people in general. So it’s really cool to see just a little glimpse of what I’ll be doing one day.

It makes me feel good that I’m making a difference,” added Gwaltney. “It just shows part of Gardner-Webb’s mission of serving God and serving people—so we are able to do both by doing these projects and I think that’s really cool.”

“To truly serve,
you have to
serve with love,
not pride.”



Katie Gwaltney



Watch the MLK Day service video at gardner-webb.edu/mlk

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 Sport Education Writing Theatre Arts History

TRANSFORMING MINDS

Students Explore Life Beyond a Major

Written by Jackie Bridges

Recreation
 Music
 Elementary
 Education
 Communications
 Global Studies



Computer Science
 Nursing
 Math
 Art

Environmental Science
 Biblical Studies
 Journalism
 Business Administration
 Computer Information Systems
 Health Science
 Marketing

For centuries, scholars have debated the purpose of studies in the liberal arts disciplines—natural and social sciences, English, history, religion, philosophy, the performing and visual arts, and both ancient and modern languages.

Dr. Earl Leininger, Gardner-Webb University's former provost, and associate provost for arts and sciences, has studied historical and contemporary opinions on the issue for more than four decades while teaching and serving in liberal arts institutions. The purist view, Leininger says, began with Socrates and Plato, who affirmed learning for its own sake and knowledge as its own end and reward. The contrasting view is associated with Cicero, the Roman stoic thinker and statesman, who advocated the value of education for public expression and persuasion and for training in citizenship.

Gardner-Webb, founded in 1905 as a Christian institution with a liberal arts core, continues to uphold the significance of this learning and teaching, as noted in the first sentence of its mission statement:

"Gardner-Webb University, a private, Christian, Baptist-related university, provides outstanding undergraduate and graduate education that is strongly grounded in the liberal arts while offering opportunities to prepare for various professions."

Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU Provost and Executive Vice President, explains that the wording in the statement is not by accident—liberal arts comes before career education for a reason.

"The liberal arts is the foundation for the professional preparation," Leslie assessed. "While the skills for a profession—whether physician assistant, nurse, teacher or business administrator—will evolve and change,



Kevin Clary '15

Music Education
 Director of Band and Chorus
 Lincolnton Middle School in Lincolnton, N.C.

As he began taking the required classes, Kevin Clary ('15) discovered his education was providing him a foundation to become a lifelong learner. The personalities and teaching styles of Gardner-Webb professors encouraged him to ask questions and seek answers.

"True knowledge and the power to shape one's own ideas and opinions comes from the willingness to expose one's self to the ideas and opinions of others, and that opportunity is prevalent at Gardner-Webb," Clary asserted.



Merideth Byl '16

Biology major with minors in chemistry and psychology, Tucson, Ariz.

In her educational journey, Merideth Byl ('16) of Tucson, Ariz., discovered that liberal arts requirements enhanced studies in her biology major and chemistry and psychology minors.

"When students are exposed to different subjects, as opposed to just a one-track major, they are forced to think outside of the box," Byl offered. "Even though I am a science major, my English classes have been the most helpful in teaching me how to think critically and synthesize material. The world itself is not divided into subjects. Taking all of these classes helps me bring it all together and make the most of my education."

the skill sets the liberal arts provide are foundational—problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking. All those skills come from a basic understanding of the world we live in."

And, he adds, liberal arts studies also apply to the next section in the University's mission statement: "Gardner-Webb is dedicated to higher education that integrates scholarship with Christian life."

"The liberal arts is what makes strong citizens and that's part of what makes good disciples and leaders in the church," Leslie affirmed.

Leslie says that virtually all four-year institutions offer some instruction in the liberal arts, but many schools have minimized their programs of general studies and reduced the requirements. Students are allowed to take such a wide range of electives during their academic career that he believes general studies programs at several colleges lack coherence.

Gardner-Webb, on the other hand, offers a broad-based and highly structured program that exposes students to six key dimensions of human understanding: Humanities, Faith, Heritage (History and Culture), Self (Psychology, Wellness, Arts), Science and Quantitative Analysis (Mathematics). "By covering all the bases, so to speak, Gardner-Webb provides a set of skills and perspectives that prepares the student for a lifetime of leadership and constructive engagement with the world," Leslie concluded.

The scope of the University's liberal arts core curriculum consistently earns top ratings from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). Gardner-Webb is one of 24 colleges in the nation to receive an "A" and the only school in North Carolina to obtain the distinction.

GARDNER-WEBB'S SIX KEY DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN UNDERSTANDING:

- HUMANITIES
- FAITH
- HERITAGE (HISTORY AND CULTURE)
- SELF (PSYCHOLOGY, WELLNESS, ARTS)
- SCIENCE
- QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS (MATHEMATICS)



Despite the accolades, negative perceptions on the liberal arts educational model persist because society currently emphasizes preparing students with career-specific skill sets. "They see liberal arts education as impractical in comparison with professional or technical training," noted Leininger.

In contrast to the public perception, Leininger cites national surveys of CEOs and human resource managers, who seek out job applicants with an education grounded in liberal arts.

"Employers say that the world of work requires people who read, write and speak well; who know how to tackle a problem and make reasonable judgments; and who can reach across disciplines to forge new ideas and new approaches ... and above all, people who have learned how to learn," Leininger noted. "And those are the knowledge and skills connected with the liberal arts and which undergird all the educating in which this university is engaged."

And once students enter the world of work, these skills will help them tackle new assignments and challenging tasks.

"There is no way this university or any other one can provide anyone with all they need to know to succeed in any job or career," Leininger explained. "Since no one can foresee all the methods and information a student will need in the years ahead, the best thing we can do is to provide students the skills to adapt to change and to learn how to learn. That's why all of the resources at Gardner-Webb are directed not merely to the filling of minds but to the formation of minds."



A.J. Francioni '15

Exercise Science
Duke Sports Medicine, Durham, N.C.

Expecting the changes that are sure to come in her future, Alexandra Joy "AJ" Francioni ('15), a native of Chicago, Ill., feels confident in her professional ability and prepared for graduate studies because of her liberal arts

foundation. A graduate of the GWU exercise science program, Francioni works at Duke Sports Medicine in Durham, N.C., and has accepted a position in UNC-Chapel Hill's Doctorate of Physical Therapy program.

"I filled my schedule with extra psychology classes that helped me understand the human condition, an ethics class that helped me develop a moral code to apply to various situations, and a communications class to improve my written and oral communication skills," Francioni elaborated. "Of course, my future profession requires a hefty load of math and science classes, but the liberal arts curriculum at Gardner-Webb provides even more self-discovery and life-long learning on top of an education that prepares you for a career."



M. Lamont Littlejohn '16

Servant Pastor/Teacher
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Shelby, N.C.
DMin '16

As a church leader for more than 10 years, M. Lamont Littlejohn continues to experience practical benefits from the liberal arts foundation he received while earning his bachelor's degree in religious education and minor in psychology from Gardner-Webb.

"Training for pastoral ministry is vital more now than ever," explained Littlejohn, who goes by the title of servant pastor/teacher at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. "I have a greater sense of how to relate to the people I have the privilege to serve and the knowledge to administer church ministries in an effective way that will hopefully be impactful rather than simply impressive."

Littlejohn completed his Master of Divinity at GWU in 2007 and his Doctor of Ministry in 2016. "My experience has helped me to become a better holistic person," he observed. "My educational experience allowed me to acquire skills within other subject areas of study beyond my major and minor concentrations. It has taught me that ministry is both tough and messy at times. My reward is not based on how many people are in the pews on a certain Sunday, but instead on how many souls I'm willing to serve on a consistent basis."

Send the LIGHT

After Experiencing Aftermath of Rwandan Genocide, Divinity Student Feels Call to Study at GWU, Shine God's Love in War-Torn Africa

Written by Jackie Bridges

Born in a Christian home in the African nation of Burundi, Ornella Umubyeyi was a young girl when her family moved to the neighboring nation of Rwanda after the 1994 genocide.

According to the United Human Rights Council, 800,000 people were killed in the massacre that lasted three months. The bloodshed was the result of decades of strife between the Hutu ethnic majority and the Tutsi minority. It ended when a Tutsi-led force gained control of the government.

"The country was still broken in many ways," recalled Umubyeyi, a doctoral student in the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity. "My parents would be singing in hymns. I would say, 'There are many life challenges. Why are you singing?' My mother would say, 'Sometimes in the darkest time, we see God's light.'"

Umubyeyi wants to share that light with people in her country. By earning a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling, she hopes to bring healing in a place scarred by years of torture, fighting, death and grief.

"We don't have a lot of ministers who are doing pastoral care and counseling in Rwanda or Burundi," she observed. "I realized I needed to get my doctorate to get all the tools to provide the help they need. I have heard good things about this program, so I chose to come to Gardner-Webb. I really like the classes. They are more practical instead of theory."

While working on her doctorate, Umubyeyi is already helping people in Burundi through her non-profit organization, Soul Survivors International, which is registered for tax-exempt status in America.

"I talk with a lot of young people who had to grow up in the streets—who were prostitutes," Umubyeyi explained. "I have friends who lost their loved ones during wars. I realize how much counseling will be needed. I have been using the funds I get here to put some kids in schools and help single mothers who are HIV/AIDS positive. I want to be involved in ministry, but the kind of ministry I want to be involved in is with people who are struggling."

A new generation may also require her assistance, because recent political unrest in Burundi has resulted in several unexplained murders. Umubyeyi has learned that someone shot and killed her cousin as he was walking down the street. With Twitter and Facebook, Umubyeyi is able to get news quickly about what is going on in her country.

"I'm still mourning someone who was close to me," she confided. "He was in the university, had dreams to be successful and actually come to America. He kept telling me, 'I'm learning English and I'm going to come and find you.' To see his life taken shortly, and innocently—yes, it's very hard to see that happen again and to see a lot of my friends and family fleeing. It's almost like déjà vu... Rwanda all over again."

In addition to grieving over the genocide and the recent killings, Umubyeyi gets a sense that Rwandans and Burundians wonder why the rest of the world seems to ignore them.

"Personally, I feel like the world sat and watched the genocide in Rwanda. It could have been on TV, and it's easy to switch the TV, because, 'It's not about me. It's not about my family, and I don't know anybody there,'" Umubyeyi shared. "For the other leaders, it was more like Rwanda does not have anything to offer. So we felt like because we are a small country that did not have anything for other countries to gain, that's why they didn't do anything. For them to come back to try to do a lot of work, we still felt a little bit bitter, because it was too late. There is nothing you can do to replace the people that were taken from us."

Umubyeyi came to America 10 years ago. "By God's grace, I got an opportunity to come for high school in Massachusetts to play basketball," she shared. "God opened the doors."

She planned to go back home after high school, but people she had never met paid for her to go to college in Wisconsin, and then others paid for her to attend seminary in Chicago. She found GWU while searching on the Internet, called the School of Divinity and Director of Admissions Kheresa Harmon answered.

"We literally had a conversation for two hours," Umubyeyi confessed. "I am not kidding. When I hung up, I was like, 'I am going there.' I loved her. She was very warm, welcoming and funny, and I loved the Southern accent."

As Umubyeyi shared her story, Harmon could sense the power of God's call on the young woman's life.

"When my phone rang, I met Ornella and I entered that sacred space that is created by the God who calls and sends," Harmon recalled. "I heard the most beautiful, melodic voice tell me of her childhood in Rwanda and of the transformative and healing grace of God that reconciles and gives birth to hope. I heard the story of Ornella, a young woman who simply wanted to help people become all that God created them to be."



Ornella Umubyeyi

Ornella Umubyeyi is available to speak to local churches. Her ministry, Soul Survivors International (SSI) aims to promote, empower and support street children and teenagers struggling in any area. The organization reaches out through health, education, psychological and spiritual development and opportunities to African children by bringing sustainable growth in their lives, as they experience God's love and discover God's calling upon their lives. For more information visit www.ssurvivorsinternational.org.



Listen to Ornella's incredible story at gardner-webb.edu/ornella-umubyeyi.



Early Influence

Sarah Haywood '18 Gets Attention of State Education Official with Compelling Argument for Foundation of Elementary Social Studies

Written by Jackie Bridges



Left to right: Sarah Haywood, Fay Gore, and Dr. Jason Parker

"We have to start teaching social studies in the younger years, as this is a time in the children's lives when they begin to develop social, problem-solving, and certain societal attitudes and views that will influence the rest of their lives."

These words written in a blog by Sarah Haywood, a student in the Gardner-Webb School of Education, gained the attention of Fay Gore, Section Chief for K-12 Social Studies at the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

"It was my second post of the social studies methods class, about why the subject of social studies was such a crucial subject to teach in elementary schools," Haywood shared. "At the time, I did not think much about the post, but my professor, Dr. Jason Parker, had tweeted a link to the post to Fay Gore."

Gore read Haywood's post and wrote this complimentary response, "... After such a thoughtful, well-written, compelling argument, I'm hopeful that you, Sarah, can make that happen for your future students! If I were a principal anywhere in the world, I would hire you in a minute! You really do get it. You are already a 'meaningful and powerful teacher.'"

Soon after making the comment, Gore and Haywood set up a time to talk further using video chat during Parker's methods class.

"She told me that my blog post had been an inspiration and a helpful insight for those at DPI," Haywood said.

Gore's interest in Haywood didn't end with the conversation. She and her team at DPI invited Haywood to be a part of a panel at the annual K-12 Social Studies Leaders' Institute. The event was attended by social studies district-level curriculum coordinators, teacher leaders, department chairs, and instructional coaches.

"I was completely blown away by Sarah's compelling argument for why elementary social studies needed to be taught," Gore observed. "It is passionate pre-service teachers like Sarah that will sustain and advance public education. She deserves to have the opportunity to use her talents and training in an area that she loves."

As a member of the panel, Haywood talked about her blog post and challenged teachers and professors to ensure that social studies is being taught effectively at the elementary level.

"It was a great experience and I was able to sit in on a professional development conference that discussed the current strands of social studies and what the corresponding standards for these strands should be for teachers statewide," Haywood said. "I have a pretty strong connection with DPI after this opportunity and hopefully it will lead to more and even stronger connections."

Parker attended the conference with Haywood and said she did a wonderful job representing the teacher education program at GWU.

"The discussion helped the audience to further their understanding of the positive impact social studies instruction can have on elementary school students," Parker observed. "During the discussion, Sarah articulated the importance of elementary students having the ability to grow as productive citizens who can think critically and be prepared to live a productive life. I look forward to seeing Sarah continue to demonstrate her leadership skills in her coursework, during student teaching, and in her future career."

Haywood, an elementary education major, says her passion for teaching elementary school comes from a desire to see children learn concepts and build on them.

"I love kids, but I also love seeing the spark in a child's eye when they understand something that you've taught them," she offered. "I think education is so important to a person's success in life, and I think that it needs to be highly emphasized in elementary school as it creates a strong foundation for a student to have that they can grow and add to as they progress in their education."



HARVESTING

*GWU Students Help Build
Fish Farm for Haitian Orphanage
Written by Emily DeVries*

Hope

Over Christmas break of 2014, Olive traveled to Minoterie, Haiti, to confirm the aptitude of the location site and to take soil samples. He met with the group who runs the orphanage as well as the children who live there. Olive also met with a potential fish farm manager and evaluated how to acquire the appropriate resources for their return trip, for which the team would require sufficient training.

In anticipation of preparing teams to undertake these projects, GWU students visited a HQ training facility in Orangeburg, S.C., during the spring of 2015. They learned, among many things, that building relationships during the next trip to Haiti would be incredibly important in their success.

By the time the trip had concluded, new contacts and resources were established and the pond hole was ready to be filled by the follow-up team from Crosslink Baptist and GWU student Kailey Robinson who traveled to Minoterie later that summer. During their time there, the pond was stocked with tilapia and the orphanage was outfitted with the fish feed and any other necessary supplies.

This international missions trip was a first for Robinson, who was amazed by the passion and beauty of the Haitian people. Following the experience she overflowed with excitement. “I couldn’t believe we added the fish on our first day there!” Robinson admitted. “The group was able to get to work almost immediately, which allowed us to have the opportunity to spend time with the children and learn more about fish farming from the local community.”

“We are creating something that is sustainable. We aren’t just going to get them in a situation where they can only receive. With this project, we are giving them a way to help themselves.”

A service trip to build a fish farm in Haiti deeply impacted the hearts of the Gardner-Webb University students who traveled there and brought life-altering change to the Haitian orphanage that is now reaping its harvest.

Dr. Don Olive, GWU associate professor of Physics and Astronomy, desires to instill a spirit of service in the hearts of his students. A chance conversation with the father of a first-year Gardner-Webb student introduced Olive to a unique service opportunity to do just that.

Olive had the chance to create a student team to lead a service project in Haiti through a South Carolina-based ministry. The Higher Quest Foundation (HQ) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is “to educate and equip.” HQ strives to fight world hunger in a manner that is sustainable. One of the sustainable, resource-providing options promoted by HQ is fish farming, which provides a continual and sustainable influx of resources.

Another crucial partnership in this project was the relationship built with Crosslink Methodist Church (Rutherford College, N.C.), the home church of GWU student Kailey Robinson. The church funds Haitian-based Real Love Ministries International, which oversees an orphanage in Minoterie, Haiti. In discussions between the GWU team, HQ and Crosslink Methodist Church, it was determined that this orphanage, located about an hour from Port-Au-Prince, would be an ideal location to build the fish farm.

Less than a month later in May, Olive returned to the build location with students Nikole Roland, Collin James and Brooke Rampy. During this week, their team encountered several unexpected hurdles, which prevented them from being able to finish several of the tasks they intended to complete during this trip.

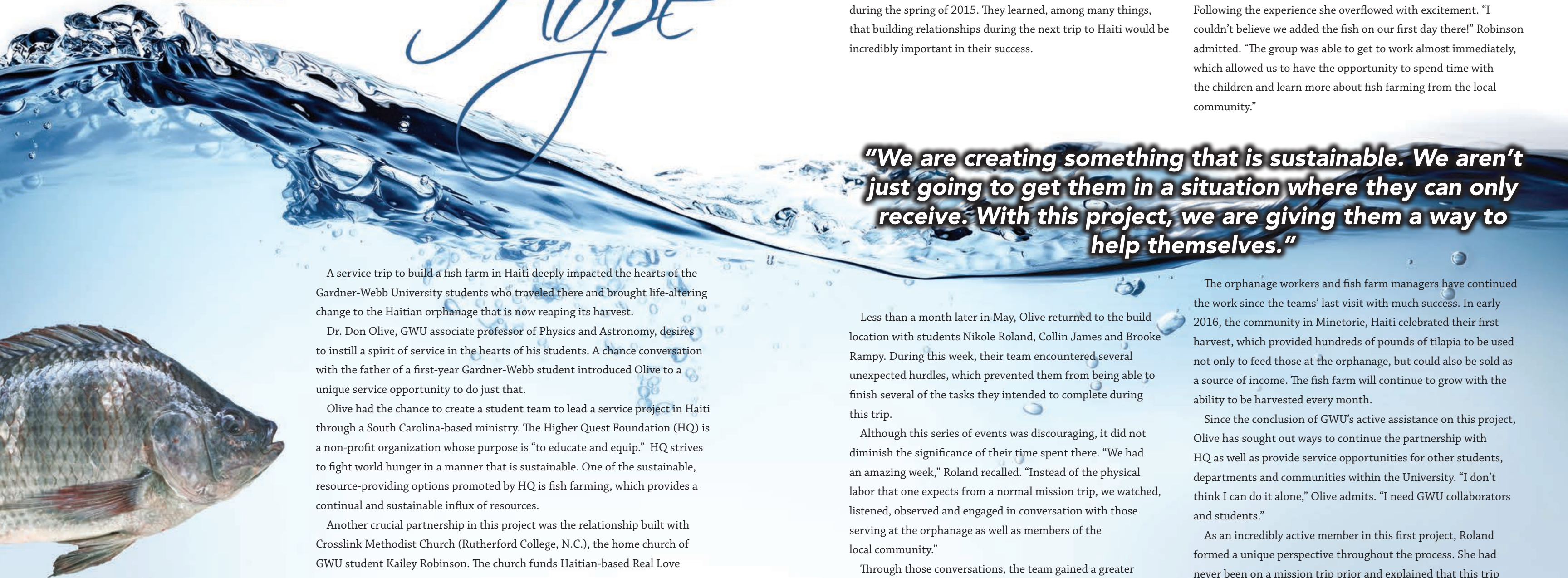
Although this series of events was discouraging, it did not diminish the significance of their time spent there. “We had an amazing week,” Roland recalled. “Instead of the physical labor that one expects from a normal mission trip, we watched, listened, observed and engaged in conversation with those serving at the orphanage as well as members of the local community.”

Through those conversations, the team gained a greater understanding of fish farming and a deeper knowledge of the service area. The group also worked hard to develop new relationships every step of the way, just like they had been instructed during their training.

The orphanage workers and fish farm managers have continued the work since the teams’ last visit with much success. In early 2016, the community in Minoterie, Haiti celebrated their first harvest, which provided hundreds of pounds of tilapia to be used not only to feed those at the orphanage, but could also be sold as a source of income. The fish farm will continue to grow with the ability to be harvested every month.

Since the conclusion of GWU’s active assistance on this project, Olive has sought out ways to continue the partnership with HQ as well as provide service opportunities for other students, departments and communities within the University. “I don’t think I can do it alone,” Olive admits. “I need GWU collaborators and students.”

As an incredibly active member in this first project, Roland formed a unique perspective throughout the process. She had never been on a mission trip prior and explained that this trip defied her definition of an ordinary missions trip. “We are creating something that is sustainable. We aren’t just going to get them in a situation where they can only receive. With this project, we are giving them a way to help themselves.”





Your Neighbor

*Amber Hinson '16
Provides Healthcare Ministry in Her Community*

Written By Jackie Bridges

Before she came to the Hunt School of Nursing at Gardner-Webb University, Amber Smith Hinson ('16) and her husband, Grant, began a unique ministry. Stepping out in faith, they left their jobs, packed up their children and moved into a mobile home in Lancaster, S.C.

With input from a pastor in the area, Hinson and her husband started The Connection Ministry at Countryside Mobile Home Park, which has approximately 185 trailers and over 700 residents. The local sheriff's office describes the community as one of the most crime-ridden in the area.

"Our purpose in ministry is to connect our neighbors to Christ and show them that we are all equal and have a purpose in life," Hinson shared.

She has a bachelor's degree in nursing and had been applying to graduate schools before the couple came to the mobile home park. Because healthcare is one of the needs in the community, she and her husband realized that if she earned a Master of Science in Nursing with a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certificate, it would be beneficial to their ministry. Friends recommended the program at Gardner-Webb.

"When my husband and I decided it was time for me to go back to school, we began to pray about our options," Hinson reflected. "Because of our faith background, Gardner-



Amber Hinson and her family

Webb seemed like a great option, where I could learn more about nursing while keeping my focus on Jesus Christ. In obtaining my master's in nursing, I hope to incorporate an aspect of healthcare into our ministry. This is an area of need, as well, that we can use to connect people to Christ and allow them to see His goodness."

Gardner-Webb's FNP program has prepared her to serve patients, whether it's in a mobile home park or a medical office.

"Gardner-Webb holds nursing students to a high standard and takes education seriously. Each day includes reading, studying and completing assignments. Many days are spent in a healthcare provider's office completing clinical hours," Hinson observed. "No matter what the day holds, a student in the FNP program is always learning and growing in their knowledge of nursing. All of the instructors I've had the privilege of learning from have been very knowledgeable and organized. Dr. Anna Hamrick, director of the FNP Program, has been both an excellent professor and a supportive faculty member. She teaches with enthusiasm while encouraging me to follow what God has planned for my life."



An empty mobile home at the front of the park is where the Hinsons have an office and host Bible studies, tutoring, prayer, Vacation

Bible School, youth hang-outs and other activities. The missionary couple raises their own funds to provide the ministry and receive financial support from the Moriah Baptist Association in Lancaster. They also enlist volunteers from local churches to help with the programs they offer.

On a weekly basis, the Hinsons sponsor homework helpers, English as a second language classes and men's Bible study. A local church hosts a ministry for children each week. Monthly events include a back-to-school giveaway, fall festival, free yard sale, Thanksgiving dinner, and gift distribution at Christmas.



"A lot of our day-to-day work is forming relationships with our neighbors," Hinson described. "We spend a lot of time in neighbors' homes and yards and many have spent time at our house. My husband has meetings with men almost daily where he counsels and prays for them. He also plays basketball with them on Friday nights. I take women to the grocery store and appointments, help the Spanish moms communicate with their kids' schools, and have had a hand at learning to cook Mexican food and cakes."



For Hinson, the nursing profession combines two of her passions. "As a child I enjoyed learning about science and the human body. As a Christian, I have a passion for helping people," she explained. "The nursing profession is a natural blend of those two loves for me. Being a nurse requires critical thinking, time management, and knowledge of how the human body functions. It is a challenging career that encourages me to strive for excellence."

Optimized Performances

Academic Research Opportunities Parallel Physical Demands of Swimming for Two GWU Athletes

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Taylor Schwartz prepares a student for an experiment.

Nathan Lile

Their time in the pool is intentional. Individually, they know exactly what is required of them to see results. As members of the same Division I team, they innately understand that what they practice privately will be displayed publicly. Their physical achievements are a result of their internal priorities. Taylor Schwartz and Nathan Lile are standout members of the Gardner-Webb University swim team and both know the level of their individual commitment to excellence can ultimately help—or hurt—the team as a whole.

Similarly, the two have learned their efforts in academia can have the same positive or negative effects. As undergraduate research scholars on both individual and group projects, Lile and Schwartz have experienced intellectual and physical parallels during their final year of college. The students spent much of their senior year culling research findings and preparing for conference presentations—in addition to their intensive athletic endeavors as swimmers. Although Lile is used to being physically driven through his competitive swimming, he confessed that the time management challenges of his individual research project on computer artificial intelligence was more than he had ever faced.

“I’m not sure I’ve ever been so overwhelmed and stressed out as I was in that first five weeks of research because this is so independently based; it’s all up to me,” he shared. “When it’s all over, if it’s not good, it’s completely my fault. So it was tough. Especially when you’re trying to do three or four weight workouts a week, and at least a two-hour swim practice every single day—sometimes a double. But it was a fantastic experience and I would absolutely do it again.”

Schwartz’s research specifically examined three types of physical performance anxiety. Although she is accustomed to the nerves that accompany athletic performances, her interest in the subject intensified when she was named an undergraduate research scholar. Using her background as a psychology major, she and her mentor, assistant professor of psychology Dr. Brooke Thompson, structured a cognitive neurology experiment in which she could measure performance anxiety, social anxiety, and pain anxiety among individuals set to perform an athletic task.

“In order to elicit the anxiety we were looking for, we had to have participants fully convinced that they were going to have to do the activity,” Schwartz offered. “Although we didn’t find anything conclusive, our research was not a complete

loss—we are on to something and there is almost an open field to develop therapies for a variety of people and situations in which they are dealing with a fear of pain.”

Since completing their individual research projects, the two joined forces with other students for a group research project on “Containing Ebola,” and they presented their findings at the Alpha Chi National Convention in Alexandria, Va. For Lile, a double major in computer science and philosophy, the undergraduate research opportunities available at Gardner-Webb are second-to-none.

“There are so many opportunities here.”

“Undergrad research shows that you can do quality research and work on your own, that you’re self-motivated,” he reflected. “For grad schools, it shows that you dove head first into a complex topic in your discipline and were able to handle it and produce some type of output, even if it wasn’t necessarily a success.

“Research isn’t really about success; it’s about trying to do something no one’s done before or do it in a different way. Gardner-Webb is a school where if you’re willing to take the initiative, you can do pretty much anything you want. That’s one huge reason that I chose Gardner-Webb, and I’ve realized that over time. There are so many opportunities here.”

Schwartz agreed wholeheartedly. “I’ve had so many people ask me about what I love about attending Gardner-Webb,” she continued. “I decided on GWU because it was a place I could see myself and a community that I wanted to be a part of. That has been the most rewarding thing about going to school here. This community extends from the student body to professors to pastors to parents. It’s really been a large web of support for me.”

For more information on the Undergraduate Research Program at Gardner-Webb, or to find out how to apply for the Summer Scholars Research Program, contact Dr. June Hobbs at 704-406-4412 or email jhobbs@gardner-webb.edu.

To hear more about Taylor Schwartz’s research on performance anxiety, visit gardner-webb.edu/taylor-schwartz.

For more information on Nathan Lile’s research on artificial intelligence, visit gardner-webb.edu/nathan-lile.

MOONSHINE, LOG CABINS & ILLITERACY

GWU STUDENT RECOGNIZED FOR RESEARCH ON APPALACHIAN STEREOTYPES

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

On a national stage in Chicago, Ill., while fighting pneumonia, Gardner-Webb history graduate Elisabeth Moore ('16) talked about hillbilly stereotypes. And she won a prestigious award in the process.

She was in high school when she first realized how much the stereotypes about Appalachia had permeated contemporary culture. Moore was born and raised in the western North Carolina mountains of Brevard. While in Chapel Hill, N.C., as part of the North Carolina All-State Honors Band, she remembers a girl asking her how she overcame the obstacles from growing up in Brevard.

"Brevard, N.C., is home to the Brevard Music Center which is world-renowned; it hosts professors from Juilliard, and that kind of thing," Moore explained. "It was astounding to me that, in 2012, she thought that we only played the fiddle and the dulcimer and didn't know how to pick up a clarinet.

But that's kind of what got me interested."

Fast forward to the fall of 2015, when Moore found herself at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Chicago, so sick she wasn't sure if she would be able to present to judges the findings of her extensive

undergraduate research on the stereotypes of Appalachia.

"I honestly had to rely on the Lord to do it," she reflected. "My thesis deals with the accuracy of the Appalachian mountaineer stereotype, which is very much what you think of when you consider the Beverly Hillbillies: backwards, ignorant, illiterate, drunks who don't have much knowledge of society and aren't very civilized. Incest is a big part of this stereotype, as well as the idea that they have no community, that they're just out in the back woods in the log cabin drinking moonshine and playing the banjo. I definitely enjoyed the opportunity to explore the prevalence of this stereotype today. I think this historical discussion is relevant."

As an undergraduate research scholar at GWU, she spent several weeks in library archives, perusing every mid- to late-19th century publication that related to her research topic.



Elisabeth Moore

"Stereotypes are one-dimensional and the reality of life is never one-dimensional."



"I kind of discovered that nobody had taken a look at this from a local perspective, so I looked at western North Carolina and whether the stereotype created by local colorists in the 1880s and 1890s was accurate," she offered. "I learned, for the most part, that Appalachians themselves resisted that stereotype. They very much saw themselves as part of the New South. In some respects, the stereotype does have foundation, but overall, it oversimplifies Appalachian life and Appalachian culture."

She continued. "Stereotypes are one-dimensional and the reality of life is never one-dimensional; it's always more complex. And so my thesis is actually more that Appalachian life is far more complex than the stereotype portrays."

After two hours of answering the judges' questions, Moore learned she had earned the "Best Presentation in Social Sciences" award at the conference. "It didn't really sink in until we got back, but I have honestly been most honored by the opportunity to represent my school and my subject in such a prominent way," she shared.

"I was competing against other undergraduates from across the United States. I was a little fish in a really big competition in Chicago. It was nice to bring some recognition to our department that does so many things so well. It was also great to bring some awareness to the subject I cover."

She aimed her thesis at specific ways the stereotypes on Appalachia are incorrect. "There was this big stereotype that mountaineers were all Anglo-Saxon people, and actually there were African-Americans, there were Native-Americans, there were Chinese in Appalachia during the 1880s," she explained. "The stereotype affects all aspects of Appalachian society, so I had to look at lots of different things: religion, community institutions, socio-economics. The common view was that they were isolated. It turns out they weren't. They had a hog trade with Paris, France, in the 1870s, which is not isolated at all. I looked a lot at socio-economics. There was a very potent merchant class that participated in international trade with 'the low-enders' in South Carolina. They weren't all just poor white people struggling to survive."

Her achievements, she says, are a direct reflection of Gardner-Webb's excellent programs and professors who have helped develop her research skills.

"I couldn't have done the research I've been able to do without the professors who have helped me and mentored me along the way. Dr. Joseph Moore, Dr. Tom Jones, Dr. David Yelton, and Dr. Timothy Vanderburg all deserve credit for my successes," she reflected.

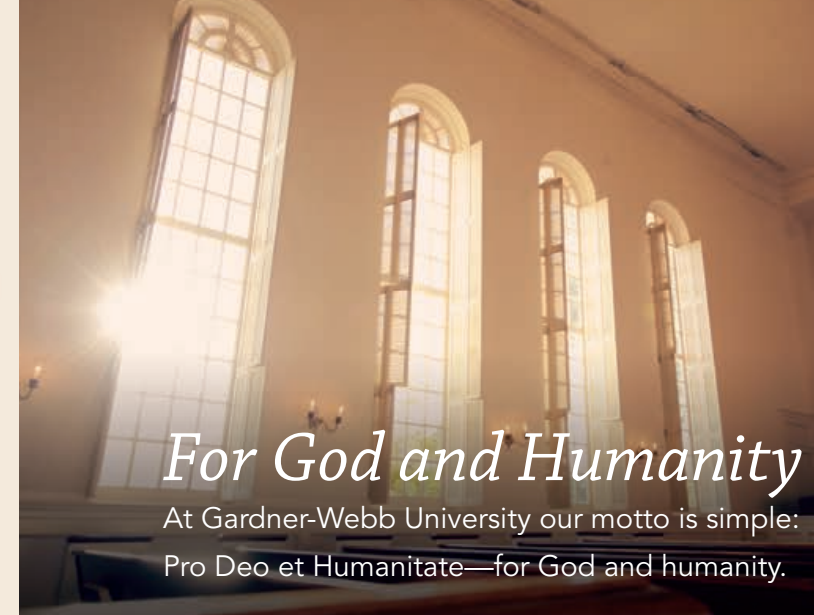
"I am the product of undergraduate education done right," Moore offered. "I'm not unbelievably brilliant. I'm the product of a brilliant institution that prizes original undergraduate research and a lot of hard work."



Learn more about Elisabeth's research experience at gardner-webb.edu/elisabeth-moore.



Elisabeth Moore receiving her "Best Presentation" award in Chicago



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Pro Deo et Humanitate—for God and humanity.



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“The very spring and root of honesty and virtue lie in good education.” – *Plutarch*



Olympic Assignment

Kristen Hurley’s Path to National Bobsled Team Launched with GWU Research Project

Written by Jackie Bridges, special contribution by Mariana Mellado

As an undergraduate and graduate student at Gardner-Webb University, Kristen Hurley (’14) — a member of the U.S. National Bobsled Team — thrived on accepting academic and athletic challenges.

Her determination paid off on the track and field team, where she was a seven-time all-conference performer, and in a class taught by Dr. Ken Baker, chair of the GWU Department of Health, Sport and Physical Education. She convinced Baker to let her do a research project on the selection process for the U.S. National Bobsled Team.

Although Baker thought it was an “off-the-wall” topic for the two-time Big South Indoor Pentathlon Champion, he gave her the green light to pursue the subject. When he found out Hurley, a native of Columbia, Conn., later made the National Bobsled Team, Baker realized the depth of her interest in the Olympic sport.



Kristen Hurley

“I now understand her rationale for choosing this topic,” observed Baker. “This research project turned out to be not just another academic exercise on some abstract topic. Rather, this coursework had a direct connection to a student’s desire to reach a personal, real-life destination.”

After completing her bachelor’s degree in health and physical education and beginning her graduate studies in sports science and pedagogy, Hurley lived and worked on the GWU campus. She turned to her former track-and-field coaches Evan Brusich and Robert Golabek to help her train. Although she was no longer a member of the University’s track- and-field team, the coaches agreed to design a training plan to build her strength and speed. As one of five brakemen on the National Bobsled Team, her job is to push and accelerate the sled with explosive force.

Feeling physically prepared with the help of her coaches, Hurley headed for tryouts in Lake Placid, N.Y. At each point in the process, she had to either score enough points or place in order to move to the next level. Her hard work in training helped her advance from learning the basics of bobsled to competing alongside new and returning participants at the Olympic Training Center. She was even able to compete against Olympic Hurdler Lolo Jones, an athlete who inspired Hurley to pursue the sport.

“I know that God has helped me in many ways and given me the strength to persevere through trials during this selection process for the bobsled team,” she offered.

As the fifth brakeman named to the national team in fall 2015, Hurley worked to prove herself. In her first race in November 2015, Hurley pushed pilot Nicole Vogt to a bronze medal win in the North American Cup in Calgary, Canada. At the World Cup in Lake Placid, N.Y., Hurley and Vogt placed eighth. In the European Cup, Hurley and pilot Katie Eberling placed seventh in Igls, Austria, and eighth in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

In one season in the sport, Hurley has decided that she is better suited for the driver’s seat. She is willing to spend the extra time it takes to study the tracks and work on her driving skills. Hurley’s positive outlook is one that she has always had—especially during the time she competed as a heptathlete for Track and Field at Gardner-Webb.

“Her diligence and never-say-die attitude got her through many, many rough competitions and practices,” Brusich affirmed. “She simply will not allow herself to quit until she makes the breakthrough or achieves the task we determined beforehand. I believe this characteristic in Kristen is what led to her committing so hard to bobsled.”

Hurley describes how competing in heptathlons builds an athlete’s stamina and perseverance.

“Heptathletes must learn how to move on when they have a bad event and push through adversity. If you do poorly in one event, you cannot get down on yourself for long or it will negatively affect the rest of your events,” she explained. “I believe that running college track and competing in the heptathlon helped train me both mentally and physically to participate in bobsled.”

Hurley tackled her academics with the same determination. Her professors and coaches helped her follow her dreams, recognizing her drive to succeed.

“Kristen consistently performed well in the classroom. She was an ambitious student. She responded well to challenges, and she never sought the easy path,” Baker praised. “Now, at the elite level of Team USA, Kristen shows how our graduates can utilize the Gardner-Webb experience as a springboard, or should I say bobsled, to success.”



photo by Big South Photos

Rich with **STRENGTH**

*More than a Decade After Turning Down NFL, GWU Alum Rich Williams '02
Continues to Find Fortune Through Ministry*

Written by Matthew Tessnear

He can lift nearly 900 pounds in weights straight off the ground. His hand alone will grip an anvil of more than 150 pounds to carry it 60 feet. Soda cans explode in his palm. Baseball bats bend on his head.

In the world of competitive strength, he's well known as "Big Rich" Williams, the man who has set world records in exhibitions of his natural abilities and conditioned skills. His feats became legendary through his performances at Arnold (Schwarzenegger) Sports Festival strongman competitions and the accompanying Mighty Mitts contests in the past decade.

The 2002 Gardner-Webb alum's power, however, formed long ago as a teenager growing up in Virginia. And it's the original source of strength that drives his will to train his body and change others' souls.

WILLIAMS FACED A BIG TEST at the age of 14. As his parents were going through a divorce, he was also battling the challenge of a learning disability. Both made his school work and his life more difficult.

During that time, he began to spend a significant amount of time with his uncle. Over a matter of months, he noted that his uncle was going through some changes in his life, too. The alcohol and rough language that had been common in the household had now started to disappear, and it made Williams ask why.

Williams learned that his uncle had given his life to Jesus Christ, and that discovery made him wonder what such a relationship could mean for him. "Up until then, Jesus was just another name to me," Williams admits. "Up until then, I was lost. When I learned that Jesus died to save us and that it meant eternal life, I became a new person. I started to plug into the word of God. Proverbs chapter three, verses five and six, became strength and comfort that were a help to me in all times in my life."





Proverbs 3:5-6 - International Standard Version (ISV)
5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

FOOTBALL WAS A BIG PART OF LIFE during Williams’ high school years. He remembers drawing interest from Division I college programs as a junior and senior, but his coaches and mentors didn’t spend a lot of time emphasizing the grades he would need in order to take advantage of such opportunities. When the top schools learned Williams wasn’t academically eligible to play under NCAA guidelines, he stopped receiving their attention.

One of his high school teammates traveled to Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C., for a visit as a junior. As the coaches at Gardner-Webb viewed the player’s film, they also noticed Williams and inquired about his availability. The connection developed into a scholarship offer by phone for Williams to play college football at GWU and, after a year of community college in Virginia, Williams became eligible to join the University’s program.

“I really feel like it was truly orchestrated by God for me to be here,” Williams asserts about his time at GWU. “I wasn’t searching Gardner-Webb out. They happened to see me on film. I thought there was no hope, but they told me I could do it, academically and athletically.”

GARDNER-WEBB WAS A TIME OF GROWTH for Williams. On the football field, he became an all-American left offensive tackle. He made longtime friends with some of his teammates, including fellow offensive lineman Donovan

Craft, who would eventually be the best man in his wedding and a business partner. And he continued to strengthen his relationship with God.

“One of our football players, Jamie Pridgen (’04), was a guy who had some of the strongest convictions of faith,” Williams shares. “Football players often get labeled as prideful, egotistical meatheads. For the first time in my life I saw an example of somebody who was completely working for the Lord. That guy was in the prayer room at 2 or 3 o’clock in the morning by himself. He always encouraged discipleship. It wasn’t just talk. I was a Christian before, but his example really encouraged me to get my life together and claim my relationship with the Lord. He’s a pastor now, and we continue to talk.”

Williams’ conversations with the Lord during his senior year at Gardner-Webb began to include intense consideration of his next steps in life. His strong performance on the football field had become well-known among National Football League (NFL) scouts, and he was projected as an early-round pick in the 2002 college player draft.



Rich Williams (left) with GWU teammates

WILLIAMS DECIDED TO TURN DOWN THE NFL, a choice that raised questions among many people, from his friends to experts in the professional sports world. While exploring his options and his feelings, he realized that his desire to succeed in football had been more about his enjoyment of competition than a love for the game.

“I felt like God was pulling me in a different direction than football,” he recounts. “It didn’t make sense to people, and it didn’t make sense to me either at the time. I couldn’t pinpoint why my heart didn’t desire the NFL. I had to decide to focus on what God wanted me to do and not what people would say about me.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 again provided guidance, and this time it offered confirmation for Williams that he would win souls for Christ instead of winning games on the football field. “To me, it’s all gain knowing that my life took a stance for God and people were able to see me choose Him instead of football,” he explains. “People have called me telling me that my decision to turn down the NFL inspired them. It convicted some people. I had no idea that would happen, but that’s ultimately what it became. At the time I just realized life was more than the rat race and more than money.”

“I’d rather impact a million people’s lives than have a million dollars in my bank account.”

ULTIMATELY, THE CHOICE IMPACTED OTHER PEOPLE.

While serving at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) event in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in 2003, Williams connected with Shonn Keels, a leader with a feats-of-strength ministry known as Team Impact. The meeting led Williams to join the crusade for appearances at schools and churches throughout the United States and in other countries like Australia.

“Team Impact opened up what was already inside me for God and how to share Him with other people,” Williams relates. “I just needed training on how to present. It’s amazing to see people’s faces when you share your story. They say, ‘Wow, there’s more to this guy’s story than just being strong.’”

Through his exhibitions, he began developing his physical and his testimonial skills. Those experiences with Team Impact led him to train for the strongman competitions for which he is now widely known, but they also cultivated his deep desire to share the Gospel with the world to make God known. His team ministry journey also confirmed that the decision to not pursue professional football was the correct choice for him.



“People ask me if I regret not going to the NFL, and I say no,” he shares. “I don’t even think about it. I’d rather impact a million people’s lives than have a million dollars in my bank account. The witness is the real account that matters.”

WILLIAMS NOW WORKS WITH KIDS in Columbia, S.C., where he lives with his wife and son. At an elementary school, he specializes in discipline and also serves daily as a crossing guard. All of those roles continue to offer him opportunities to share God’s love and word with more people, in addition to his other ministries. But he finds it’s adults, more than kids, who he reaches most often with his story.

“My life speaks to dealing with adversity and perseverance,” he describes. “Adults understand those things because of what they’ve seen in life. Especially among athletes and people in competitive sports, I find my calling really impacts others.”

His strongman ministry has produced major success, in a broad definition from faith to fame. And he adds that Facebook and other social media outlets have allowed him to greatly multiply the number of people his message reaches through training and strength exhibition videos he posts. But his goal remains furthering the spiritual gain of others through an understanding of, and relationship with, God.

“I feel like there’s more to come,” he projects. “I’m enjoying the journey and trying to utilize everything I have for God. There’s something wonderful about feeling the rewards of your hard work in the form of impacting other people’s lives versus working to get a check. The trophies, accolades and awards of life collect dust. But when you impact someone else’s life, it means something to you and to them and to God. I truly believe that’s what it means to love your neighbor as yourself. For me, I always find a way to bring glory to God through my strength.”

POWERING FORWARD

Written by Matthew Tesnear

With Support of GWU Family, Tyrell Nelson '17 Grows on the Court, in the Classroom and in Faith

On a Saturday night during his freshman year at Gardner-Webb, Tyrell Nelson received a text message from one of his professors. The message, from GWU Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling Dr. Sharon Webb, offered Nelson a ride to church.

Nelson accepted Webb's invitation, which connected him with a local congregation closer to campus than his home church an hour away in Charlotte, N.C. It also formed an ongoing friendship that has led to additional connections between the professor, Nelson's GWU basketball teammates and other students.

Nelson shares the relationship with Webb, a faculty mentor, as one of many examples of the nurturing and encouraging Gardner-Webb University family he has grown to be part of during his time on campus.

"I've had good grades in the past before Gardner-Webb, but I haven't had a relationship with my teachers. Here, I do," he explains. "I can even just stop into their office and say, 'hey,' and I often do. It really makes a difference to know there are so many good people here when I need them."

Whether it's a quick conversation to catch up with one of his familiar former professors, like English faculty member Dr. Jennifer Buckner, or receiving an encouraging Bible verse from his head basketball coach, Tim Craft, Nelson credits the people at GWU with his decision to attend the University and his ensuing success as a student and an athlete. Nelson has earned both Big South

all-conference athletic and academic team honors for his achievements at Gardner-Webb, where he majors in Communications and plays power forward on the basketball team.

"People here care about you, and they don't forget you," he reflected. "It's a family here, and that's an important part of everything I do at GWU."

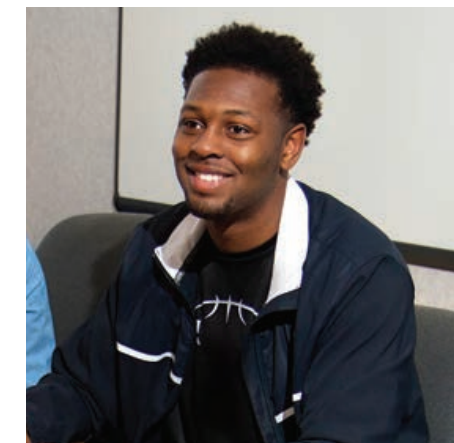
Family has always been a staple of Nelson's life. While growing up in the Washington, D.C., area, members of his extended family gathered every month for a meal and fellowship. His parents' and older sister's examples of hard work and his opportunities to set a positive example for his younger brother continue to be major motivators for his work on the court and in the classroom.

As a junior last season, as well as times during his first two years at GWU, Nelson has been one of the Runnin' Bulldogs basketball team's leaders in both points and rebounds. He has balanced his achievements in sports with growth in the classroom in the Department of Communication & New Media.

Nelson eyes a career in sports broadcasting, an interest he developed in his youth while watching former athletes make the transition from the playing field to seats behind television and radio microphones. His communication courses at Gardner-Webb have helped him power forward toward that goal, with experiential learning opportunities such as providing color commentary for a basketball game in an announcing exercise and becoming comfortable speaking in front of larger groups to convey messages in his speech class.

Ultimately, there's one very specific message Nelson hopes to share, with the support of his professors, his family and his teammates in life.

"I've been praying for God to show me what he wants me to do," he revealed. "I know I want to be a spokesperson for him. I want to be able to tell people about the grace of God and use basketball as a way to do it."

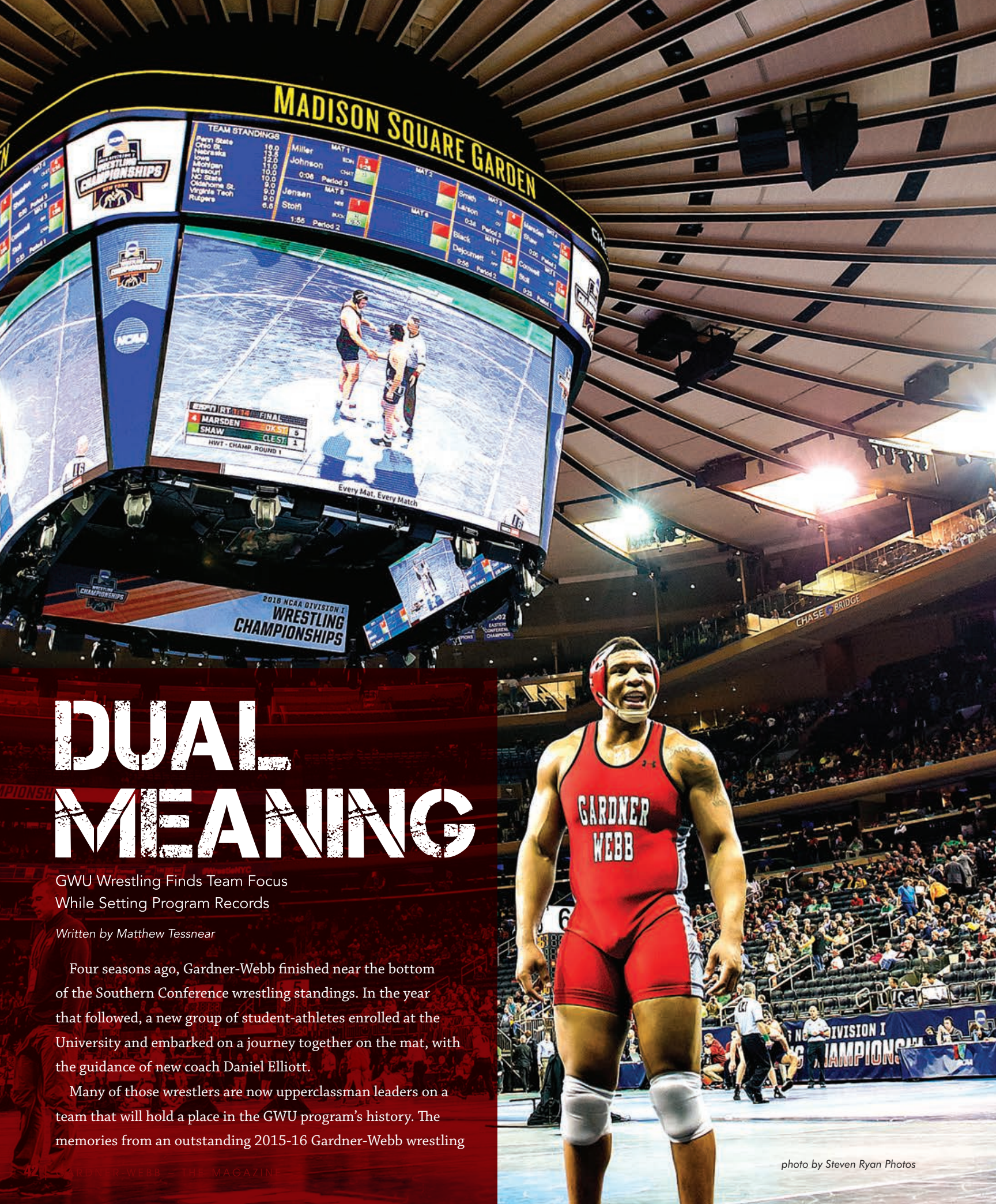


Tyrell Nelson

"It's family here."



Dr. Sharon Webb and Tyrell



DUAL MEANING

GWU Wrestling Finds Team Focus While Setting Program Records

Written by Matthew Tessnear

Four seasons ago, Gardner-Webb finished near the bottom of the Southern Conference wrestling standings. In the year that followed, a new group of student-athletes enrolled at the University and embarked on a journey together on the mat, with the guidance of new coach Daniel Elliott.

Many of those wrestlers are now upperclassman leaders on a team that will hold a place in the GWU program's history. The memories from an outstanding 2015-16 Gardner-Webb wrestling

campaign will include a share of the regular season Southern Conference championship, the first in the program's history, as well as school records for conference wins and overall dual team victories, and several NCAA national qualifiers.

"This group of leaders is my first recruiting class of four-year seniors and redshirt juniors, and it's been awesome to see the growth of what you can accomplish over a long-term process," Elliott shares. "We've taken our lumps over the past four years, but we've continued to commit to the overall journey. Seeing them come together, believe in themselves and believe in what we're doing is the most gratifying thing to see."

GWU wrestled victories away from nationally-ranked Duke and Appalachian State universities in a nine-day stretch. "Beating Duke was big, but it was maybe even bigger beating Appalachian State because they're in our conference," reflects Ryan Mosley, a redshirt junior from Stone Mountain, Ga. "We hear the name App State so much and about how their team and Chattanooga are the only contenders for a Southern Conference title. Beating them was an amazing feeling."

With all of the success, the season wasn't without its adversity. Following a pair of difficult defeats in road matches against Buffalo and Bucknell, coaches and wrestlers gathered for a team meeting. Boyce Cornwell, a redshirt junior from Conyers, Ga., recalls the events that followed the get-together.

"Everybody realized we had to change our efforts to bring our team together," Cornwell recounts. "We came in for a home match against Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, had a great crowd on our side, wrestled great and clicked from that point. We needed that meeting to refocus."

As teammates rallied around each other, wrestlers thrived on the support they felt during competition, adds Tyler Ziegler, a senior from Cincinnati, Ohio. "Having your team cheer you on is important. You feed off each other," he explains. "Looking up and seeing the faces of your teammates helps more than actual words. It's been amazing to earn respect from other people through what this team has accomplished."

In addition to achievements on the mat, the GWU wrestling program has also registered outstanding classroom performances in recent years. Gardner-Webb posted top-five NCAA Division I team GPAs multiple times the past several seasons, finishing among Harvard University and other institutions known for elite academics.

"It all puts Gardner-Webb on the map and gets the University's and program's name out there a little more," Elliott related. "This team has built on the foundation set before they arrived. Expectations are higher, and we will build on the success."

GARDNER-WEBB WRESTLING

IN 2015-16

- 2016 Southern Conference Regular Season Co-Champions
- Set program record with nine dual match wins
- Set program record with six conference dual match wins
- Earned program's first two wins over nationally ranked teams with victories over No. 25 Appalachian State and No. 24 Duke
- Three NCAA qualifiers – Boyce Cornwell, Austin Trott and Chris Vassar



OVERALL DURING ELLIOTT'S HEAD COACHING TENURE (SINCE 2012-13)

- Six NCAA qualifiers, including three in 2016 and Hunter Gamble (2013), Austin Trott (2014) and Ryan Mosley (2015)
- Elliott was 2014-2015 Southern Conference Co-Coach of the Year
- GWU has posted 27 dual match wins

photo by Steven Ryan Photos

RAILS - A N D - TALES

GWU Faculty Member Shares
Stories of People He Met on
Cross-Country Train Adventure

By Wade Allen / *The Star*
(Shelby, N.C.)



A three-week railroad trip across the United States left Dr. Bob Carey with 5,000 photographs and countless memories.

In February and March of 2015, he traveled by train from Charlotte to the West Coast and back for what he calls the “Great American Rail Adventure.” As chairman of the Department of Communication & New Media at Gardner-Webb, Carey took a sabbatical that semester and decided to use Amtrak to see the country.

Along the way, he met interesting people (and photographed them) and stopped at some of America’s most populated cities: New York, Chicago, San Antonio, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, New Orleans and Fort Worth. He arrived at the cities either in the late morning or early afternoon, then left the next day around noon.

He’s taught photography and communications for nearly two decades at Gardner-Webb, so it’s only natural that he took his camera on the journey. He shared 22 of the resulting images in a campus photo exhibit during the Spring 2016 semester.

Carey shared these reflections on his trip:

He grew up riding trains with his parents.

“My mom was from Chicago. I can remember riding cross-country several times on the trains, crossing the great salt flats, going into San Francisco and Los Angeles. I grew up on the trains, but then as I got older, I really didn’t get to ride as much anymore. About two summers ago, a year-and-a-half ago, I was getting ready to go to Baltimore for a business trip. I had surgery and couldn’t fly, and my doctor didn’t want me driving. I decided to take the train. I got on Amtrak and rode to Baltimore and just really had a great time.”

- Bob Carey



Atlanta, Ga.



Chicago, Ill.

He planned the route for his ‘Great American Rail Adventure.’

“I knew that it would be fun to do. I kind of planned it and made a great big figure eight of the United States. I went with Amtrak’s rail pass. I had three weeks, (it cost) under \$800. Basically 12 segments. I got on and off 11 or 12 times. I rode in coach. I was not sleeping and that was a little bit of a difference. I did that intentionally. I wanted to do it inexpensively.”

He loved the view.

“It’s really enjoyable to me because you can sit, you can watch the scenery go by. I’ve driven cross-country lots but you’re not responsible (on a train). You can just sit back and relax and take a nap if you want, if you get tired. You can watch the scenery go by and it’s just gorgeous. It’s a great way to see the U.S., it really is. You meet people from around the country and around the world.”

He wants to travel by rail again and invite his students.

“I have about five or six students who have expressed an interest in doing this as a class during the summer, a two-week-long trip. I’d do it again. I enjoyed it. It was well worth it. It was a lot of fun. I kind of have an idea what I would do.”



Seattle, Wash.

Illinois



Madi Dinsmore, chemistry major

I am a SCIENTIST

GWU Women Suspending Science Stereotypes

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Whitley Bowman ('15) was torn. As a major in biology, she couldn't decide if she wanted to pursue a career as a medical doctor or as a laboratory researcher. Fortunately, her involvement with a prestigious science program at Gardner-Webb helped her secure a summer internship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md., and ultimately gave her the direction she so desperately needed.

"I had actually been trying to figure out if I wanted to stay the research route and work in a lab or if I wanted to do more clinical work with patients," Bowman reflected. "Through my internship at NIH, I realized that I wanted to do more clinical work and have more patient hands-on care. I loved the people that I worked with and I loved the lab setting, I just realized it wasn't quite where I wanted to be long term."



Whitley Bowman

The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity at NIH came to Bowman through her involvement as a student-scholar in the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Foundation Women in Science Scholars Program at Gardner-Webb University. The Foundation established endowed scholarships at 30 North Carolina colleges and universities, including Gardner-Webb. Two outstanding female undergraduate science students are selected—typically during their sophomore year—by program officials at their institution. Each student is then



paired with a GSK mentor who provides leadership, experiences, insight, and science career guidance. Dr. Cathleen Ciesielski, affectionately known as “Dr. C” by her students, former associate professor of biology at GWU, served for several years as the GSK Women in Science program liaison and adviser.

“This is a wonderful program,” Ciesielski offered. “Students attend two conferences each year and learn about other women’s journeys—how they got to where they are is not always a straight line. We hear about cutting edge research and the participants are encouraged to apply for summer internship programs. I felt very honored to be a part of this program to encourage our women to see there are other female scientists out there.”

Madi Dinsmore ('16) is a chemistry major and a Gardner-Webb University GSK program scholar. Her entry into the natural sciences just two years ago was quite unexpected.

“Coming to GWU, I was not a science major. I had decided to study psychology,” Dinsmore recalled. “I was encouraged to take organic chemistry my sophomore year and fell in love with it. That’s how I became a chemistry major. It has been so inspiring to be a part of a program where there are a bunch of strong women encouraging you to find your path along the way—even if, as Dr. C said, that path is not a straight line.”

Ciesielski never imagined herself as a professor, yet her path came full circle. “I went to Loyola Medical School in Chicago, which is very much a Research I institution. Teaching was looked down upon. You would write grants and spend 80 hours a week at the lab. And so I did that for my Ph.D., which later

took me to London where I did four years of clinically-based research.”

From there, Ciesielski moved to San Diego, Calif., and spent countless hours in a research facility. “I realized in a 12- to 16-hour day, nobody ever talked to anyone. I found myself yearning for more. So I left that job and picked up part-time teaching,” she explained. “I remember my best friend telling me, ‘It’s about time!’ She was a teacher and she always thought I would be good at it.”

Those first tentative steps into higher education teaching eventually led to roles as a mentor to students and her leadership in the Gardner-Webb GSK scholarship program, where she worked hard to help suspend traditional expectations connected to gender and careers in science.



Dr. Cathleen Ciesielski and Madi Dinsmore conducting an experiment

“I’d like to see less of the ‘glasses with tape on’ image for both males and females,” she expressed. “More than once, I’ve had people surprised at a social event when I communicated and later they learned that I’m a scientist. It’s almost like there is a perception that you can’t have a personality and be a scientist.”

Bowman experienced some elements of gender bias as she selected her field of interest. “People were mainly saying, ‘Are you sure? Are you positive? That’s very ambitious of you!’” Bowman recalled as she shared her growing interest in biology. “They weren’t saying, ‘You can’t do it.’ But they were trying to deter me from doing it. I’m very stubborn and very competitive, so I just decided, ‘I’m going to prove you wrong. I’m going to do it now.’”

Bowman, who also played soccer for GWU, succeeded in her goal. Last fall, she graduated at the top of her class with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She plans to enter medical school and has hopes of becoming a pediatric physician. In the same way she has been mentored, she offers sound advice to students following in her footsteps.



“Don’t overwhelm yourself looking so many days forward,” she shared. “Focus on what you have in front of you and start there. Find that motivation. Mine was, ‘I want to be a doctor. I want to help people.’ Everything that I did—those long papers at 3 o’clock in the morning—I kept reminding myself of the ultimate goal.”

Dinsmore, a swimmer with demanding practice and academic schedules, agreed. “Take it one day at a time,” she suggested, “and find the things about it that you love to make the rest of it worthwhile.”

Ciesielski believes it’s in those moments of frustration and self-doubt where caring mentors can make a huge difference for students. “When you have respect for a

professor, you don’t want to let them down,” she reflected. “It may be tempting, but to be successful, you can’t be looking to take the path of least resistance. You have to put yourself out there and get involved.”

Dinsmore and Bowman are convinced the networking and mentorship opportunities from the GSK Women in Science Scholars program have set them up for future success. “Having a support system of professors,” Dinsmore related, “who really care about you and see the best in you—and see way more potential in you than you do in yourself—it’s been amazing.”



Listen to the full WGWG.org interview about the GWU Women in Science program at gardner-webb.edu/women-in-science.

A FORCE OF NATURE

GWU Psychology Professor Dr. Jim Morgan Helps Students Build on Strengths

Written by Jackie Bridges

Coming from a background in clinical psychology, Dr. James P. Morgan feels that establishing relationships with his students is key to the learning environment.

"I love what the late 19th century historian, Henry Adams, said about teaching: 'A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops,'" shared Morgan, a professor in the Gardner-Webb University School of Psychology and Counseling.

"What I love most about teaching are the relationships I develop with students and the opportunity to introduce students to psychology and its many applications," Morgan continued. "Psychology courses provide the opportunity to explore the fundamental question, 'What does it mean to be human?' The pursuit of that question can lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of ourselves and our relationships."

Morgan received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in psychology in 1976 from Auburn University in Alabama, where he was a graduate teaching assistant. "I loved teaching, but I followed a stronger passion to work with underserved clients early in my career," he related.

He owned an independent practice and served as a clinical psychologist for 20 years in Slidell, La., and went back to teaching in 2006, serving as an adjunct professor at Belmont Abbey College, Gaston College, Cleveland Community College and GWU, before accepting a full-time position at GWU in 2008.

"When I returned to teaching years later, the experience enriched me in ways that clinical work never had, primarily through the relationships I was able to develop with students as both teacher and mentor," Morgan observed.

In 2012, he received Gardner-Webb University's Excellence in Teaching award, which is selected by a committee of administrators, alumni, faculty and students from nominations made by the entire campus community. He received tenure and was named a professor at GWU in 2014, and teaches courses such as General Psychology, Introduction to Counseling, and Positive Psychology, for which he has a special affinity.

Morgan believes the Positive Psychology curriculum at Gardner-Webb is an important tool for clinical psychologists, because it offers troubled individuals a mode of control in the midst of a world that can feel miserably chaotic. "There are three basic components to positive psychology," Morgan explained. "The first is having a pleasant life, in which we experience more positive emotions than negative. Next, is the engaged life, where we are connected to others. Finally, having a meaningful life, in which our

lives allow for a more full expression of our potential."

Through this approach, students learn how to help their future clients build on positive emotions, relationships, and virtues. "Overall, the goal is to help people build a better quality of life based on the giftedness or purpose they find within themselves," Morgan said. "We want to help people get beyond just experiencing an absence of symptoms. In general, a more positive outlook will lead them to better health and a longer life."

School of Psychology and Counseling Dean Dr. David Carscaddon describes his colleague as a "force of nature" in the school.

"His great ability to impart wisdom and knowledge is matched by his love and concern for his students," Carscaddon offered. "He consistently pours himself into his classes and is a model for both student and professor alike. We are most fortunate to have him here at GWU."

Morgan was recently recognized as one of the top psychology professors in the Charlotte region. The award is based on comments made by students on LinkedIn, RateMyProfessors, and the college's website/blog. When he learned of the honor, he took the opportunity to divert the focus from himself and onto the University.

"I am honored and humbled to be included in the CareersinPsychology.org list of '10 Must Take Psychology Professors' in the Charlotte area," Morgan reflected. "I would not be where I am today as a college professor without the support of my colleagues in the School of Psychology and Counseling and the entire Gardner-Webb community."

He continued, "I hope that my inclusion on the list will encourage students to consider Gardner-Webb when they are looking at colleges. Students who choose Gardner-Webb can look forward to becoming a part of a university family where their professors will take a personal interest in their wellbeing and success."



Dr. Morgan surrounded by his students

University Friend Discovers Wealth in Giving

Written by Mary Carlson

Many roads lead to Gardner-Webb University.

Rod Clouse's connection with GWU began through friendships he forged at church after he and his wife retired to Shelby, N.C. in 2010. A sports fan eager to immerse himself in his new community, he heard about GWU athletics and in 2012 joined the Bulldog Club.

Since then Clouse's affinity for the University has extended beyond the field of play to its strong academics and emphasis on service. After a career in national and international manufacturing, he felt drawn to GWU's acclaimed Godbold School of Business. The more he learned about the School, the more excited he became about supporting it. In 2014, he agreed to serve on the Godbold School of Business Board of Advisors.

Clouse spent his career with Parker Hannifin Corporation, which specializes in manufacturing motion and control technologies and systems. Reflecting on his experience as a manager who worked with alumni of GWU's business programs, he praised their curiosity and professionalism.

"Each one was eager to learn, very sincere and had a thirst for knowledge," he said.

Clouse stresses the importance of preparing business students for the global marketplace. "Students need off-shore work opportunities and exposure to visiting speakers who have international business experience." He wants to help the business school students be well positioned for the global arena.

How a Midwestern Rolling Stone Landed in Cleveland County

Born in Nappanee, Ind., Clouse graduated from Ball State University with a double major in sociology and political science. He considered a career in law and then did a stint as a teacher of American history. But neither path seemed right.

Soon an opportunity came that transformed his career plans: the offer of a ground-floor engineer's position with a Detroit-based company. Clouse took it. Though he had no formal engineering training, he found—much to his surprise—that he had an aptitude for engineering design and sales and loved the challenges of troubleshooting, coordinating teams and finding new ways to work more efficiently.

Clouse soon joined Parker, where he steadily ascended the ranks, becoming a go-to manager who helped revive struggling plants by boosting employee morale and streamlining work processes.

In 1992 his life changed dramatically: he moved to the South for the first time, becoming a manager at Parker's

Forest City plant. He also met Freida Ledbetter Hamrick, a Boiling Springs native whose family still lived in the area. They wed in 1994.

In 2000, Parker asked Clouse to move to London, England, to serve as president of operations for the hydraulic groups. While there, he and Freida bought a home in Boiling Springs to have a place close to her family. In 2010, Parker tapped Clouse for another step up—to the company's European headquarters in Switzerland. He and Freida weighed the offer. Switzerland sounded appealing, but they felt North Carolina calling.

Shifting Gears and Giving Back

Clouse's willingness to dive in to situations from which less adventurous souls might shrink has not diminished now that he is retired.

"I had a mental bucket list of things I wanted to do," Clouse said. "I wanted to learn to play the piano, weld, get back into woodworking, and give back to the community."

Clouse has embraced the Cleveland County community with his characteristic curiosity and energy. He recently bought the Roundup store in Shelby from longtime GWU friend and benefactor Dr. Jack Hunt.

Clouse served on the Habitat for Humanity board and currently serves as a Guardian ad Litem — a court-appointed advocate to represent the best interests of foster children.

Given Clouse's abiding interest in supporting the Godbold Business School's mission of equipping business students for successful careers and his devotion to community service, it's no wonder that his path has led him to GWU.

"Gardner-Webb is a great, classic liberal arts institution with first-class facilities," he said. "I'm impressed with the people associated with it, including the speakers who come to campus. I think it's a fantastic school."





Don Sturkey photographing the Apollo 8 launch in 1968

ROLE OF FILM

Photographer Don Sturkey '52 Always Discovered Opportunities for Best Vantage Point

Written by Jackie Bridges

Don Sturkey's life—like his career in photography—hinged on being in the right place at the right time.

In a span of 34 years, he captured historical photos of desegregation, Ku Klux Klan rallies, poverty in the South and even an unknown Elvis Presley. Ironically, Sturkey's impressive photographic record of Southern events from the 1950s through the '80s began by chance. The award-winning Charlotte (N.C.) Observer photographer and 1952 alum of Gardner-Webb could have missed out on his opportunity altogether.

"I was extraordinarily lucky," Sturkey revealed. "I had only shot one roll of film before the Navy sent me to photography school. I didn't know a thing about photography, but I wasn't about to turn them down."

Sturkey was stationed in Washington, D.C., when his order came in 1950. He had wanted out of Washington and had applied for every transfer that came through.

"When a Navy photographer came on base, I said, next time I would put in for Navy photography school," Sturkey recalled. "I finally got on a ship and had just gotten back from a trip to Cuba when the order came to report to the school in Pensacola, Fla."



Fate smiled on him again when he arrived at the school and was assigned with a young man from North Carolina who already had some photography skills. With the young man's coaching, Sturkey was able to graduate second in the class. He could have his pick of 39 available positions, and he chose to cover the Korean War on the aircraft carrier, the USS Boxer CV 21.

"I was there for a whole year," he shared. "I was third class photographer's mate. We had an extraordinary group of pilots on board the carrier, and I really enjoyed that."

When the ship came back to homeport in San Diego, Calif., again Sturkey found himself in the right place to get his photos noticed. Comedian Bob Hope did a show on the aircraft carrier to honor the exceptional work of the crew, and Sturkey took photos.

Photographers for the San Diego newspaper didn't get to the show, because they were sent to cover a huge fire. The newspaper published Sturkey's photos from the event.



John F. Kennedy speaking in North Carolina

Discharged from the Navy in 1951, Sturkey headed to Shelby, N.C., where he had lived as a child. He worked for the newspaper, The Shelby Star, that summer and decided to go to school at Gardner-Webb in the fall. He took all the photos for the school that year. In the 1953 GWU annual, The Anchor, Sturkey is listed as a photographer on the public relations staff. He was also fortunate to meet the love of his life in a world history class.

"The professor required everybody to sit in alphabetical order," Sturkey related, "and she was seated in front of me, Rachel Scroggs."

The two were married more than 40 years at the time of her death in 2001. They had three children and four grandchildren.

"My wife and I both enjoyed Gardner-Webb and remained fans," Sturkey affirmed.

After his year at GWU, Sturkey took a job at The High Point, N.C., Enterprise. His wife worked as a secretary in the furniture industry. In November 1955, Sturkey became the fifth photographer hired by the Charlotte Observer.



President Reagan visiting Normandy, France

"We had a fantastic staff (of photographers) at the Charlotte Observer," Sturkey assessed. "I learned more from those guys. The group shared each other's skills and all our staff became top-notch. We were consistent winners in every national competition."

He was the first Southern photographer and one of only two North Carolina photographers to win the National Newspaper Photographer of the Year Award. Charlotte Observer editor, Pete McKnight, and the newspaper's owner, Knight Publishing Company, honored Stuckey by placing a full-page ad in the New York Times to announce the award. Beyond newspapers, Sturkey's work has appeared in Live, The Saturday Evening Post, Look, Ebony, Stern, and Time.

Sturkey retired as chief photographer from the Charlotte Observer in 1989. He asked the editor if he could take the negatives with him, a request that is usually denied. Sturkey's lifetime of good fortune held out. The publisher and editor allowed him to take the film, which Sturkey has since donated to UNC-Chapel Hill's Wilson Library. He's also published two books that feature collections of his photos.



Just a fraction of Sturkey's best personal assignments include the 40th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, with President Ronald Reagan; the Apollo 8 mission to the moon, plus three other Apollo missions; the war on poverty with President Lyndon Johnson in the Rocky Mount (N.C.) area; being back stage for an hour with musical legend Louis Armstrong; the presidential campaign of JFK across North Carolina; and Dorothy Counts, the first black student to attend Harding High School in Charlotte in 1957.

"I have had a fantastic life," Sturkey reflected. "I was thrilled that I was able to

come from a poor home in the Great Depression to be able to do the things I did in the Navy, at Gardner-Webb and in a lengthy newspaper career. I also shared life with a wonderful woman and have a great family. I'm the happiest person I could possibly be."



Johnny Cash backstage in the old Charlotte Coliseum

Top: Dorothy Counts, the first black student to attend Harding High School in 1957
Left Center: Construction workers inspect the double-S curve Linn Cove Viaduct on the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1987.

Left Bottom: Rev. Billy Graham and his wife Ruth with President Nixon and his wife Pat

TURNING THE PAGES

GW Alum David McHam '53 Reflects on Five-Plus Decades as Professor in Texas, Where He Helped Countless Students Write Their Life Stories Through Journalism

Written by Matthew Tessnear

Much of David McHam's life has been told on the pages of newspapers throughout the world.

As a boy in the 1940s, the news in the Spartanburg (S.C.) Herald connected McHam to his family. He read stories about World War II to keep up with military experiences similar to those of his father, a U.S. Navy serviceman. And he explored box scores and recaps of Major League Baseball games, a hobby he shared with his grandfather.

When he got to high school, he began his writing career at the Herald. Later as a student at Gardner-Webb in the 1950s, he reported on athletics for The Shelby Star and The Charlotte Observer. He would go on to serve in the U.S. Marines and work in public affairs, sharing information near and far.

And for 54 years after all of those experiences, he taught journalism to generations of students who went on to share his love of writing in newspapers, books and classrooms of their own.

"Growing up we didn't have much to read, so I would read the newspaper," McHam recalls following his recent retirement. "I would memorize the lineups of the baseball teams, and we would follow where my father was in the war. I guess that's where it all started. I discovered I was suited for journalism. I had the kind of personality and interest for it. Through the local papers, I kept up my interest in journalism during my time at Gardner-Webb."

McHam enrolled at Gardner-Webb in 1951 after finding out a group of friends from his native Rutherford County (N.C.) were driving from Spindale to Boiling Springs every day for classes. He ended up staying and completing his two-year degree, and he still vividly remembers what made the school a great place for a college student.

"There were terrific people there," he explains, recounting great classmates, athletes and faculty members. "I took a Shakespeare course with Phil Elliott, the president of the college at the time. William Troutman was a great and challenging history teacher. James Morrisett taught music and theology, and I still have the Bible we used in his class. I still have my world history book all these years later."

"I've attended Wofford, Gardner-Webb, Baylor, NYU and Columbia, and some of the very best teachers I've had to this day were at Gardner-Webb," McHam continues. "People would be surprised how tough and demanding the faculty was. They're one reason I believe people went on and got degrees and were so successful."

Following Gardner-Webb and three-and-a-half years in the Marines, McHam earned a bachelor's degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and a master's degree at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia



David McHam at Baylor University in 1978



David McHam photo by Rod Aydelotte



photo by Pablo Milanese



photo by Pablo Milanese

all down. In the old days, the writer used to do more telling. Now the writer sets the story up more," McHam shares. "And the main change, of course, is digital media. You can sit where you are and look up the newspapers and see stories from anywhere in the world. Think how impossible that was when I was at Gardner-Webb calling in sports scores to The Charlotte Observer in the '50s. And social media gets people involved in stories in ways we never would have thought about before. I can follow my students wherever they are."



David and one of his classes at the University of Houston

University in New York. He then took a job at the Houston Post in Houston, Texas, where he covered everything from local police and courts to the 1960 presidential election.

"I wasn't interested in teaching and then, out of the clear blue, I got an offer to teach at Baylor," he relates. "I had only been out of school at Baylor for three years myself. I took a leave of absence from the Post and when the year was up I thought, 'I like this teaching pretty well.' So I taught journalism for 54 years, longer than anyone in Texas."

McHam has followed the drastic changes in journalism throughout more than a half-century as an expert in the profession in Texas, teaching at Baylor University, Southern Methodist University (SMU), the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Houston.

"The writing is different. When I first started out, quotes were not as important and you couldn't write them



David (left) in 1953 in GWU's Anchor as the sophomore class president

McHam has a long list of successful students to keep up with, such as well-known foreign news correspondent Mike Kennedy, senior National Football League reporter John McClain and National Basketball Association writer Eddie Sefko. He still maintains a friendship with them all, including Bill Hartman, who served as his student editor the first year he taught at Baylor and who now leads a Texas-based chain of newspapers.

"Because of the time I taught, many of my students became editors and managing editors, while others became teachers or writers in other ways. It's very satisfying, all the people I met who I keep up with and am still friends with," McHam reflects. "The satisfaction in teaching, and teaching that long, is seeing people grow up and become their own people. Now I get to follow along the pages of their lives."

Always a Storyteller

GW Alum Joe DePriest '65 Maintains Love of Writing, Reading After Completing 50-Year Career as Journalist

Written by MATTHEW TESSNEAR

Perched on a stool in the Snack Shop restaurant in Boiling Springs, he watched Bluegrass music pioneer Earl Scruggs and the Foggy Bottom Boys roll into town in their bus. Standing in the president's office at Gardner-Webb, he was among a group that welcomed Johnny Cash and his family onto campus the day the legend received an honorary doctorate and performed a show. He was there when renowned acts like Roy Orbison, Ricky Nelson and Jim Croce visited the area, too.

"Back in those days, the '60s and the '70s, some great performers came to town," remembers Joe DePriest, whose family roots in the region around GWU stem all the way back to the American Revolution. "And just about every time someone I liked visited, I'd get an interview with them."

Including his time as a Gardner-Webb student and a newspaper reporter in Cleveland County, and all the years that have followed, DePriest has secured countless interviews and told the stories of a vast array of people, fulfilling the dreams he had as a young man through a 50-year journalism career.

"I always wanted to be a writer and tell stories," DePriest shares, also relaying a lifelong affection for reading and libraries. "I read somewhere once that a good place to get experience was a newspaper. As a senior in high school, I got my foot in the door with The Cleveland Times. I set type for the printing press and they let me do a little writing on the side."

After high school, DePriest continued to develop his writing skills via newspapers, and he enrolled at Gardner-Webb, where he would spend time studying with some of the most renowned faculty members in the institution's history.



“I had Paul Stacy in biology, Doris Jones for Bible, Abigail Miller in music and Thirlen Osborne for English,” DePriest recounts, all of those professors now holding emeritus status with the University. “Thirlen took The Times and would note in class when I had a story in the paper. I always looked at him as being an influence. I felt the welcoming feeling in and out of the classroom at Gardner-Webb. It was a stimulating time intellectually for me, and it fit right in with the career I would have as I spent much of it covering small towns.”



Joe DePriest’s Army combat photographer ID

After Gardner-Webb, DePriest studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Journalism and then returned to Shelby to work at The Star. With the United States involved in the Vietnam War, DePriest received a draft notice soon after returning to Cleveland County, and he joined the U.S. Army for three years. He soon found himself in Vietnam, working as a military journalist on a weekly paper that contained news from military units and was printed in Tokyo.

“We did everything. We took pictures, wrote stories, wrote headlines, bundled up newspapers, delivered papers to embassies and other places,” DePriest expounds. “It was a million-dollar experience. It taught me to get down, get my hands dirty and get the newspaper out. I understood what it took to get the story to the reader.”

After his Army service, DePriest returned to Cleveland County and The Star, where he covered an array of topics and received opportunities to write in-depth stories on local historical and cultural icons like the Kings Mountain National Military Park, the Broad River Greenway and the textile industry.

“My editor, Ted Hall (The Star), made time for some lengthier feature pieces,” he remembers. “They gave me the time and devoted so much space to those pieces. Those are the types of projects you don’t see anymore in newspapers.”

DePriest was one of the first reporters in the world to cover independent film producer Earl Owensby. This was well before CBS’ 60 Minutes, GQ Magazine, and Daily Variety took notice of the filmmaker who would go on to produce and distribute dozens of films, and help to establish the successful North Carolina film industry.

DePriest recalls that his editor at The Star assigned him to interview Owensby about his plans to make a movie. After discussing plans for the film, “Challenge,” the filmmaker took the journalist to a pasture off Old Boiling Springs Road in Cleveland County and said he planned to build a studio there.

“I wrote many stories about Earl, the movies he made and the movies others made at his studio,” DePriest recollects. “Over the years, Earl would call and inform me about some celebrity who was stopping by the studio for one reason or another and ask if I’d like to come out for an interview. I might be sitting down with George Kennedy or Stella Stevens, or Roy Orbison or Larry Gatlin. I’ve known Earl for many years, and always found him a joy to be around. I admired his vision, determination and abiding sense of humor. He’s a pioneer and a legend, and I’m grateful for all the time I spent with him.”

“I always wanted to be a writer and tell stories.”

Owensby shares the same feelings about DePriest. “Joe has always been a big part of all we have done with the studios,” Owensby reflects. “When I get calls for interviews from people all over the place, Joe gets the first shot. He has always been honest and good to me. If I had to put down who my favorite writer is,

I’d put Joe DePriest, period. He’s been writing for 50 years. If you survive that length of time in anything you go at, you did pretty good.”

After 20 years at The Star, DePriest moved to The Charlotte Observer, which offered opportunities to cover the residents of counties west of Charlotte, including the areas of Shelby and Boiling Springs. He retired after five decades in daily journalism and lives in Gaston County, N.C. But he hasn’t stopped telling people’s stories through his freelance work and other projects, and he continues to enjoy reading and visits to Cleveland County and Gardner-Webb.

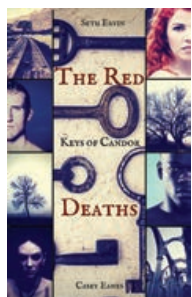
Before delving into a day’s projects, he reads early each morning, everything from HG Wells to Charles Dickens. He’s often returned to GWU for research in Dover Memorial Library, and he wrote a story on his native Shelby for Charlotte Magazine. Now in his 70s, he hopes to turn a nonfiction, Shelby-based tale into a short story or a book.

“Life has been a wealth of experiences and people,” DePriest relishes. “I was always driven by the need to find the next story. I still am.”



BOOKMARKS

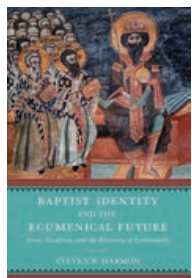
**In each issue of the Gardner-Webb Magazine we will publish notes focusing on books written by Gardner-Webb authors in this section.*



CASEY EANES '06
published a book, along with co-author Seth Ervin, entitled “Keys of Candor: The Red Deaths.” The book is the first in a science and fantasy fiction trilogy set on the continent of Candor. The story follows three separate characters on a collision course as the survival of their land and lives is at stake. The book is available at Amazon.com. Eanes received a Bachelor of Science in Finance at Gardner-Webb.



ALLISON GREEN MARTIN '03
published her first novel, “Finding Grace,” the story of a social worker and her ex-fiance who investigate a mystery surrounding an abandoned young girl’s appearance and strange events throughout town. The book is available via publisher Cedar Branch Press (cedarbranchpress.com) and Amazon.com. Martin received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies with a concentration in Journalism at Gardner-Webb. She lives with her husband and two children in western North Carolina.



DR. STEVEN HARMON, visiting associate professor of historical theology, GWU published “Baptist Identity and the Ecumenical Future: Story, Tradition, and the Recovery of Community,” through the Baylor University Press. The book is available via the Baylor University Press and Amazon.com.



DR. STEVEN PICKARD, adjunct professor, GWU published a book of the Easter story, titled “Forgiven,” illustrated by Jack Hoyle. The book is available via Amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million stores.



JANET THARPE '76
takes a fresh look at familiar Bible stories by telling them with the perspective of unique narrators and imagination in “Such a God: Old Stories, New Voices,” published by Crescent Hill Publishing. The book, Tharpe’s first, is written as prose poetry and reads like a story. Scripture references and author’s notes are included. The book is available as both a paperback and an e-book online from Amazon.com, as well as through Barnes & Noble bookstores. Tharpe received a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education at Gardner-Webb.



SUSAN WILLIAMSON, adjunct professor, GWU published “Dead on the Trail,” a cozy mystery set on a horse farm on the banks of the Broad River in North Carolina. It follows the character Molly, who is finishing up her barn chores when she finds a body on the trail and must find the murderer before her friends are charged. Williamson has served as an adjunct since 2000 and now lives in Rural Hall, N.C.

If you would like to submit your information to Bookmarks, please email Matthew Tessnear at mtessnear@gardner-webb.edu or click on the “Submit a Class Act” link at gardner-webb.edu/magazine

Class Acts

The 1950s

EDWIN THOMAS '54
was inducted into the Alexander County (N.C.) Sports Hall of Fame’s 2015 class. A professional baseball player for more than a dozen seasons, he was a captain of the Gardner-Webb baseball team, played basketball at the school and graduated from the institution in 1954. His pro career started in 1953 when he signed a contract with the Cincinnati Reds organization. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956-58, and he returned to baseball afterward, eventually playing in the Los Angeles Angels organization. The Alexander County Sports Hall of Fame was established in 2012 to recognize, honor and memorialize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to sports in the county and have demonstrated exemplary character.



EDWARD DARRELL HERNDON '58
was named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He served four years in the U.S. Naval Air Command prior to beginning his college career at Gardner-Webb in 1956. After building a solid educational foundation at GWU, he earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at Clemson University, took his first engineering position at A&G Construction and established Herndon Surveying. He later became regional engineer for the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which turned into a 32-year career. He was also active with Rutherford County (N.C.) Rescue from 1962-2012, serving as chief for 40 of those years. He was named Citizen of the Year by the Forest City (N.C.) Kiwanis in 1976, he received the Outstanding Community Service Award from the United Way of Rutherford County in 1988, and he received the J.M. Jarrett Award by the

State of North Carolina for Exceptional Contributions toward Man’s Environment in 1995. Upon retirement from the state, Herndon was presented with the state’s highest civilian honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, by N.C. Gov. Jim Hunt. Now a Bostic (N.C.) resident, he and his wife, Reita, have two sons, David and Steve, and four grandchildren.



JOHN KEETER '59
was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame in the Class of 2015. He played football and baseball at Gardner-Webb, earning junior college All-America and GWC best lineman honors in 1959. He joined the U.S. Army, where he was selected for the prestigious Old Guard Honor Guard Company in Arlington, Va. He played football during his tour of duty and then finished his football career at Western Carolina. He then forged a successful 24-year high school coaching career, leading football, track and wrestling teams at several schools and serving as athletics director. He was twice named Conference Coach of the Year in football and once in wrestling. He was chosen to coach in the N.C. East/West All-Star Game in 1979.



BILL NIX '59
was inducted with posthumous honors into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame in the Class of 2015. He played fullback, kicked extra points and played safety on defense for the Gardner-Webb football team, and he was named junior College All-American and team co-captain for the 1959 season. He also played baseball at Gardner-Webb. He went on to have a successful career as an insurance adjuster. In 1970, Nix gave his life at the age of 32 when he saved an 11-year-old swimmer

and attempted to save another young swimmer carried out to sea at Sullivan’s Island, S.C. He was awarded a prestigious Carnegie Medal, given by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission to individuals for extraordinary acts of civilian heroism.

The 1980s

MONTY THORNBURG '82
announced his retirement as director of the H.L. Patrick Senior Center in Kings Mountain, N.C., where he has worked since he graduated from college. He plans to join Harris Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Kings Mountain, where he has worked part time for 17 years as an embalmer and assistant director. Thornburg was also recently awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina’s highest civilian honor.

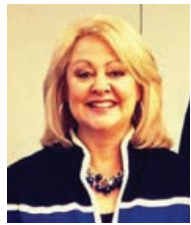
JEFF HUDGINS '84
became the pastor at Floyd Baptist Church in Floyd, Va. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education from Gardner-Webb and his Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been the pastor of churches in Fredericksburg, Richmond and Farmville in Virginia.



CHRIS NORMAN '84
has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in physical education and credits former

GWU head football coach Tom Moore with providing him the opportunity to serve as an assistant coach while still an undergraduate student, which begin his coaching career. After graduation, he went on to coach high school athletics for 27 years, guiding his teams to 21 conference

championships, including one in softball, three in women's track and field, seven in men's track and field and 10 in football. Three of his Shelby (N.C.) High School football teams won state championships. He posted a final football coaching record of 147-39-1. He was named coach of the year 18 times in three conference sports and was honored in 2006 as Associated Press N.C. Prep Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Cleveland County FCA Sports and Recreation Hall of Fame in 2007, and he joined the N.C. High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2015.



KIM RIVERA '84 received a 10-year service award from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Charlotte, N.C., in January 2016. She has worked with BGEA for 11 years and serves as media specialist in television/media/archives. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and management from Gardner-Webb. While at Gardner-Webb, she competed for the tennis team, served as a governor's aid under then-President Craven Williams and as a residential assistant in Nanney Hall. She and her husband of 27 years, Ken, have two daughters and live in Gastonia, N.C.

MELISSA LANFORD JONES '88 recently changed careers after 24 years as a manager for JCPenney. She has most recently been working as a para-forensic administrator for Barker Jones & Co. in Wilmington, N.C., where she and her husband have lived for the past 17 years.

The 1990s

KIM BALLARD '92 became news director at WFMY News 2, the CBS affiliate station in the Triad region of North Carolina, which includes Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem. She previously served as executive producer at WFMY News 2, following work at stations in Huntington, W.Va., Columbus, Ohio, and Spartanburg, S.C.

BENNY COOK '92

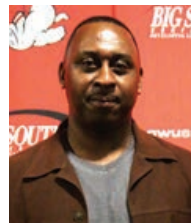
is working as coordinator of evening services at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury, N.C. He retired after a long career in law enforcement and also previously served as executive director of the Cleveland County American Red Cross from 2005-2010. He earned a Bachelor of Science in social science with a concentration in criminal justice at Gardner-Webb.

DAVID BEST '95

was selected as the branch manager of Wells Fargo Advisors LLC in Shelby, N.C. He received his Master of Business Administration from Gardner-Webb and has been recognized as a Wells Fargo Premier Advisor for three years. The premier advisor designation is held by a select group of financial advisors within Wells Fargo and reflects a high level of standards for revenue generation, educational attainment and client-service best practices. He lives in Rutherfordton, N.C.

SHARON ROBBES '95

was named executive director of Communities in Schools of Cleveland County, a local affiliate of the nation's largest drop-out prevention organization. A human services professional for 19 years, she has served at-risk children and families and has also promoted healthy aging in senior adults. She earned a degree in sociology from Gardner-Webb.



TERRY GUESS '95

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame in the Class of 2015. He earned All-America honors at GWU in 1994

after returning six kicks for touchdowns, an NCAA Division II record that still stands. He led the nation with 19.5 yards per return that year on punts. He was also named first-team All-South Atlantic Conference and All-Region as a return specialist in 1994. He averaged 13.5 yards per reception in two seasons with the Runnin' Bulldogs and still holds the school record with a pair of 100-yard kickoff

returns. He was drafted in the fifth round of the 1996 NFL Draft by New Orleans and became the first Gardner-Webb draft pick to catch a touchdown pass in the NFL when he hauled in a 57-yard score versus Atlanta on Dec. 8, 1996.

KENDRA HANELINE '97

recently joined the staff at Cleveland Community College as a success coach and advisor. She and her husband, Corby Haneline '99, live in Boiling Springs and have three children.

CARL and HEATHER CARTEE '98

have been named Alumni of the Year and joined the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. Carl studied sacred music and Heather majored in biology at Gardner-Webb. Carl has enjoyed a successful music career that includes a Dove Award and tracks on albums by artists such as Aaron Schust, Jaci Valesquez, Big Daddy Weave, Laura Story and Travis Cottrell. In addition to traveling with Carl to lead worship at conferences and events across the United States and abroad, Heather worked at GWU and led her Mary Kay sales team to a No. 1 national sales position. Following their time as students at GWU, the Cartees have served the University and surrounding community through work that includes a series of Salvation Army benefit concerts that helped thousands receive food, toys and living necessities. Together, the couple founded the Inspire Worship Conference, an annual event designed to prepare and engage church worship leaders. They have traveled around the world with a ministry of leading worship, writing songs and mentoring musicians. Carl and Heather have four boys: Oak, Ezra, Abe and Ike.



LARRY DURHAM '99

was honored as a recipient of The Business Journal of Tri-Cities TN/VA 2015 "40 Under Forty: A Salute to Emerging Stars of Our Community." In August 2015, he was also ordained as an elder of Tri-Cities Baptist Church in Johnson City, Tenn. In addition to his bachelor's degree in business, he earned his Master of Business Administration degree in 2001 at Gardner-Webb.



ALUMNI OF THE YEAR
CARL AND HEATHER CARTEE '98

CORBY HANELINE '99

received the Ralph Meekins Christian Emphasis Award at the Cleveland County (N.C.) Family YMCA annual meeting in January 2016. He is the associate executive director of the Ruby C. Hunt YMCA in Boiling Springs, N.C., and the executive director of The First Tee of the Foothills in Shelby, N.C.

The 2000s

OTIS FLOYD '00

earned his Doctor of Education degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in December 2015. He received a Bachelor of Science in Human Services at Gardner-Webb in 2000.

CRAIG GARRIS '00

was named police chief in Wilkesboro, N.C. A 23-year veteran of the Wilkesboro Police Department, he previously served as interim chief. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Gardner-Webb.

**CHRIS MADDEN '00**

married Kim Staton on Sept. 26, 2015, at the Pine Island Country Club in Charlotte, N.C. Chris works as a North Carolina-certified paralegal at the law office

of Regina M. Taylor in Gastonia, N.C. Kim is a graduate of William & Mary and works as indirect tax senior manager at Ernst & Young in Charlotte, N.C. The couple reside in Belmont, N.C.

**LINETTE RAMSEUR '01**

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame in the Class of 2015. She finished her four-year volleyball

career at Gardner-Webb, the school's most dominant era in the sport, with 115 wins and remains the program's leader with 2,059 kills. She added 2,053 career digs and is the lone GWU student-athlete in the sport of volleyball to earn All-South Atlantic Conference honors three times.

**KACEY WHISLER '01**

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She earned her associate degree in nursing in 2001 and a Bachelor

of Science in Nursing in 2003. After graduation, she was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force with a rank of second lieutenant at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, where she practiced as a medical-surgical and labor and delivery nurse. After being promoted to first lieutenant, she was selected to be a flight nurse and completed additional training at Shock Trauma in Baltimore, Md., and other locations before transferring to Okinawa, Japan. She was part of the 18th Aeromedical Squadron, which transported patients in critical condition from the Pacific and Hawaii back to the U.S. mainland. While in Okinawa, she was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. Based at Al Udiad Air Base in Qatar, she assisted with medical evacuation missions out of Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa, caring for injured service personnel and helping them return to their families. Her final duty station was San Antonio, Texas, where she served as a surgical unit assistant nurse manager. She was honorably discharged from the Air Force with a rank of captain, and she continued her nursing career as an Air Force Reserve and with the Veterans Health Administration in Ogden, Utah. Along with her husband, Air Force Maj. Mark Whisler, and daughter Rylee, she moved to Montgomery, Ala., in 2015 for Mark's continued service. She now works in the emergency department at Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery, and she is working on a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree in nursing management and organizational leadership through American Sentinel University. She plans to pursue an administrative career as a chief nurse.

WAYNE DUGGINS '02

was named 2015-16 Stokes County (N.C.) Principal of the Year. A native of Pennsylvania, he has served at South Stokes High School since 2013. He earned his Master of Arts degree in School Administration from Gardner-Webb in 2002. Duggins lives in Kernersville, N.C., with his wife, two sons and three daughters.

JOSEPH RAMEY '02

was promoted to chief of police in the Gaston County (N.C.) Police Department. He has served the department for more than 20 years, including time as patrol officer, community police officer, patrol supervisor, criminal investigations supervisor, support service supervisor, captain of the southern service area and captain of the criminal investigations section. He earned his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree at Gardner-Webb.

**ZACH WARD '05**

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame in the Class of 2015. He anchored a dominant pitching staff during

three seasons at GWU. As a freshman, he earned Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America honors. As a sophomore, he was named to the All-Atlantic Sun Conference team after ranking No. 8 nationally with 106 strikeouts. He started the 2005 season with 16 consecutive innings without allowing a hit, and he pitched a complete-game no-hitter versus Akron that season. He again earned all-conference honors that year and was then drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the third round of the 2005 Major League Baseball draft. He posted 22 wins and 341 strikeouts in four minor league seasons.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

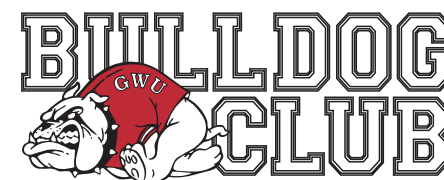
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I WANT TO BE LIKE THAT

Jason Bruner '05 Follows Examples of GWU Mentors to Impact His Own Students

Written by Jackie Bridges

Jason Bruner ('05) was near the end of his career at Gardner-Webb University when his future became clear. Influenced by several professors in the Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy, he vividly remembers the moment teaching became a possibility.

"I took several classes from the late Dr. Dan Goodman in the School of Divinity. It was in his classes that I first thought, 'If I ever become a professor, I'd want to do it half as well as he does it,'" Bruner shared. "He was demanding and kind, funny and rigorous—all at the same time—and he never seemed to try to be anyone other than who he was. He took what he did seriously, but he didn't take himself seriously. He serves as a continual model of a great professor."

An assistant professor of global Christianity at Arizona State University (ASU) in Tempe, Ariz., Bruner now strives to have the same influence on his students. It's an ambitious task at a school that has around 70,000 students on its campuses.

"All of my education was in smaller schools, so I'm still trying to get used to the many differences that exist between a university like Gardner-Webb and a large state school like ASU," Bruner observed. "Compared to other courses at ASU, my classes aren't huge, usually around 30-50 students. On coming to ASU, what struck me about the students was how diverse they were. I have had students who were veterans; exchange students from India, Saudi Arabia, and China; and children of parents who were first generation immigrants to the United States. The students come from all sorts of religious, non-religious, political convictions, and socio-economic

backgrounds. Teaching about religion in that kind of context is challenging but also very enriching."

To connect with his students, Bruner relies on the teaching methods of his Gardner-Webb professors, who were engaged in and out of the classroom—serving as mentors in student clubs and activities, leading worship services, and other kinds of extra-curricular activities.

"They were consistently interested in starting constructive conversations, in challenging students to be thoughtful and reflective in their beliefs, and to think critically in the constructive sense of the word," Bruner assessed. "I took many of these things for granted when I was at Gardner-Webb, but having seen different kinds of universities since leaving, I now appreciate how valuable and significant these fundamental practices are to creating an excellent educational environment."

Bruner visits his Gardner-Webb professors occasionally, when he and his wife, Keeley Causby Bruner, visit her family in Shelby, N.C. When his schedule allows, Bruner does some trail running and cycling—a pastime he developed at Gardner-Webb while biking the Cleveland County countryside.

He's had less time for outdoor adventures while working to complete his first book on the cultural history of the East African revival in Uganda, focusing

on 1930 to 1950. His interest in the topic was sparked by mission trips he took in high school and as a student at Gardner-Webb.

"I got interested in the history of Christians who went out to convert people in other parts of the world," he explained. "Looking at this revival movement in Uganda provides an opportunity for me to think about the ways that Christian conversion happens within cultures and societies. It also is an example of the creativity and adaptability of the Christian faith."

He researched Christian missionaries at Gardner-Webb, where he double majored in religious studies and Spanish, and while completing his master's in theological studies at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., and his Ph.D. in Modern Christian History from Princeton (N.J.) Theological Seminary. Bruner's work has been published in multiple journals, including the "Journal of Religion in Africa" and "Studies in World Christianity and Social Science Missions." He has also contributed to the book "A Cultural History of Firearms" with a chapter titled, "Fishers of Men and Hunters of Lion."

His research techniques were also developed under the guidance of Gardner-Webb professors, especially mentors in the Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy. The "Lives of Jesus" seminar taught by Dr. Ron Williams, professor emeritus of religious studies, introduced him to the challenges and benefits of doing careful, focused historical and theological inquiry and research.

"I think of the precision that Dr. Charles Moore demanded in Spanish, the rigor of Dr. Lorin Cranford's New Testament theology courses and the ways that professors like Dr. Kent Blevins challenged the assumptions that I brought to the study of theology, ethics, or the Bible," Bruner recalled. "And Dr. Eddie Stepp (department chair, Religious Studies and Philosophy) worked with me on my year-long honors thesis project, which gave me my first opportunity to develop a larger historical project. In all these ways, my coursework at Gardner-Webb gave me the foundational tools for thinking deeply, critically, and thoughtfully, a process which I chose to continue through graduate school."

Blevins is pleased to hear that his former student is doing well and has taken his Gardner-Webb experiences with him on his scholarly journey. "Now Jason is influencing another generation of students, and eventually some of those students will thank him for the impact he had in their lives," Blevins affirmed. "I am grateful for the influence Jason is having on his students, and I look forward to seeing where his journey takes him in the future."

Dr. Eddie Stepp (left) and Dr. Jason Bruner

GW Alum Shares Benefits of Writing for Therapy

Written by Jill Blank

Almost two years ago, Gardner-Webb alumnus Jamie Hughes ('04) was inspired to create a therapeutic writing class after reading about similar groups that had been created in the United Kingdom. The idea has formed into Writing for Well-Being, a course offered in Upstate South Carolina to help participants explore and express important emotions and circumstances in their lives through various writing methods.

"Some of my more personal writing stems from my life-long battle with depression," Hughes shared. "The ability to journal and the incredible benefits experienced from it are, as I see, gifts from God that have been used for centuries to help heal broken hearts and manage life's difficulties."

Hughes shared that studies about therapeutic writing have continued to show that writing about traumatic events, deep fears, anxieties, emotions, painful experiences and memories has health benefits such as long-term improvements in mood and depressive symptoms.

Hughes has been journaling and writing poetry for more than 20 years and wanted to share the healing benefits of expressive writing with others who struggle with difficult life circumstances. Having contended with clinical depression since the age of 8, Hughes began writing around the age of 9 after his mother died from terminal liver disease. His first stories were personal versions of the comic books that captured his attention and imagination. Writing methods such as journaling, poetry, fiction and letter writing quickly became outlets for heavy emotions that Hughes could not express or share with others.

"My personal writings reflect the beauties of life, including struggles and loss, relationships with people and with Jesus," Hughes offered. "I have had many opportunities throughout the years to share the gift of writing with others who suffer from depression, and now, through Writing for Well-Being, I have been able to expand that ministry."

A 2004 graduate of Gardner-Webb, Hughes majored in psychology. He believes that many of the principles he learned as an undergraduate have served him well while leading the therapeutic writing classes that tend to function more as a support group than a lecture.

"The counseling portion of my degree instilled such basic principles as listening, questioning, group process, and confidentiality," he stated. "The professors at GWU also stressed ongoing education for any field of work in order to stay relevant and to build expertise."

For more information on Writing for Well-Being, visit writingforwellbeing.net.



Jamie Hughes



KEVIN DAVIS '05, '07 and BAILEY HOLT DAVIS '06, '10

announce the birth of their first son, Cooper Joseph Davis, born on Jan. 15, 2016. Bailey serves as student advocate at Owens Community College, and Kevin is the assistant director for athletic communications at Bowling Green State University. They live in Perrysburg, Ohio.

TIFFANY M. ROACH '06

married Curtis Shelton Dunn on Oct. 3, 2015, in Burlington, N.C. Tiffany earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology at Gardner-Webb, and she works as a school counselor in Chatham County (N.C.) Schools. Curtis is a medical laboratory scientist at Duke University Hospital in Durham, N.C. The couple plans to live in Burlington.

CHASITY (BARDEN) WOODARD '06

married Ricky Woodard on Oct. 3, 2015. She has worked as a probation and parole officer for the State of North Carolina since March 2008, after starting as an office assistant in April 2007. After earning her criminal justice degree through what is now Gardner-Webb's Degree Completion Program, she received her Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree from East Carolina University in 2009. She now resides in Hendersonville, N.C.



BRENDAN COUTURE '07

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance in 2007

and a Master of Business Administration in 2009 at Gardner-Webb. He was also a four-year starter, conference finalist and all-academic team member for the GWU wrestling team. Now a financial analyst in MetLife's Global Technology Organization and resident of Cary, N.C., he was named to the "Top 30 Under 30: Future Leader of Charlotte" list by Elevate Lifestyle magazine in 2014.

DR. ASHLEY LOWERY '07

opened a new dentist practice, Rutherford Family & Children's Dentistry, in Spindale, N.C., in October 2015. She graduated from Gardner-Webb with a bachelor of science degree in biology, with a minor in chemistry. The Rutherford County (N.C.) native received her Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) from UNC Chapel Hill School of Dentistry in 2011. That year she began working at Dest Family Dentistry and purchased the practice, which will now be Rutherford Family & Children's Dentistry.



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

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Submit your class notes to ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu, or fill out this form and mail it to: *The Gardner-Webb Magazine, Office of University Communications, P.O. Box 7315, Boiling Springs, NC 28017.*

You may also submit a class note online by clicking on the "Submit a Class Act" link at gardner-webb.edu/magazine.

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Fierce & Fearless

From Basketball, to Politics, to Public Relations - Brooke Anderson '06 Says 'Yes' to Opportunities

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

In the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, a Gardner-Webb alumna made a decision that changed everything.

“I remember watching the horrifying events of Virginia Tech on television, and I felt a need to be more involved in policy issues and to make a difference,” said Brooke Anderson, a communications major who graduated in 2006. “I did some research and felt a sense of purpose in moving to a big city and reaching for the next level of education.” She packed her bags, sold her car, and moved to Chicago to seek a master’s degree in journalism at DePaul University.

“Deciding to pursue my master’s degree was really a fork-in-the-road moment for me, I had just one year of experience under my belt,” Anderson reflected. “While I was having fun and knew I loved the fast pace and intensity of PR (public relations) and working with the media, there was something missing.”

She continued, “It was scary and exhilarating, and one of the best decisions I ever made. In fact, it’s kind of become a rule I try to live by—‘Do what scares you.’ That experience allowed me to grow my news-gathering skills, meet incredible journalists, Chicagoans, and mentors. And it put me on the path to politics and government.”

Less than three years after that monumental life decision, she found herself entering the Chicago political arena as press secretary for the Gery Chico for Mayor campaign in 2010. “I loved PR and public affairs, but definitely had the itch for politics,” she explained. “I paid lots of attention to the local political scene and consumed issues, news, and debate like candy. When news broke that Mayor Richard M. Daley was stepping down, I jumped at the opportunity to join Gery Chico’s campaign as press secretary. I’m glad I did, as it was one of the best career experiences in my life.”

She also considers Gardner-Webb University one of her best life decisions. As an undergraduate at GWU, Anderson was a standout on the women’s basketball team and innately understood the benefits of hard work, risk taking, and perseverance. Originally from Deerfield Beach, Fla., she had been recruited to GWU with a full athletic scholarship and had initially intended to focus her studies in a sports-related field.

“I came into school with all sorts of ideas about what I wanted to do,” she recalled. “Freshman year, I was practically certain I wanted to be a sports agent, but after taking one of the pre-law courses, it didn’t feel right. I kept poking down the communications path and that’s ultimately where things clicked.”

She majored in radio/television communications and minored in journalism. However, it was public relations that really captured her attention after graduation. She worked for a boutique firm, The Gab Group Public Relations, in Boca Raton, Fla., for a year prior to the move to Illinois.

During her time at DePaul University, Anderson was connected with a top communications and public affairs firm in Chicago, Serafin & Associates, Inc., where she served as account executive, another role that significantly altered her course. “I first met my husband through politics,” she explained. “He was working for the governor at the time, and we had spoken on the phone several times for professional purposes but had never met in person. One day, I was staffing an event where Governor Pat Quinn was speaking and Lou [Bertuca] came up to me and introduced himself. We started dating right away.” The two were married in 2015.

Her foray into politics was not limited to the Chico campaign of 2010. Anderson’s work on the campaign trail had caught the eye of then-Governor Pat Quinn, and she was recruited first to serve as press secretary (2011-2012) and later as communications director (2012-2015) for the State of Illinois Governor’s Office. In those roles, she served as the chief media liaison and guided the Governor’s message day to day. She developed policy strategies and managed communications for all state issues, including daily crises, natural disasters, historic events, and complex legislative issues. When Quinn’s bid for reelection in 2014 failed, Anderson was hired as Uber Technologies Communications Lead for Midwest operations.

“Uber is a really unique business that gives people the power to push a button on their smartphone and get a ride, which is fantastically convenient. But there is a strong public policy element to the work that happens here,” she offered. “We’re improving transportation access and creating earning opportunities for those who need it along the way which is good for people and the economy. So I find the work very meaningful and interesting.”

With so many accomplishments, one might think she hardly remembers what life was like as an undergrad. But Anderson says when she thinks back upon her time at GWU, she cannot help but smile.

“Gardner-Webb is a really beautiful school and a lovely community to choose for your college experience,” she declared. “College is what you make of it. It really is an incredible blessing to be in a place where you’re surrounded by highly-educated people who have so much knowledge to bestow. My advice is, ‘Don’t waste a minute of it!’ Soak it all up, dive into these experiences and just say, ‘Yes.’”



Pictured from left to right: Former Governor of Illinois Pat Quinn, Brooke Anderson, and President Barack Obama



FOUNTAIN WALKER '07

was named chief of police at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Ill. In the role, he will oversee the day-to-day operations of the University's police department, including supervision of the department's approximately 100 state-certified police officers. He will also be responsible for operational enhancements and security technology, as well as support for training and development opportunities for police officers. Since 2014, he has served as the assistant chief of police and executive director of protective services for the University's police department. He previously served as police chief at Davidson College in Davidson, N.C., and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1986 to 1994. He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Gardner-Webb.

JEFF CONARD '08

became principal at Community High School, a public alternative high school in Swannanoa, N.C. He has served as assistant principal at the school for the past six years. Conard has worked in the Buncombe County (N.C.) Schools system since 2000. He has 27 years of teaching and administrative experience. He received a Master of Arts in School Administration from Gardner-Webb.

JUSTIN SHORE '08

married Lindsey Danielle Belote on May 23, 2015, at Calvary Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro, N.C. Justin earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business

administration in 2008, a Master of Business Administration degree in 2012, and a Master of Business Administration plus certificate in 2013 at Gardner-Webb. He is employed as a casualty adjuster for Farm Bureau in Charlotte. Lindsey is a 2013 graduate of Meredith College with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

**MARIO BROWN '09**

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He earned a degree in English at Gardner-Webb, excelling as

both a student and athlete, earning Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year, All-American and Big South All-Decade Team honors. After graduation, he moved to Greenville, S.C., where he was recognized for excellence in customer service and marketing with D1 Sports Training. He transitioned into an apprenticeship with Milestone Custom Homes, an Upstate South Carolina homebuilder. His training allowed him to begin a real estate career with Eastwood Homes, where he has become an expert in new home construction with a focus on green building, the home-purchasing process and the Upstate region. He also works as an on-air radio personality for ESPN Upstate, stays active in youth sports and serves on the board of trustees for "Fall for Greenville," a major regional food and music festival.

KAYLEY POTTER '09

married Dr. Timothy Crouch on May 16, 2015, at First Baptist Church in Statesville, N.C. Kayley graduated from Gardner-Webb with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She also earned a master's degree in graphic arts and imaging technology at Appalachian State University. She is employed by First Baptist Church as an administrative secretary. Crouch earned a Doctorate of Dental Medicine at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The couple now live in Statesville.

The 2010s

JENNIFER LYNN BEASON '10

married David James Mull on Aug. 29, 2015, at the Laboratory Mill in Lincolnton, N.C. Jennifer is employed by Stanly Regional Medical Center in Albemarle, N.C. David is employed by Storm Technologies in Albemarle. The couple now live in Locust, N.C.

AARON GOFORTH '10

graduated from the Campbell University School of Law in May 2015. He served on the Campbell Law Review as candidate member and comments editor and was named Top Barrister in his class. He passed the North Carolina Bar Exam and received the North Carolina Advocates for Justice 2015 Calhoun Advocacy Award.

"I am grateful for the seed Gardner-Webb planted within me to grow strong Christian roots and help fulfill my dreams. I am very proud to be an alumnus of the finest University in America and grateful that the Lord placed Gardner-Webb in my life as a stepping stone to a bright future."

DR. LOGAN SWAIM

Gardner-Webb University '10
Chiropractor, Bradenton, Fla.



GW-YOU

"I was a small-town, Canadian girl who was blessed to be awarded academic and athletic college scholarships. While at Gardner-Webb, I had many life-changing opportunities. I grew in my faith, competitiveness, discipline and desire to be the best I can be. It is not only a school, but a family you always have close ties with and a place that is always in your heart."

DR. LAURA SWAIM

Gardner-Webb University '11
Chiropractor, Bradenton, Fla.

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Dirty Job!

has its Benefits

**For Dung Beetle Research in New Zealand,
Matt Jones '09 Awarded Fulbright Fellowship**

Written by Jackie Bridges



Most people don't stop to ponder the lowly dung beetle, but Gardner-Webb University graduate Matt Jones ('09) has spent the last several years collecting and observing these little creatures.

It's a dirty job that only a serious scientist could enjoy, but his research on nature's "cleanup crew" earned him a prestigious Fulbright Award to study the introduction of dung beetles in New Zealand.

"Receiving a Fulbright Fellowship means so much to me, because it's such a competitive fellowship program," Jones reflected. "Being chosen to represent the United States in this capacity is really encouraging. It's an incredible feeling to have the Fulbright Commission validate my research ideas and offer to host me and support the research project. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to study this very obscure, but culturally relevant, research topic in New Zealand."

The award recognizes the work Jones has done for his dissertation research at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash. For 12 months, Jones lived in a van, driving to farms on the west coast from California to British Columbia. He would stop at each farm, set traps and catch dung beetles with pig droppings. The insects feed on feces, and their work can protect livestock and humans from pathogens, like *E. coli*, by removing feces from the soil surface and facilitating decomposition.

Summer Hess, a 2006 graduate of GWU, encouraged him to apply for the Fulbright. She was also awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Chile in 2011 while working on her Master of Fine Arts in nonfiction writing at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Wash.

As a student in the GWU Department of Natural Sciences, Jones spent a lot of time at the Broad River Greenway. When he wasn't studying wildflower pollinators for his honors research project, he was hanging out with friends. His love for exploring the outdoors led him to major in biology with minors

in chemistry and environmental science. Gardner-Webb professors, Dr. Tom Jones and Dr. David Judge—and former faculty member Dr. James English—introduced him to entomology (study of insects) and insect ecology.

“Matt was one of those students who was supremely inquisitive about the world around him,” Tom Jones asserted. “There are very few like him who approach learning both from an academic standpoint as well as an experiential standpoint while running wide open! He was a great student.”

Judge keeps an unusual specimen produced by his former student—a reminder of Jones’ enthusiasm toward learning and good-natured spirit. “Matt took my invertebrate zoology course, where students had to catch, preserve and identify insects,” Judge recalled. “Matt did an excellent job on all parts, and even made a fake purple butterfly, hoping to make me wonder what it was. It was funny, and I still have the purple butterfly.”



The story is an example of the relationship students and professors enjoy at GWU. “Because of the small class size I was able to connect with professors in a really meaningful way,” Jones observed. “Dr. English and Dr. Jones both fueled my interest for research, especially regarding plant-insect interactions. I’m also very appreciative of Dr. June Hobbs (director of Undergraduate Research) for organizing the undergraduate research funding for my honors project and for teaching me how to write.”

After graduating from GWU, Jones worked in an insect ecology lab for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in California and learned about many beneficial insects that often go unnoticed. For his master’s in ecology at the University of Maine of Orono, Maine, he studied insect predators and scavengers in the lowbush blueberry agroecosystem.

“I focused on insect predators of other insects and weed seeds and decided to look at insects that eat feces, too, because of a recent E. coli/food safety paper I had read,” he explained. “The dung beetles I studied turned out to be the most interesting part of the research project. I decided to follow up on this research as



my dissertation project at Washington State University.”

With the Fulbright Award and a half-million-dollar grant from the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Jones is spending time in New Zealand creating standards for a dung beetle biodiversity-monitoring program. He is attending the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, and working at several research field stations nationwide. Monitoring the introduction of dung beetles to the country will help Jones answer questions related to his doctoral research in Washington. He also has plans for his down time. An avid surfer and mountaineer, Jones hopes to find time for both between his research and academics.

An added benefit of his dung beetle research has been the chance to learn more about farming. Jones grew up in the suburbs of Atlanta and didn’t become interested in agriculture until he came to GWU.

“Spending six months of the year living in a van from California to British Columbia has been an eye-opening experience for me. Getting to know so many farmers and farm management philosophies really broadened my idea of what sustainability and conservation agriculture can look like,” Jones assessed. “I’ve learned a ton from the people I’ve worked with on this project, including both farmers and collaborators. I’ve also gotten to know both the geographic and cultural landscapes of the west coast a whole lot better.”

Supported by the U.S. Congress and partner nations, Fulbright is the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world. Participants are chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential. The Fulbright Program operates in over 160 countries worldwide.

MELISSA BATTISTA ’11 was honored with a 2015 Agape Award finalist at the Hoyt Q. Bailey Agape program at the LeGrand Center in Shelby, N.C. The honor recognizes teachers who motivate and create opportunities for student success. Battista teaches at Jefferson Elementary School in Shelby.



HEATHER BRIDGES ’11 married **JONATHAN MOORE ’10** on May 9, 2015. Heather earned a Master of Business Administration degree at Gardner-Webb and is employed by the University as the director of creative services. Jonathan earned a Bachelor of Science in Health and Wellness and a Master of Business Administration at GWU. He also played basketball for the University. He is employed by BB&T. The couple resides in Shelby, N.C.

WAYDE DAWSON ’11 was promoted to interim vice president for financial affairs at Limestone College in January. He has been a certified public accountant for nearly three decades and worked as Limestone’s controller for more than six years. He earned a master’s degree in accountancy at Gardner-Webb.



TYLER RENEE JONES ’12 began working with Hurst Dental Lab in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was also designated as the winner of the Pillar Scholarship from The Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology for support in receiving Certified Dental Technician designation. She lives in Winston-Salem, where she has purchased her first home.

SCOTT KROTEE ’12 has played professional soccer for four seasons, most recently with the Harrisburg Heat in Pennsylvania. While playing soccer, he also completed a master’s degree in international marketing at St. Joseph’s University, where he served as a goalkeeper coach for the school’s men’s soccer team. He captained the men’s soccer team while at Gardner-Webb, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in health and wellness.



JESSICA GREER LANNING ’12 married **KYLE LANNING ’11** on June 27, 2015. Jessica earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing in 2012 and a Master of Business Administration degree in 2014 at Gardner-Webb. She works as director of marketing and communications strategies for digital learning at GWU. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology at Gardner-Webb and teaches at Crest High School in Boiling Springs, N.C. The couple resides in Boiling Springs.

CAITLIN SANAGA ’12 married Tyler Wright on June 27, 2015, in Belmont, N.C. Caitlin earned a master’s degree from Gardner-Webb and is employed by Richardson Independent School district in Richardson, Texas. Tyler is employed by Texas Tree Foundation in Dallas, Texas. The couple now live in Dallas, Texas.

PHILLIP SNIDER ’12 married Valerie Miller on Sept. 19, 2015. Valerie is employed by Keller Williams. Phillip, who concentrated in percussion while earning a music business degree at Gardner-Webb, recently joined the worship team at Passion City Church in Atlanta. The church is associated with Passion conferences across the country. Phillip also recently toured with Mac Powell of Third Day during summer 2015 in support of Powell’s solo country records.

JENNA TURNER ’12 was named Teacher of the Year at Kernersville (N.C.) Elementary School. She earned a master’s degree in administration at Gardner-Webb.

TONYA WAGNER ’12 was named principal of Southern Pines (N.C.) Primary School. She previously served as assistant principal at Mineral Springs Elementary School in Ellerbe, N.C. She received a master’s degree in executive leadership studies from Gardner-Webb.

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The Laboratory of Life: Where the Complex Meets the Elegant

GWU Provided Biology Alumna Carrie Long '11 Foundation for Doctoral Research in Occupational Health

Written by Matthew Tessnear and Jackie Bridges

Workers often encounter a host of chemicals while exploring mining, hydraulic fracturing and other occupational sites across the country. In the historically mining-rich state of West Virginia, Gardner-Webb alumna Carrie Long studied the impacts of some of those substances on the human immune system, in hopes of discovering information that will lead to health improvements for workers in a variety of professional fields.

While earning a Ph.D. from West Virginia University (Morgantown, W.Va.), Long performed research in labs connected to both WVU and the neighboring Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health facility.

"Our lab looked at chemicals likely to be used or currently in use in a workplace setting and we determined if exposure to these substances impacts the immune system and, if so, how and why," Long explained. "The opportunity to be involved in research that impacts workers in a positive way at such a storied institution has been a true blessing that would not have been possible without my undergraduate experience at Gardner-Webb."

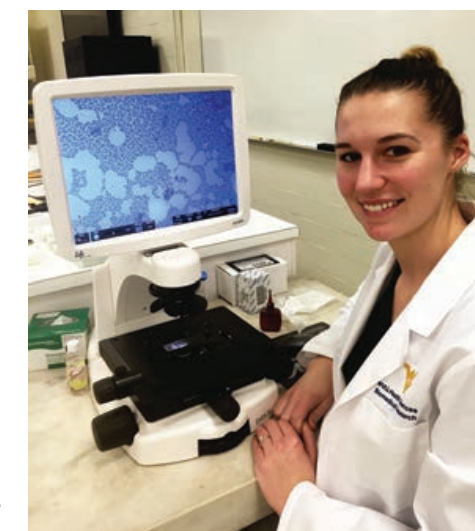
Already fueled at an early age with a passion for science by her parents' careers as physicians, Long studied biology at Gardner-Webb. "I got into the major, every professor was knowledgeable and caring, and I loved it," she shared. "All of my professors had their own research experiences that I could learn from, which gave me realistic expectations for my own Ph.D. studies."

Long is pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship position at Rocky Mountain Labs in Hamilton, Mont., which is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) – National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) facility.

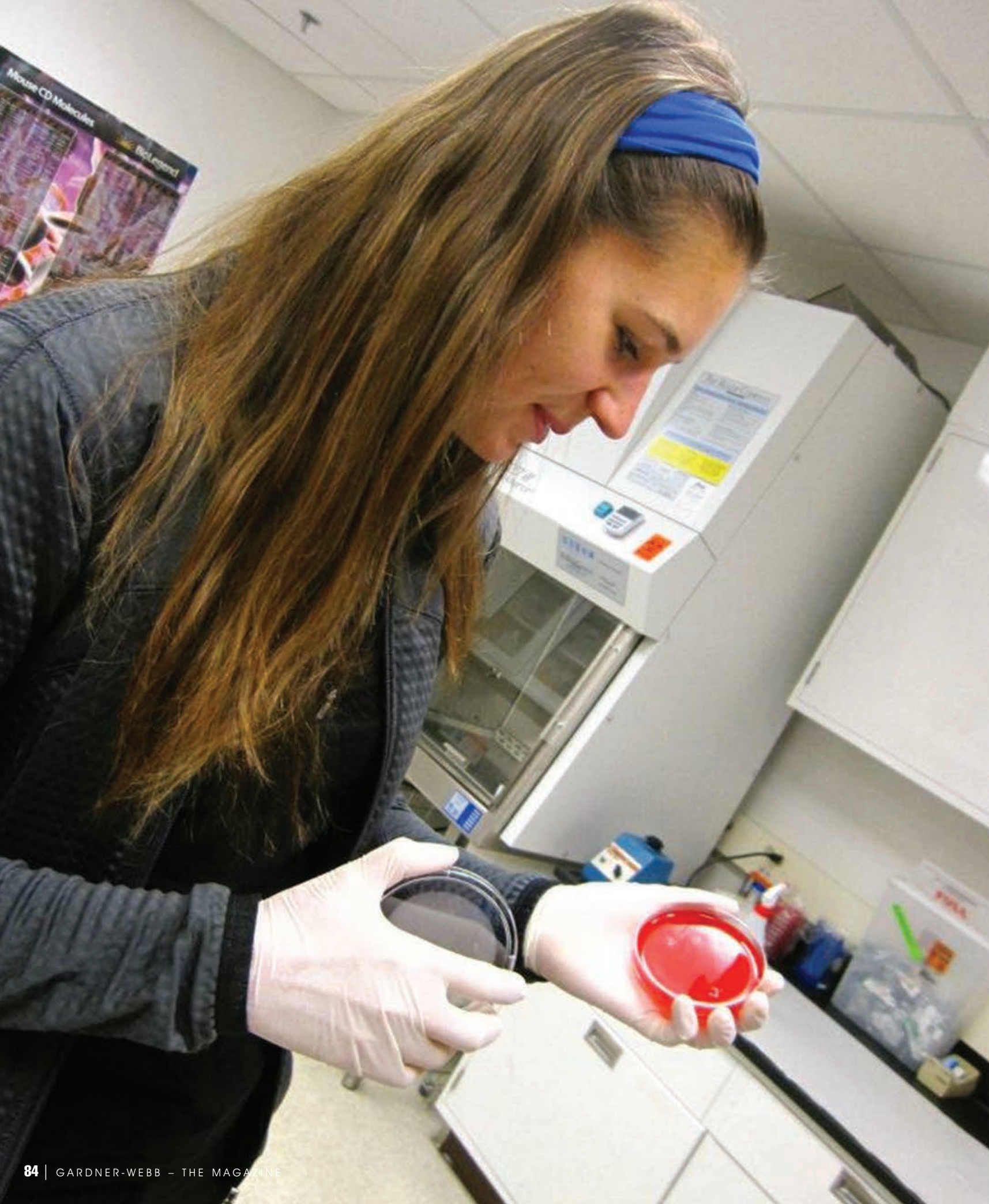
"The laboratory that I will be working in focuses on a highly pathogenic bacteria that is studied in a high containment setting," Long said. "This fellowship will give me the opportunity to learn more about bacteriology and microbial pathogenesis, while applying my immunology experience to broaden the scope of the lab's research. I can't say enough about how great of a foundation GWU gave me as a student, scientist, and person."

In addition to advancing her own education in her doctoral studies, Long has noted a stronger emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs for students in the state of West Virginia than what she remembers being offered as a child growing up in a small town in western North Carolina. She believes more resources are needed to show students the array of opportunities that science offers.

"As a scientist, I am constantly reminded of the complexity and beauty of God's creation," Long expounded. "At the end of the day, no matter how intricate and elegant the experiment you have designed and performed, the subject you study is infinitely more complex. This is humbling, yet empowering. For me, the feelings of discovery and reward are unmatched in any other pursuit."



Carrie Long



A JUST CALLING

GWU Alumna Caroline Nethery '14 Pursues Passion to Protect the Persecuted

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll



Caroline Nethery

A Gardner-Webb alumna is taking her passion for social justice to a whole new level after being appointed as the Student and Volunteer Relations Intern for International Justice Mission's (IJM) United Kingdom partner office in Witham, England.

In 2014, Caroline Nethery (Boiling Springs, S.C.) graduated from Gardner-Webb with a bachelor's degree in psychology. But one of her most important achievements during her undergraduate years was born out of her desire to make a difference in the world around her, particularly for those who are mistreated and enslaved.

"I was blessed to grow up in a family who loves me and loves the Lord. We've been fine financially," Nethery shared. "I just think if I had been born in any other situation, it could just as easily be me as anyone else who is enslaved. I had no choice in where I was born and they had no choice in where they were born. If the roles had been switched, I would want someone to fight for me. They need people to come from the outside and fight for them. That's one of the biggest motivations for me."

She and fellow students established the human trafficking awareness club, Release, at Gardner-Webb. Ultimately, it was her involvement in establishing Release that led to her new role with IJM in the U.K.

"I'm really grateful for my time with Release at Gardner-Webb, because it was such a great way to gain experience in raising

awareness about social justice issues," Nethery explained. "Being able to both start and be a leader in Release will help me when I am working with other students who are hoping to start a similar group at their universities."

Nethery began working as an event coordinator for Lifeway's Ridgecrest Conference Center (Black Mountain, N.C.) in March 2015, a position that allowed her to polish her organizational skills and gain experience in the professional world. But deep within, she knew she had been called to a different kind of service. "My heart is to work with social justice in some form—specifically human trafficking and modern-day slavery," she explained. "International Justice Mission has always been a sort of social justice hero to me, so I started looking into different options for internships with the organization. When I saw the opportunity for a Student and Volunteer Relations Internship at their partner office in the U.K., I immediately applied. I went through the interview process and was thrilled when I got the job!"

The idea of traveling abroad to live and serve was actually something she had already considered. "When I graduated from GWU, I really wanted to try living in another country for a little while," Nethery shared. "I knew this was a perfect time of my life to do that, since I was already in somewhat of a transition phase."



Nethery in front of Windsor Castle

Nethery trained for her new role at the IJM headquarters in Washington, D.C., before traveling to England. She firmly believes her experiences at Gardner-Webb have offered her a firm foundation for success in her new position.

"I have a ton to learn in this area, but my involvement with Release taught me so much about what works and what doesn't work when it comes to leading anti-trafficking groups," she reflected, "and with people who want to volunteer with International Justice Mission."

Nethery is excited about the opportunity to share IJM's message and resources at the grassroots level.

"I have heard there is not quite as much knowledge or action for social justice movement in the UK as there currently is in the U.S., so I am really excited to be here to help inspire justice in any way I can. When you can get people thinking about human trafficking and modern-day slavery—well, you can't fully understand that without wanting to do something to end it."

International Justice Mission is a global organization that works to protect the poor from the violence in the developing world. Their global team includes hundreds of lawyers, investigators, social workers, community activists and other professionals at work through 17 field offices around the world. For more information, visit IJM.org.

Caroline Nethery explains the importance of involvement during the 2013 GWU Human Trafficking Awareness Week.

THOMAS GILLESPIE '13

was elected to Lowell City Council on Nov. 3, 2015, and was sworn into office on Dec. 14, 2015, by Superior Chief Judge Jesse Caldwell. Gillespie will serve with the mayor and other elected officials in the city. He earned his Master of Divinity degree in 2013 at Gardner-Webb.

LEAH KING '13

married Seth Hill on Sept. 12, 2015, in Zirconia, N.C. Leah earned a nursing degree at Gardner-Webb and is currently employed by Dermatology Medical Associates in Hendersonville, N.C. Seth is employed by L&L Hill's Body Shop in East Flat Rock, N.C. The couple plans to live in Flat Rock.

JESSICA MINTER '13

joined LPL Financial as a marketing consultant. She will assist in the rollout of a new marketing solutions center designed to better serve the needs of financial advisors, regional banks and credit unions.

KAREN COCHRAN '14

became HRSA grant program director with Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. She manages a scholarship program, plans an annual nursing conference and teaches in the RN to BSN program. She also presented her thesis at the Greensboro AHEC in October 2014 and at the Sigma Theta Tau International conference in November 2015. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing at Gardner-Webb.

ALYSSA GUTIERREZ '14

received her Master of Arts in Communication from East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., and joined the Better Business Bureau of Eastern North Carolina as director of communications. She now lives in Raleigh, N.C.

MEREDITH MORRIS '14

married Jared Saintsing on Sept. 20, 2015, in Linwood, N.C. Meredith is a registered nurse at Pardee Hospital in Hendersonville, N.C. Jared is a process control engineer at Evergreen Packaging in Canton, N.C. The couple now live in Asheville, N.C.

LYNETTE THOMAS '14

received the Daisy Award at Carolinas HealthCare's Lincoln County (N.C.) campus. The Daisy Award recognizes those who deliver extraordinary nursing care. Elaine Haynes, also a Gardner-Webb nursing graduate, presented the award. Thomas earned her associate's degree at GWU in 2014 and completed the RN-BSN program in 2015.

JOHN CORY TRIVETTE '15

became assistant principal at Blackburn Elementary School in Catawba County, N.C. He earned a Master's in Executive Leadership Studies at Gardner-Webb.

Share your news.

If you have a personal or professional accomplishment to share, such as a new job, birth announcement, or a wedding, we would like to hear from you.

Submit your news to gardner-webb.edu/class-acts.



In Memoriam

The 1930s

RAE AUSTELL '39

passed away Sept. 20, 2015. She is survived by her daughter-in-law, as well as one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

The 1940s

ERIS ALLEN '46

passed away Oct. 18, 2015. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton, N.C. She is survived by two children and five grandchildren.

CHARLES ROBERTSON '47

passed away Oct. 9, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged as a sergeant first class. He retired from Sears Roebuck after 34 years of service. He was a member and past president of Shelby Lions Club and a lifelong member of First Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C., and the Cleveland Masonic Lodge. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Fortenberry Robertson, and a daughter.

RAY SHYTLE '49

passed away Oct. 4, 2015. He was a lifelong educator and worked for the Rowan County (N.C.) Schools system, where he retired as principal of Woodleaf Elementary School. He was a longtime member of Florence Baptist Church in Forest City, N.C., and he was a graduate of Cool Springs High School. He also served as church organist of Unity Presbyterian Church in Rowan County for 40 years.

The 1950s

SCOTT UZZELL '50

passed away Nov. 5, 2015. A U.S. Navy veteran, he received his associate's degree from Gardner-Webb. He was retired from the State of North Carolina Department of Human Resources and was a member of Berea Baptist Church in Mooresville, N.C. He was survived by his wife, two children, four grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

JOYCE HILTON '53

passed away July 28, 2015. She was retired from the forecasting department of Southern Bell Telephone Company after 30 years of service and was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America. She was also a member of Dover Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Bob Hilton.

BETTY BATES '54

passed away Nov. 1, 2015. She taught English at Kings Mountain High, Hendersonville Middle and Hendersonville High schools in North Carolina until her retirement in 1991. She and her husband, Bill, whom she met at Gardner-Webb and married in 1953, were longtime members of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

SANDRA CHAMPION '58

passed away Jan. 29, 2016. She taught kindergarten and first grade for 35 years, most of that time at Marion Elementary School in Shelby, N.C.

TONY DEATON '59

passed away Aug. 15, 2015. He served in the N.C. Air National Guard for six years and retired from a textile career after 37 years at J.P. Stevens, which later became Belding Hausman Inc., in Boger City, N.C. He served many years at Maiden First Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Gaye Dycus Deaton, two sons and one grandchild.

The 1960s

HENRY BRIGHT JR. '61

passed away Sept. 5, 2015. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Sandie, two children and 12 grandchildren.

EUGENE PHILLIPS '66

passed away Aug. 22, 2015. He was retired from Hoechst Celanese after 30 years and Renfrow Brothers Inc. after 12 years of service. He graduated from Gardner-Webb with an associate degree in accounting, and he served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam era. In addition to his wife of 48 years, Rita Long Phillips, he is survived by two children and four grandchildren.

WAYNE G. ROCK '68

passed away June 2, 2014. He was an All-American football player at Gardner-Webb in 1967. Along with his father and brother, he was co-owner of Elmo L. Rock Oil Company in Boykins, Va. He retired from Foothills Correctional Institution in Morganton, N.C. He is survived by his wife, Jane Perron Rock '67, three children and three grandchildren.

Former Gardner-Webb University President Dr. Frank Campbell Passes Away

Dr. Frank R. Campbell is remembered by the Gardner-Webb University community as an eloquent communicator, a cohesive leader and a dear friend. Campbell, who served GWU as president from 2002 to 2005, passed away March 22 at 80 years old.

“With his extraordinary grace and wisdom, Frank Campbell brought healing and stability to this University at one of the very most difficult times in the institution’s history,” offered Dr. Frank Bonner, Campbell’s successor and current GWU president. “Those of us who were here at that time, and I especially, are deeply indebted to Dr. Campbell and truly will never forget him.”

As a student, Campbell concentrated much of his study in the field of Christian ethics. He held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, as well as Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He also received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Kyungnam University in Masan, Korea.

Campbell spent much of his life following God’s call through both educational and pastoral leadership in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. In North Carolina, he served as pastor of churches in Oxford, Raleigh and Statesville. He also provided leadership in a variety of capacities for the Baptist State Convention, including two terms as president of the Convention and three terms as president of the Council on Christian Higher Education.

In 1985, Campbell was selected as president of Averett University in Danville, Va. During his tenure, Averett achieved university status, raised nearly \$50 million, increased its endowment from \$240,000 to nearly \$26 million, introduced a Graduate and Professional Studies Program, added athletic teams in baseball and football, and constructed a host of new campus facilities. Averett named its football stadium for Campbell in 2014.

After retiring from Averett in spring 2002, Campbell was called on to lead Gardner-Webb through an interim period while the Board of Trustees organized a plan to determine the University’s next long-term president. Campbell’s leadership is noted for

his work with trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni to focus on the main purpose of the institution: the Christian education of its students.

In 2003, The Star newspaper in Shelby, N.C., recognized Campbell with its Spirit of Freedom Award for his commitment to collaboration and cooperation with the community. “The seeds of Frank’s amazing healing are seen today—in the form of a strong university, led by a truly excellent president in Dr. Frank Bonner, on a thriving and growing campus,” related Skip Foster, a longtime former publisher and editor of The Star. “His legacy is not just about what he did in the past, but the example it sets for us all moving forward.”

In 2005, the Dr. and Mrs. Frank R. Campbell Christian Service Organization Endowed Scholarship Fund was created to provide support for Gardner-Webb students with financial need who dedicate themselves to studying Christian ministry.

“Dr. Campbell embodied both the vision of a great leader and the heart of a great pastor in his service as president of two outstanding historically Baptist universities,” shared Dr. Tracy Jessup, GWU Vice President for Christian Life and Service and Senior Minister to the University. “It is rare to find such a combination, but God knew exactly what we needed when Dr. Campbell answered the call to serve as president of Gardner-Webb University.”

Following his presidency at Gardner-Webb, Campbell returned to Virginia and continued to serve others as executive director of the Stratford House retirement community, a subsidiary of the Danville Regional Health System, from 2006-2013. He was named Citizen of the Year by the Danville Kiwanis Club in 2008.

“It is difficult, and painful, to imagine what the future of Gardner-Webb University might have been without his strong and compassionate leadership,” Bonner reflected. “That Gardner-Webb is what it is today will remain a large part of his great and enduring legacy, as will his place in the history of Gardner-Webb. He was truly a gentle giant.”



The 1970s

JESSE CAMPBELL '73

passed away Jan. 5, 2016. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Gardner-Webb. He spent more than 30 years building a successful greenhouse and nurseries business in Charlotte. He is survived by several brothers and sisters.

JAMES HANCE '74

passed away Dec. 11, 2015. He was retired after 30 years from Milliken Company's Cedar Hill plant and was a member of First Baptist Church in Union, S.C. He is survived by his mother, a sister and two brothers.

The 1980s

SAM BOLINGER '81

passed away Oct. 10, 2015. He was employed by Gotham Technologies, and he received a Bachelor of Science in business administration at Gardner-Webb. He is survived by his wife, Debra Pierson Bolinger, and two children.

DONALD KELLER SR. '81

passed away Aug. 23, 2015. He served as a pastor at churches along the east coast, including time in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and New York. He was most recently a member of First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain (N.C.), where he served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher and was active in missions. He was also a Realtor and broker for Allen Tate Realty in Kings Mountain and served on the city's zoning board. He is survived by his wife of more than 43 years, Nancy Kesler Keller, his mother, Ila Mae Smith, two children and five grandchildren.

LARRY JETER '82

passed away Jan. 14, 2016. He obtained a degree in criminal justice at Gardner-Webb, and he served in the U.S. Army, receiving an honorable discharge in 1977. He also served one year in the Army National Guard. He retired from the Spartanburg (S.C.) Parks and Recreation office, where he was employed for 23 years, as a manager. He also enjoyed volunteering at the senior center in Shelby, N.C. He is survived by two children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

BRYAN KISER '87

passed away Aug. 26, 2015. He taught at Kings Mountain (N.C.) Middle School for 27 years, served as a wrestling coach and was a recognized wood sculptor. He is survived by his wife, Jane Campbell Kiser, and two daughters.

JERRY ADAMS '88

passed away Dec. 12, 2015. He retired from Gaston County (N.C.) Schools after 36 years of service as a teacher, coach and principal. In 2002 he was inducted into the Kings Mountain (N.C.) Sports Hall of Fame. He earned a master's degree from Gardner-Webb. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

The 1990s

HOWARD DOZIER '90

passed away Aug. 26, 2015. Dozier enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1964 and served a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968 before being honorably discharged. He started working for the Charlotte (N.C.) Police Department in 1968 and rose to the rank of captain before retiring in December 1993. He earned a Bachelor of Science from Gardner-Webb. He then worked in private industry as a private investigator specializing in intellectual property, brand protection and counterfeiting. He was director of investigations for Reebok International from 1994-1998. He was a member of Myers Park United Methodist Church and a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Rogers Dozier, two sons, and three grandchildren.

LESTER BASS '93

passed away Nov. 20, 2015. He retired as a detective from the Davidson County (N.C.) Sheriff's Office. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Gardner-Webb. He is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

ISAAC MORROW JR. '95

passed away Dec. 11, 2015. He was a Yancey County (N.C.) native and member of Riverside Baptist Church, where he served as choir director and soloist. He received a master's degree in social services and human services from Gardner-Webb. He is survived by his parents and a grandmother.

The 2000s

NANCY HARDIN '00

passed away Dec. 24, 2015. She was employed in Burke County (N.C.) as a social worker. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Gardner-Webb. She is survived by two children.

CHRISTOPHER TODD JOHNSON '06

passed away Sept. 24, 2015. He was a leader in his church, First Baptist of Spartanburg, S.C. He obtained his MBA from Gardner-Webb. He is survived by his parents, his wife Courtney, and his two sons.

CAMERON HEATH FULBRIGHT '10

passed away Nov. 14, 2015. He was previously employed with Corning Task Group of New York City. He was a member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Maiden, N.C. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems from Gardner-Webb. He is survived by his parents and his brother.

Gardner-Webb Trustee Emeritus, Longtime Supporter Passes Away

Wade Shepherd, 87, Remembered for His Service, Generosity

Written by Matthew Tessnear

As a member of the U.S. military, he served his country in Korea. As a longtime trustee and generous donor at Gardner-Webb, he served the University family and community. Wade R. Shepherd, who passed away Nov. 8, 2015, at 87 years old, is remembered for his lifetime of work to improve the lives of others and glorify God.

Shepherd, a native of Hickory, N.C., earned a business administration degree from the Clevenger College of Business in Hickory, and he worked nearly 50 years in textiles as owner and operator of Wade Shepherd Hosiery, Shepknit Hosiery, Sheplan Hosiery and Contour Foam Corp. In addition to his profession, he was active in his church, Penelope Baptist in Hickory, where he was a trustee and deacon, finance and ushers chairman, and treasurer.

In 2009, Shepherd explained his calling to serve others in an interview for Gardner-Webb The Magazine. "It is vital that we attend to the things that leave the proper witness to win people to Christ, in whatever method we can do. Except for the grace of God and his blessing, I would not be standing here," he said. "Someone once said, 'Take advantage of an opportunity when it passes so you don't have to chase it when it's gone,'" he continued. "I exercise my choices as God led me in that statement and that's why I'm where I am."

During the Korean Conflict in the 1950s, Shepherd was a member of the U.S. Army with a special assignment to the U.S. Air Force. He earned the Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Letter of Commendation for his service.

In addition to serving as a Gardner-Webb trustee since 1995, Shepherd made major financial contributions to multiple campaigns to advance the University's programs and facilities. He received the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from GWU in 2003 and was honored with the title of trustee emeritus for his leadership and service to the institution.

In a University tribute to Shepherd several years ago, GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner addressed his impact on both Gardner-Webb and the world. "It's good to have a friend who embodies what we stand for at Gardner-Webb," Bonner remarked. "A successful and innovative businessman, a family man and a Christian who supports his church and this University."



Where
are they
Now?



Still on a Mission

*In a Life of Teaching, Travel and Thrills, Emeritus Music Professor
Dr. Phil Perrin Keeps Serving and Seeking Adventure*

Written by Matthew Tessnear

For decades, missions have taken Dr. Phil Perrin around the world. Whether sharing music through ministry in China or climbing the earth's seven highest mountain peaks, the retired longtime Gardner-Webb music professor's life has been marked by traveling adventures. And after seven and a half decades, he doesn't plan to stop moving now.

"I enjoy retirement, but I don't want to be completely unoccupied," Perrin shares. "I don't want to just sit in a rocking chair and watch Lawrence Welk. I love traveling."

Originally from Tennessee, Perrin came to Gardner-Webb in 1969 and settled in for a career that included roles as director of the institution's choirs, teacher of subjects like music history and conducting, music minister for churches in several local counties, and mentor who helped connect students with careers.



"I enjoy seeing the students I've taught succeeding," Perrin adds. "Many of them are teaching high school, elementary school and church music. I have a great pride and satisfaction when I see what they are doing. I also see Gardner-Webb progressing in many ways, and I'm glad to see that."

After retiring in 2003, he was named professor emeritus of music at the University and he and his wife were appointed by the International Mission Board to serve in Tanzania. Following two years there, they served in Nigeria, South America, Mexico and then China multiple times, where Perrin taught high school choir.

"I think my mission work in that sense is about over now," Perrin assesses. "But I have a desire to serve the Lord with the talents, experience and training I have." He has most recently served as part-time music minister for Cliffside Baptist Church just a few miles from GWU. He directs the church's praise band, choir and congregational singing.

Travel continues to be a major part of his life, too. He regularly attends music conferences, often sharing his experiences with current GWU Department of Music Chair Dr. Paul Etter. And he still visits foreign countries, though his experiences differ from those earlier in his life.

After he turned 40, Perrin began mountain climbing, eventually reaching the highest peaks on six continents and nearly 24,000 feet on Asia's Mount Everest, which culminates in the world's pinnacle point. Each journey also offered an additional chance to complete a short-term mission assignment.



With memories of those excursions, he continues to explore, now with his feet on the ground alongside his grandchildren. "I'm still hiking, and have been doing a project with my grandson to hike the Mountains-to-Sea Trail that starts in the western part of North Carolina and goes to the coast," Perrin explains. "We do that when we can work it in. I have also told my grandchildren I will take them anywhere in

the world they want to go. When I travel I use public transportation and stay in hostels, and I want to teach them how to do that. I still want to travel quite a few places I haven't been."

FLASHBACK

THE WEB

GARDNER-WEBB
COLLEGE

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Leaders Named For Annual Fund

Leaders have been named for Gardner-Webb's 1972-73 Annual Fund drive, already successfully in progress.

Annual Fund chairman is Jack Creech, a G-W alumnus and a vice president of First National Bank of Shelby. He currently is serving on the alumni association board of directors and was a leader in the Shelby area during the capital fund campaign last year.

As chairman, Creech is leading the effort to contact as many G-W alumni and friends as possible to ask for their support.

"The Annual Fund puts quality into all phases of campus life," he said, "and fills the gap between what the student pays and the actual cost of his education. Our gifts can be a living endowment for our alma mater."

Regional chairmen also have been named for the campaign. They are Mr. and Mrs. Ed Camp, Jr., Hubert C. Dixon, Lansford Jolley and Jerry R. Walker, all of Boiling Springs, the Rev. Max Evington of Shelby, Wendell G. Davis and Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bowden of Charlotte, Jerry A. Merrill of Morganton, T. R. Causby of Belmont, Alan Merrill Freeman of Rutherfordton, Max Padgett of Forest City, James Tate of Wadesboro, Steve and Sandy Gregory of Wake Forest, Janet and Bob Oates of Durham, John P. Carlton of Spartanburg, S. C., and Mrs. Grace Latson of Greenville, S. C.



BOX SEALED FOR CORNERSTONE—A copper box was placed in the cornerstone of the Dover Memorial Chapel to mark its completion. To be opened in the year 2005, 100th anniversary of the college, the box contained a college charter, faculty constitution, student government constitution, college yearbook and newspaper, a picture of Mr. Dover, a Bible, and a G-W Bulldog repl.ca. Watching as Russell Falls and Deitz Washburn, left, seal the box are, left to right, Mrs. John R. Dover III, John R. Dover III, Allison Dover, G-W vice president Tom McGraw, and consulting architect Tom Cothran of Shelby.

Dover Memorial Chapel Dedicated

"Service to man, yes, but even more service to our Lord, Jesus Christ." That was the theme of Founders Day services Oct. 27 dedicating the campus' beautiful John R. Dover, Jr. Memorial Chapel. More than 600 attended the dedication dinner and heard John R. Dover III, representing the Dover family, make the formal presentation of the chapel, which raises its tall spire at Gardner-Webb's main entrance.

College President E. Eugene Poston was the dedication service speaker, praising the chapel for its many contributions to

of his death in August, 1963. He served as chairman of Gardner-Webb's board of trustees and was named "Alumnus of the Year" in 1961.

At the dedication service, his portrait, to hang in the chapel, was unveiled by his youngest granddaughter, Allison Dover. Hal Bryant of Greenville, S. C., artist and former G-W student, presented Mrs. Dover with a painting of the chapel building.

The chapel's cornerstone was laid the next morning, on Homecoming Day Oct. 28, with the Dover family present.

It was a moving beginning for the annual Homecoming festivities, attended by many



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HOMEcoming
OCTOBER 15, 2016



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