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Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2014, Spring (Volume 49 No. 1)

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Gardner-Webb University

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VOLUME 49, NUMBER 1, 2014

THE MAGAZINE

GWU LAUNCHES NEW BRAND INITIATIVE

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NAMED

NEW INDUCTEES FOR ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

EXPLORING MISSIONS IN CUBA

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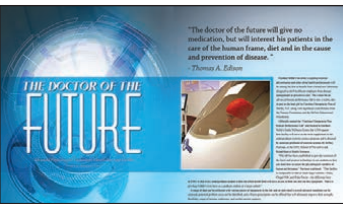
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ABOUT THE COVER

*The world of higher education -specifically the public's perception
of a degree - is different than it used to be. The perceived value of
a college degree has been questioned in recent years, leading to a
more competitive landscape that has forced nearly all institutions
of higher education to rethink the way they present themselves to
the world or risk getting left behind. Our feature story on page 16
takes you into the heart of what we discovered about Gardner-
Webb's heart and mission.*

PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES

THE GREATEST FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE WORLD

Perhaps the best way to observe the full spectrum of the
human condition is to spend a few days in one of the world's
great cities.

Our children and grandchildren alternate holidays

with us and the other in-laws. After having a wonderful

Thanksgiving with a house full of them all, Flossie and I

were on our own for Christmas, so as we have done before

we took off for New York City—and had a wonderful time, in spite of the huge crowds.

And by the way—the concept of rude New Yorkers is an absolute myth. Without exception

everyone we spoke to, especially to ask directions, was as courteous, friendly and helpful as

anyone could imagine—especially the NYC Police officers. One officer even approached

us, sensing we were lost, and offered help, then apologized that he could not help us

even more.

There is in this great city much that is magnificent and uplifting, and much that is

disturbing. In the theaters, the great museums such as the Metropolitan and “MoMa” (the

Museum of Modern Art) and other great venues, one reflects on pinnacles of humanity's

achievement. But at the 9/11 Memorial, looking at the engraved names of over 3,000

innocent victims of that horror, one reflects on the depths of human capacity for evil.

You walk through the opulence of the stores on Fifth Avenue, and then out to the sidewalk

where the homeless lie wrapped in blankets against the bitter cold. The dissonance

is stunning.

How does one react, process it all? The Christmas Eve Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral

presented a clue to the answer. The greatest cause for good in the world—indeed the only

true response to the problems of the human condition—is the saving grace and love of

Jesus Christ.

Gardner-Webb University is engaged in this greatest of all forces for good in the world,

as well as another strong force for the good of humanity—education, still the best pathway

to a meaningful and successful life. Every great institution must have a clear sense of real

purpose, and ours is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education.

Our plan is to prepare our students not only to live meaningful and fulfilling lives of their

own, but also in innumerable ways to make the world a better place than they found it, and

in so doing to carry out the motto of their alma mater, Pro Deo et Humanitate—For God

and Humanity.

Dr. Frank Bonner

A. Frank Bonner

President, Gardner-Webb University



GWU Named to Top-20 Online Christian Colleges List

Gardner–Webb University was named to the Top-20 List of online Christian colleges by *TheBestSchools.org* (TBS), an organization that researches colleges and universities across the country. GWU was ranked 15th among the nation’s Christian colleges who also offer online degree options, beating out other notable programs such as Abilene Christian University (Abilene, Texas) and Charleston Southern University (Charleston, S.C.), among others.

TheBestSchools.org examines a wide range of criteria as it compiles its lists of favorites each year. According to TBS, telling signs of a good candidate online Christian college include full accreditation, low student-to-teacher ratio (less than 20:1), confessional status (i.e., teachers/students are required to sign a Christian doctrinal statement), “anytime access” lecture archives, around-the-clock technical support, affordability, variety of degree options, 100% online degree programs, and other factors.

Dr. Ben Leslie is provost and executive vice president at Gardner-

Webb. He believes the distinction represents an intentional effort to maximize the University’s online offerings. “Gardner-Webb University has had a presence in the world of online higher education for over a decade,” Leslie shared. “It has been our mission to design online programs that challenge students intellectually, prepare them professionally, and that also nurture them spiritually. Inclusion in the list of the top 20 Christian Online Colleges is a deeply gratifying endorsement that helps confirm our hope and belief that we are indeed accomplishing that mission.”

The list of online Christian colleges is gathered from multiple sites, including U.S. News & World Report, Forbes, *christiancolleges.com*, *onlineeducation.net*, and Best and Worst Online Degree Providers. Officials say the Christian colleges grading criteria revolve around three components: (1) the Christian character of the school; (2) academic prestige; and, of course, (3) the extent and quality of their online programs.



Dr. Sharon Starr

New Dean Announced for GWU School of Nursing

Gardner-Webb University is thrilled to announce that Dr. Sharon Starr has been appointed as the new dean of the School of Nursing and officially began her duties on July 1. Starr returns to GWU, where she served as a member of the nursing faculty from 2001 to 2004.

“I feel I have come home to complete my career,” said Starr. “I’m excited and feel that all I have done in my nursing career had led to this appointment. I started my career with Gardner-Webb and will now finish my career here.”

Starr, who lives in Crouse, N.C., recently served as the dean of health education within the David Belk Cannon Health Education Institute at Gaston College, located in Dallas, N.C. Starr replaces Dr. Rebecca Beck-Little, who recently retired as dean.

“The addition of the RN-BSN, generic BSN, MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner, and the DNP programs means that Gardner-Webb offers a full range of educational opportunities

where graduates are qualified to deliver care in all types of healthcare settings and even educate future members of the nursing profession,” said Starr.

Starr has the task of maintaining the quality of the current program while focusing on the continuous changing healthcare landscape. “The changing healthcare delivery system will demand that we prepare graduates to deliver autonomous care at the highest level of their scope of practice to a diverse population,” she said. “When they come to GWU, they will find mentors who emphasize the science of nursing and promote application of the art of nursing within a Christian environment, which will enhance their experience.”

Godbold School of Business Celebrates the MBA Program’s 20th Anniversary

Gardner-Webb University’s Godbold School of Business observed a milestone event on Nov. 14 with a day of celebration honoring the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program’s 20th Anniversary. MBA alumni joined GWU administrators, faculty, staff, school of business students, and special guests during several events that rediscovered the program’s history, while looking ahead to the future and the hope for continued expansion.

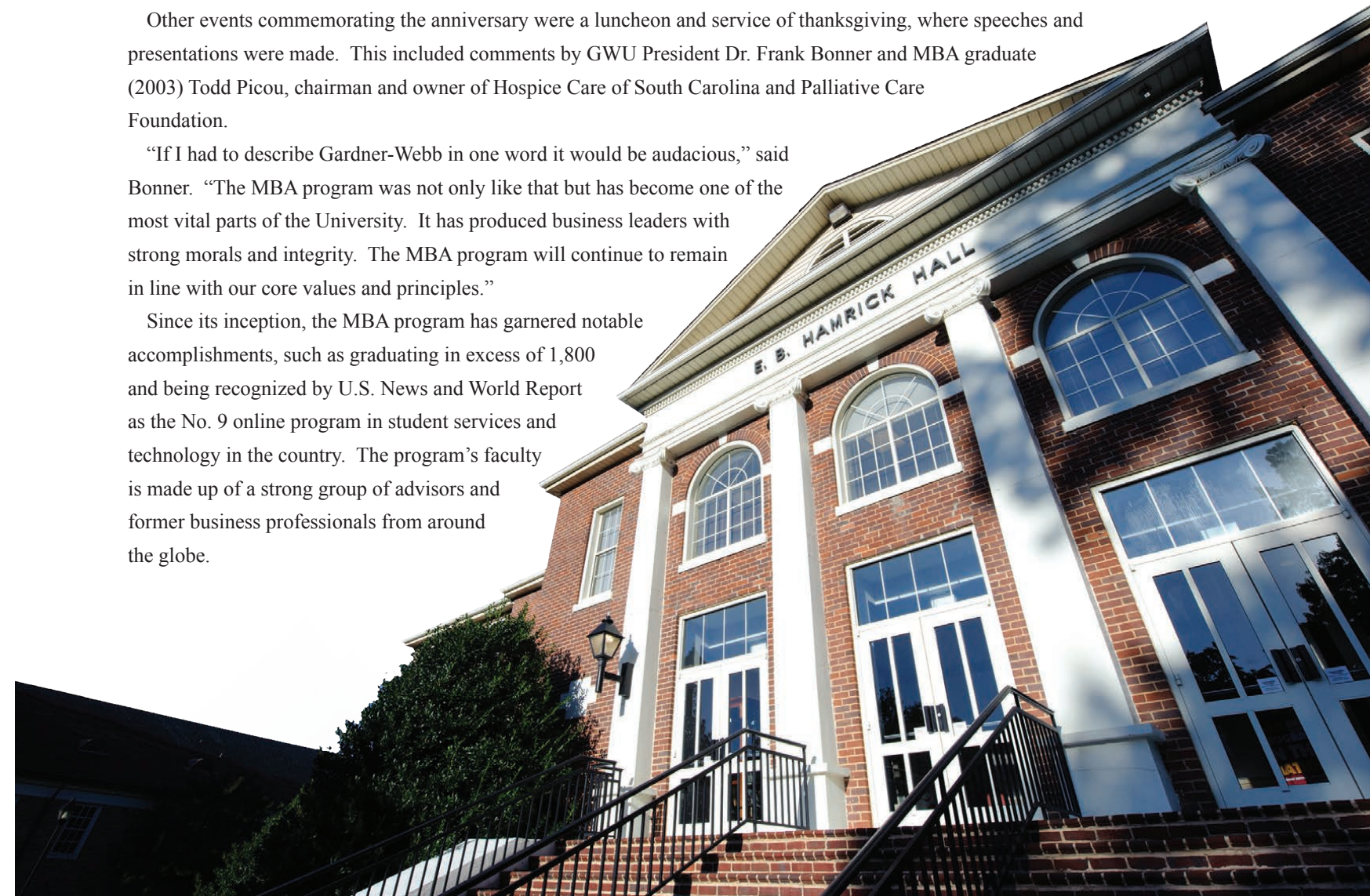
The celebration began with an open house in Hamrick Hall, home to the Godbold School of Business, showcasing MBA majors. That was followed by a panel session that included established business leaders, former MBA graduates including Jacqueline Lyon, special agent for the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), Corey Simpson, senior credit analyst for First South Bank of Raleigh, N.C., and Karla Haynes, who serves as executive director of the Cleveland County (N.C.) Community Development Corporation. The panel discussed a variety of topics and took questions from undergraduate students who asked about the benefits of obtaining an MBA degree.

“Diversify yourself,” said Lyon. “Even if you have one specific area of study you plan to go into, make sure you learn as much as possible in all fields of the program, be it accounting, finance or management. Have a plan when it comes to paying for school and receiving important job experience. Take an internship if you get the opportunity, as a way that could open a bigger door later.”

Other events commemorating the anniversary were a luncheon and service of thanksgiving, where speeches and presentations were made. This included comments by GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner and MBA graduate (2003) Todd Picou, chairman and owner of Hospice Care of South Carolina and Palliative Care Foundation.

“If I had to describe Gardner-Webb in one word it would be audacious,” said Bonner. “The MBA program was not only like that but has become one of the most vital parts of the University. It has produced business leaders with strong morals and integrity. The MBA program will continue to remain in line with our core values and principles.”

Since its inception, the MBA program has garnered notable accomplishments, such as graduating in excess of 1,800 and being recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the No. 9 online program in student services and technology in the country. The program’s faculty is made up of a strong group of advisors and former business professionals from around the globe.



Revised Master of Arts in English Program to Debut in Fall 2014

The Gardner-Webb University Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies is unveiling a revised Master of Arts (MA) in English program, to include concentrations in English education, literature studies and writing studies. Administrators have announced the online-only teaching model for the program will begin its first cohort in the fall semester of 2014. University officials are excited about the shift and believe the changes will help Gardner-Webb provide a quality education that meets the needs of modern professionals.

“Adding a concentration in writing studies and moving to a fully online mode of delivery are two indications of the spirit of innovation and creativity that characterize the GWU Department of English Language and Literature,” said Dr. Jeff Rogers, dean of the Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies. “It’s an exciting group of faculty and an exciting new venture for a department that has already been quite creative in its adoption of new technologies for teaching and learning.”

The program will be led by English professors Jennifer Buckner, Dr. Cheryl Duffus, and Dr. Shana Hartman, who will head up the writing studies, literary studies, and English education concentrations, respectively.

Ultimately, officials believe the revised program will benefit not only graduate students, but also the University as a whole. “I think the online, cohort format will provide the flexibility that many graduate students are seeking,” Duffus offered. “This program will encourage more graduate education and professional development and provide opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional growth. We aim to lead the way in online education in the humanities, and to show it can be done with high standards.”

For more information on the program, call 704-406-4409.

GWU’s Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship to be Renamed Following Professor’s Donation

Gardner-Webb University hosted an expression of appreciation event to announce that the Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship, a part of the Godbold School of Business, would be named in honor of the parents of Dr. Don Caudill. Caudill, who serves as professor of marketing at GWU, made a significant financial gift to the center.



Dr. Don Caudill

Caudill, who was born and raised in the Appalachian mountains of Virginia, has honored his parents by designating it the “Alfred and Shirley Wampler Caudill Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship.” He desired to pay homage to his humble upbringing, where he learned valuable lessons as a young man by seeing his parents work hard for little pay. “While our family was considered poor,” said Caudill, “we never were without food, clothing, or shelter. I feel I’m a better person for having learned early in life the value of hard work and the dignity it brings.”

Caudill, a devoted Christian, went through a life-changing experience in 2011 that helped convince him that he needed to do more for Gardner-Webb. “During emergency surgery for a terribly inflamed appendix, I had an epiphany,” said Caudill. “I believe God impressed on me to downsize, give away more and live a simpler life. I created a mantra that now guides my life: work hard, live modestly, give generously, and laugh often.”

During the event, Dr. Frank Bonner, president of Gardner-Webb, called Caudill the complete package. “Where do you find the time?” asked Bonner of Caudill. Bonner continued, “His accomplishments include being a teacher, a researcher, an entrepreneur, an authority on marketing, and publishing nearly 100 articles and presenting over 50 papers at various events. His unflinching dedication to Gardner-Webb is made even more evident by this gift.”

Gardner-Webb Ranks 12th in Nation for Core Curriculum



An annual study on core curriculum requirements at over 1,000 colleges and universities from all over the United States has placed Gardner-Webb University at the head of the class for the third year in a row. Ranked No. 12 out of only 22 institutions with an “A” grade, Gardner-Webb earned the No. 1 spot out of all schools in the Carolinas for the highest core curriculum standards.

The “2013-2014 What Will They Learn?” study, conducted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), ranks the core curriculum of all the major public and private colleges and universities in all 50 states. The ranking places GWU in the top two percent in the nation, included with schools such as Pepperdine University (Malibu, Calif.), Baylor University (Waco, Texas), Morehouse College

(Atlanta, Ga.), and the United States Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs, Colo.).

Gardner-Webb University is the only college in the Carolinas to earn an “A” in the ACTA study, which analyzes seven core subjects and rates universities accordingly. ACTA believes that composition, U.S. government/history, economics, literature, math, science, and foreign language components help students gain the knowledge and values necessary for responsible democratic citizenship. “A”- rated schools require at least six out of the seven core courses; “B” schools must offer four or five out of seven.

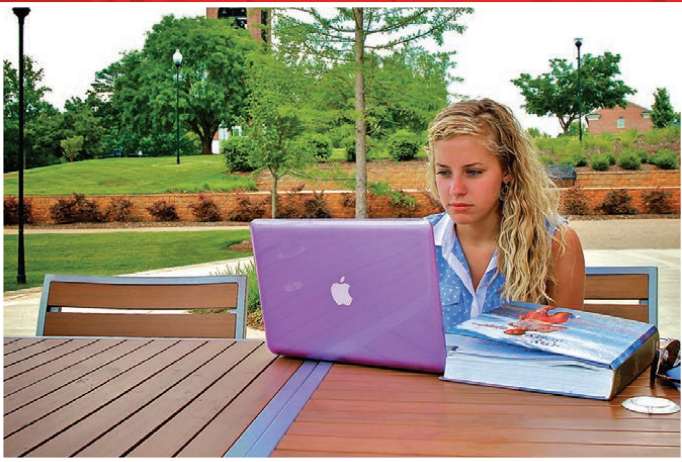
GWU blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 55 specialized major and minor programs. Officials say the result is a truly comprehensive academic experience grounded in a Christian environment of service, leadership and intellectual freedom.

Dr. Ben Leslie is provost and executive vice president for Gardner-Webb and believes the distinction is proof of the University’s commitment to providing an excellent academic backbone for its students. “This national recognition of our curriculum, something we neither sought nor applied for, stands as a significant affirmation of our academic program,” Leslie shared.

“More than anything else, it is a tribute to the Gardner-Webb faculty, who along with their predecessors, have expressed a deep commitment to a broad-based general education in the liberal arts for many years,” Leslie continued. “Not only does GWU’s general education curriculum conform to the criteria set forth by ACTA, but we actually exceed their expectations by requiring courses in arts, health and wellness, religion, and communications.”

The 1,070 institutions in “What Will They Learn?” comprise all public universities with a stated liberal arts mission as well as hundreds of private colleges and universities selected on the basis of size, reputation, and regional representation. Last year, GWU was among only 21 schools to earn an “A.”

ACTA is an independent, non-profit organization committed to academic freedom, excellence, and accountability at America’s colleges and universities. To learn more, visit goacta.org. For additional information on the “What Will They Learn?” report, visit whatwilltheylearn.com.



GARDNER-WEBB AWARDS OVER 950 DEGREES DURING SUMMER AND FALL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Summer Commencement—Aug. 5, 2013

Gardner-Webb University hosted Summer Commencement on Monday, Aug. 5 in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Over 400 graduates were honored during the two ceremonies.

Hundreds of morning graduates were honored for their achievements in earning a master's or doctoral degree. The University awarded two honorary doctorates during the morning ceremony. Robert and Carolyn Tucker, who donated \$5.5 million to construct the transformational Tucker Student Center in 2012, each received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

The afternoon ceremony featured graduates of Gardner-Webb's degree completion program and students who successfully completed traditional undergraduate programs. Scholastic achievement awards were given to Caroline Elizabeth Torres (Dobson, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and Kiersten Aleana Justice (Mebane, N.C.) who earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

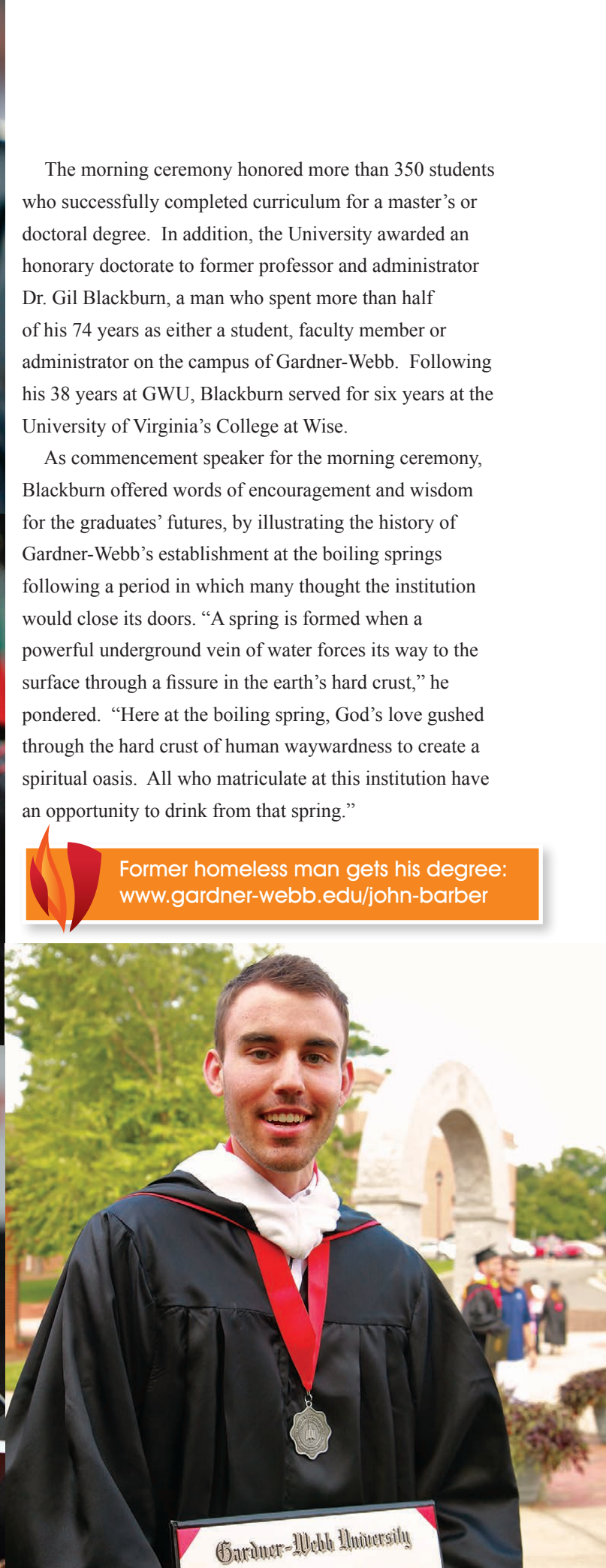


Watch the 2013 summer graduation recap at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/summergrad-2013

Fall Commencement—Dec. 16, 2013

Gardner-Webb University also hosted Fall Commencement ceremonies on Monday, Dec. 16 in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. More than 550 graduates were honored during the two ceremonies. The GWU School of Divinity presented its 500th degree since the program began 20 years ago. In addition, Courtney Atkins (Forest City, N.C.) and Bonnie Baczewski (Damascus, Md.) each received the University's first Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science degrees.






The morning ceremony honored more than 350 students who successfully completed curriculum for a master's or doctoral degree. In addition, the University awarded an honorary doctorate to former professor and administrator Dr. Gil Blackburn, a man who spent more than half of his 74 years as either a student, faculty member or administrator on the campus of Gardner-Webb. Following his 38 years at GWU, Blackburn served for six years at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

As commencement speaker for the morning ceremony, Blackburn offered words of encouragement and wisdom for the graduates' futures, by illustrating the history of Gardner-Webb's establishment at the boiling springs following a period in which many thought the institution would close its doors. "A spring is formed when a powerful underground vein of water forces its way to the surface through a fissure in the earth's hard crust," he pondered. "Here at the boiling spring, God's love gushed through the hard crust of human waywardness to create a spiritual oasis. All who matriculate at this institution have an opportunity to drink from that spring."



Former homeless man gets his degree:
www.gardner-webb.edu/john-barber

The afternoon ceremony featured nearly 200 graduates who successfully completed undergraduate programs. The Most Outstanding Male Graduate Medal and a Senior Scholastic Achievement Award were given to Andrew David Slesinger (Charlotte, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. The Most Outstanding Female Graduate Medal was awarded to Amelia Catherine Bolick of Gastonia, N.C., who earned a Bachelor of Music. A senior scholastic achievement academic award was presented to Micah Daniel Rivera of Shelby, N.C., who received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting/Business Administration.

Dr. Gil Blackburn also served as the commencement speaker for the afternoon ceremony. "Graduates, you were told when you enrolled at Gardner-Webb University that the program here would give you a 'transformational experience;' that you would depart a different person," he reflected. "Promising to 'transform' someone is a tall order. No institution of higher learning can transform a student without that student's participation. However, if you entered into the Gardner-Webb experience with your whole being, you indeed will leave here transformed. And, I might add, the world needs more like you." 

Robert and Carolyn Tucker, Dr. Gil Blackburn Receive Honorary Doctorates During Summer and Fall Commencement Ceremonies

The University bestowed its highest recognition of merit, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, to Robert and Carolyn Tucker on Aug. 5 and to Dr. Gil Blackburn on Dec. 16. The Tucker family donated \$5.5 million to construct the facility that bears their name, the transformational Tucker Student Center. Blackburn's professional contributions at the University spanned more than 38 years.

GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner noted the Tuckers' desire to quietly support various philanthropic endeavors. "Throughout their lives, Robert and Carolyn Tucker have gone to great lengths to fly under the radar," said Bonner. "They have given generously to churches, ministries, and groups like the Salvation Army and Hospice."

The Tuckers founded the successful business, Shoe Show, headquartered in Concord, N.C. The company is over 50 years old and currently has over 1,100 locations across the United States. Their daughter, Lisa Tucker, is a 1989 graduate and former volleyball player for Gardner-Webb. She has remained committed to the University and currently serves on the GWU Board of Trustees. She also works in the family business as a vice president.



Robert and Carolyn Tucker



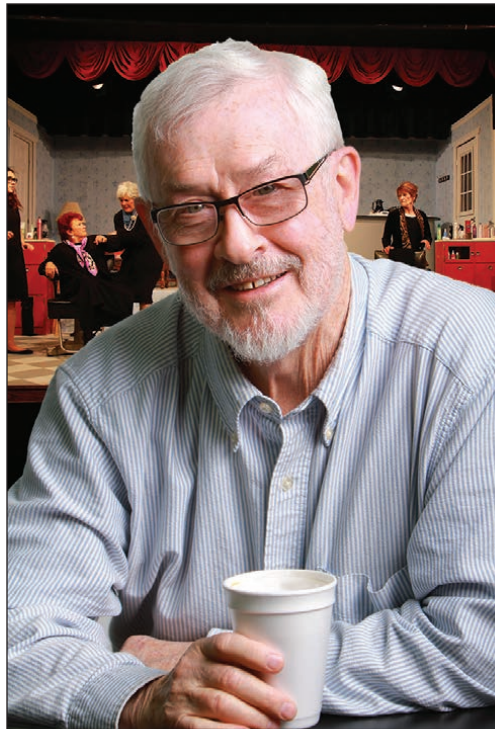
Dr. Gil Blackburn

In presenting the honorary doctorate to Blackburn during fall commencement, Bonner said his contributions to the University were monumental. "There is no single individual who has had a greater influence on the award-winning curriculum, the exceptional faculty, and the academic culture that shapes the Gardner-Webb experience than Dr. Gil Blackburn," Bonner noted. "For his years of faithful servant-leadership, his unwavering integrity, his considerable contributions to the academic communities at Gardner-Webb and Virginia-Wise, and his embodiment of the ideals for which this institution is known, it is my distinct privilege, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to present him with the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters."

Blackburn reflected upon his personal and professional history with Gardner-Webb, and found it difficult to believe he was worthy of such a tremendous honor. "When I first laid eyes on this campus in 1958, I could not—in my wildest imagination—have foreseen an occasion such as this," Blackburn reflected. "I am a privileged man for having spent 38 of my 74 years on these sacred grounds, the place where I found myself as a student, played football, met my wife, reared my children, and formed the deepest friendships I have known."



Watch the Tuckers interviews at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/tucker-grad-interview



Dr. Jim Thomas

GWU Faculty Member Receives North Carolina's Highest Civilian Honor

Dr. Jim Thomas of Gardner-Webb University received the North Carolina Long Leaf Pine Award, which is among the most prestigious awards presented by the Governor and is considered one of the highest honors for a civilian in the state. Thomas serves as dean of the School of Performing and Visual Arts and received the award from Gov. Pat McCrory at Mars Hill University (N.C.).

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, created in 1965, is an honor that is granted in the state of North Carolina. The Longleaf Pine is the official state tree. The award is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state.

Thomas was surprised with the recognition when he was in attendance at a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first renovation of what had been Mars Hill Baptist Church, now known as Owen Theatre.

"I had discovered the almost never-used structure shortly after joining the faculty," said Thomas. "I was a part of the first theatre production there around 1965, and then in 1973 the transition from church to theatre took place."

Thomas' tenure at Mars Hill over 38 years, included serving as chair for both the Theatre department and the Division of Fine Arts. Thomas helped to not only expand theatre arts at Mars Hill, but also in the region and the state.

"I started the theatre major, developed the first theatre arts education degree in North Carolina, started a summer theatre workshop in 1970, which eventually became the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART), a regional professional theatre, in 1975," said Thomas. Dr. Earl Leininger, associate provost for Arts and Sciences at GWU, was a lead performer in SART's first production, The Fantastics, and appeared regularly in productions through the early 2000's. Leininger worked at Mars Hill himself and is a longtime professional associate and friend of Thomas.

Over time, Thomas led the way for additional renovations to the church that turned Owen Theatre into a popular theatre facility that is now used for both the department of Theatre Arts and SART. Thomas shared, "I also introduced Mars Hill's first Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre degree with C. Robert Jones, its first director, who started the first theatre major at Gardner-Webb as a senior college."

Long Leaf Pine Award guidelines for recipients include contributions to their communities, extra effort in their careers, and years of service to a particular organization. To date, the honor has been bestowed on over 15,000 individuals.

GWU Women's Soccer Receives 2012-2013 NSCAA Team Academic Award

Gardner-Webb's women's soccer team was honored with the 2012-13 Team Academic Award, presented by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

To qualify for the team award, collegiate women's soccer programs must maintain a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher. The Runnin' Bulldogs posted a team GPA of 3.7.

The listing, released in November, included 593 recipients of the NSCAA's team academic honor for women's soccer. For full viewing of the recipients, visit www.nscaa.com.



Classroom Theory and Real World Application Explored During Four-Day Math Academy at GWU

Over a dozen high school students from Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy (TJCA) in Mooresboro, N.C., gained new insight into the practical application



of mathematics principles they have learned in the classroom. Through a grant from the Stonecutter Foundation (Spindale, N.C.), the teens participated in a brand new program designed to offer them enrichment in the subject of math.

“We have offered a variety of different sessions that we hope will aid in their development,” said Dr. Jim Johnson, assistant professor of math at Gardner-Webb University and a co-creator of the academy. “Things that will aid in their future but that they probably wouldn’t get in the regular classroom experience.”

The Academy was structured with instructional time in the morning and field trips to local businesses and industries in the afternoon. Around 15 TJCA high school students spent time in classroom sessions analyzing statistical data, basic finance and finance applications, annuities and sinking funds, amortization of loans, property equity, college loans, and more. During the afternoon, participants traveled to the Facebook data center (Rutherfordton, N.C.), Keeter Ford (Shelby, N.C.), and Branch Banking and Trust (BB&T) in Shelby.

“We wanted to go beyond just the principles they would discuss during the regular school year, so we knew we wanted to have a lot of opportunity for application,” Johnson shared.

David Advent of Boiling Springs is a high school junior, and he believes the academy was very helpful. “We’ve had a chance to see a lot of application of math in the real world and in our society. That has been very beneficial,” he said. “The whole week gave me more to think about as far as options for a college major and my future career.”

GWU School of Divinity Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Special Events

Individuals who dared to dream that a Baptist seminary could one day be established in the foothills of Western North Carolina gathered at Gardner-Webb University to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the M. Christopher White School of Divinity. Dozens of former and current faculty, staff members, and students attended a luncheon celebration followed by the 20th Anniversary Convocation, held in the Dover Chapel on the Gardner-Webb campus.

Since its establishment in 1993, hundreds of people have achieved their post-baccalaureate educational goals through the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, which also began

offering the Doctor of Ministry degree in 2002. As the school passed its 20th anniversary, over 500 students have graduated with either a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, a Master of Divinity, a Doctor of Ministry, or a dual-degree combination.

Special guests taking part in the convocation celebration were Kathryn Hamrick, former



Dr. Sheri Adams

president of the general board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Dr. Robert Lamb, the founding dean of the GWU School of Divinity, and Dr. Christopher White, former president of Gardner-Webb. Hamrick, White, and Lamb each offered tremendous leadership within the project from its initial conception to its full establishment.

No matter the focus area or ministry concentration, School of Divinity officials remain clear in their message to graduating students. “At commencement, I often tell students ‘You’ve come here to get a Master of Divinity degree,’” said Dr. Robert Canoy, dean of the Divinity School. “My prayer is that you leave here knowing how to allow the Divine to have mastered you.”

“Our graduates are God’s divine representatives in this world,” Canoy continued. “That takes on a variety of different shapes and complexions, and they go and do it as well as anybody I know.”

Watch a recap of the celebration at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/divinity-20th

Students Sharpen Skills with Help of GWU’s Career Development Office



The adage, “It’s not what you know, it’s who you know,” can be somewhat intimidating. While students spend four challenging years earning a well-rounded liberal arts education at Gardner-Webb University, many are not sure how to achieve the demand for networking that can ultimately lead them to a post-graduation job opportunity. Fortunately, university officials understand the importance of teaching soft skills and helping students connect with potential employers in a meaningful way.

Gardner-Webb University’s Office of Career Development helps students assess their strengths and analyze their skill sets as they work to determine the career that is best for them. Lisa Yerrick is the director of career development at GWU, and believes it is never too early for a student to begin thinking about a future career.

“We want students thinking about what they need to develop from the time they come in as a first-year student until they are ready to start looking for jobs,” Yerrick shared. “We want them doing self-assessments right away and answering questions like, ‘What do I want to do? What am I passionate about? What do I get excited over? What kind of people and environments do I want to work with and in?’ So it’s not a service that you stop in to take advantage of in your senior year. It’s a long term approach now.”

Erin Cook is the assistant director of career development. She and Yerrick hosted a career networking event on the GWU campus in which several employers from various sectors (private, public, non-profit, etc.) participated. The purpose of the event was to provide students with a chance to practice communication skills and engage in beneficial training opportunities with local employers.

“One of the things we wanted to do

was debunk some of the stereotypes that are out there and really help to collaborate and brainstorm with students on ways they can be proactive and not reactive,” Cook said. “We definitely see students with a ‘deer in the headlights’ look because they have a lot of skills that need to be developed and that can be intimidating.”

The networking event gave participants an opportunity to interact with local employers and administrators from a wide range of businesses, agencies, and organizations, including the Cleveland County Health Department, the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce, the Forest City Owls, Personnel Services Unlimited,

the Cleveland County YMCA and many more.

“We approached students with the idea of this being a chance for them to learn how to network,” Yerrick said. “We encouraged them to come in with an open mind. We talked to them about the elements of being able to introduce oneself to strangers and gather information. We talked to them about the importance of developing an ‘elevator speech’ in which they present who they are in 60 to 90 seconds. Then we let them loose to practice.”

Yerrick encourages students to get acquainted with their services early and often. “My number one piece of advice to students is, ‘Do not wait!’ While it is important for seniors to begin thinking specifically about some things, we need students to start thinking much earlier,” she urged. “The job market has changed. Our economy has changed, the political climate and everything has changed. So we have to change our approach and we have to be more strategic now than ever before.”



Listen to some career advice at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/career-networking



Gardner-Webb's School of Education Takes Advantage of Technology to Benefit Future Teachers



Dr. Kelly Taylor

Gardner-Webb University's School of Education is excited about a partnership with a company that enables undergraduate students—the teachers of tomorrow—to take advantage of web-based programs that allow for textbook-free learning. Teachscape was introduced to students for the first time in the fall.

"We are very excited to be partnering with Teachscape," said Dr. Kelly Taylor, assistant professor and chair of middle grades education for GWU's School of Education. "We are actually the first university in the nation to be integrating Teachscape the way we are, as we started it with our very first class of students when they entered our teacher education program—their introductory course."

Teachscape, based in San Francisco, Calif., is a leader in delivering web-based solutions and expert services to improve teaching practice, launch a textbook-free initiative, and prepare students for success in the teaching field. According to its website, since 1999

Teachscape has worked with schools and school districts, charter networks, universities

and state education departments to measurably and continuously improve the effectiveness of educators to produce gains in student achievement. Teachscape's partners include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Stanford University, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

"We think it's so much better than a textbook. That's why we felt comfortable letting go of our books and joining Teachscape. It enables us to discuss it in theory in the classroom and talk about ways to apply it—something they wouldn't see in action if we were just using a textbook," explained Taylor.

School of Education students are using the Teachscape's Video Reflect and the Learn Piece components. Reflect is a video-based platform, through which students can use their iPads along with the Teachscape mini kit to capture video of them teaching. This way both the instructor and the student can follow their progress because students can record themselves every time they teach and then upload it to Teachscape. "This enables them to develop a self-reflecting practice and assess their strengths and weaknesses and then we can give our feedback," Taylor said. "Once we've assessed strengths and weaknesses, we put students through the learn side. This is the full professional development piece that is vital to continuing learning and becoming a life long learner."

The Learn component includes online courses with embedded video of practicing teachers who use research-based practices in their classroom. This helps students actually see content and application all in one place. It also allows for communities to be set up online by both professors and students. For example, a student is able to take one of their videos and share it with a group of learners within the community for feedback, as well as with their own peers.

Taylor believes the GWU School of Education can broaden it's horizons through Teachscape, and she recognizes the potential for utilization of the tool outside of her department. "There could be a future for this in other departments at Gardner-Webb, perhaps the GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) program or even the School of Business," she shared.

More information about the GWU School of Education is available at 704-406-4402. Teachscape can be visited online at teachscape.com.



Watch Kelly Taylor discuss Teachscape:
www.gardner-webb.edu/teachscape

LOTS Program Featured Holocaust Survivor Ela Weissberger

Gardner-Webb University's LOTS (Life Of The Scholar) program presented a powerful mixed-media event called Voices Of Terezin, which featured Holocaust survivor Ela Weissberger.

Voices Of Terezin centered on the art, poetry, and music that originated in the World War II concentration camp at Terezin in the Czech Republic. Dr. Megan McCauley, director of Opera Theatre and assistant professor of voice for the GWU School of Performing and Visual Arts, sang music from three different composers who were killed in the Holocaust and held at Terezin at some point.

"I chose music that they wrote during the war," said McCauley. Selections included pieces by Viktor Ullman, described as beautiful and Germanic, using the compositional styles that were trending in Europe at the time. The music of Pavel Haas is reminiscent of Eastern European folk music and is light-hearted and fun. Songs by Ilse Weber were accompanied by projected artwork images and interspersed with English translations of poetry created by children who were held at Terezin.

"Ilse Weber is an especially unique composer because she was not a musician by profession. She was actually a nurse in the children's ward at Terezin and helped care for them when they were sick. She made up songs and sang them to the children while accompanying herself on guitar," said McCauley.

The program featured an interview with Weissberger from CBS's 60 Minutes, showing footage from the propaganda film that the Nazis made in Terezin. Weissberger spoke at the program's conclusion, which was followed by a reception in Ritch Banquet Hall, where Weissberger's book "The Cat with the Yellow Star" was available.

Chair of the LOTS Advisory Board, Dr. Kent Blevins, professor of Religious Studies, who once lived in the Czech Republic and visited Terezin said, "Getting her (Weissberger) was an exceptional effort by all involved. There are not many survivors (of the Holocaust) still living." Additional information about the LOTS program is available at 704-406-4458.



Ela Weissberger



Listen to Ela Weissberger at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/ela-weissberger

GWU Names New Women's Soccer Coach



Mike Varga

Gardner-Webb University announced that Mike Varga would take over as head women's soccer coach. Varga spent the 2013 season as an assistant coach with the Runnin' Bulldogs and has 14 seasons of Division I head coaching experience under his belt.

Prior to joining the Gardner-Webb program last season, Varga served as head women's soccer coach at the University of South Alabama from 1999-2012.

"It is an absolute honor to be named head women's soccer coach at Gardner-Webb University," said Varga. "It is exciting to be at a Christian University that competes at the highest level."

Varga won 121 matches during his time at South Alabama, leaving the program as its all-time leader in victories. South Alabama captured the Sun Belt regular season title in 2000 and was league tournament runner up in 2005.

Varga's success was not limited to South Alabama. He started the women's soccer program at Division II Lincoln Memorial (Tenn.) University. During his time at LMU, Varga compiled a 65-25-7 overall record and led the squad to a pair of Gulf South Conference titles. His team's combined record in 1996 and 1997 was 34-5-3 and the Gulf South Conference crowns were the school's first in any sport. His 1998 squad achieved a national top-10 ranking.

Varga also coached the men's team at Lincoln Memorial, winning 50 matches, helping that team to a GSC title in 1998 and developing 10 All-Conference performers. Varga graduated from Ashland (Ohio) University in 1990 with a degree in criminal justice and philosophy. He was a four-year starter and three-year captain for the Eagles, and graduated as the program's all-time leading scorer with 52 goals.

*THIS IS
GARDNER-WEBB*

EMBRACING WHO YOU ARE

The world of higher education is changing. The value of a college degree has been questioned in recent years, leading to a more competitive university market. Nearly all institutions of higher education are being forced to rethink the way they present themselves to the world or risk getting left behind.

Anyone associated with Gardner-Webb University knows it is a special place. They have walked the halls. They have seen the passion of the faculty. They have all come to know and love Gardner-Webb as a warm and welcoming community. To them, it is home.

But for many prospective students and the general public beyond the region, the name Gardner-Webb University does not resonate those qualities. To them, it is an unknown. Many of them have never set foot on the beautiful Boiling Springs campus, nor explored the opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, professional and online learning. Neither have they met with the passionate faculty or experienced the deep partnership between the University, the student, and Christ.

So how does a small, Christian university stand out among the ever-increasing amount of brand clutter in higher education?



THE GARDNER-WEBB BRAND

Many have said, “More people need to know about Gardner-Webb.” Motivated by that truth, the University has committed to instilling a strong, positive focus on sharing the Gardner-Webb stories with greater emphasis.

To help accomplish this, Gardner-Webb has partnered with VisionPoint Marketing to help them meet their enrollment, branding, fundraising and communication goals.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

VisionPoint Marketing conducted research, analyzed data and competitor alignment, audited existing marketing materials and initiatives, and explored anything else they could about the Gardner-Webb experience. They also hosted a “listening tour” to hear the thoughts and opinions of GWU stakeholders. They met with students, prospective students, alumni, faculty and leadership across the Gardner-Webb community.

VisionPoint’s Vice President of Strategy and Creative Tony Poillucci shares, “It was amazing how consistent the message was from everyone. There was a strong consensus that Gardner-Webb’s focus is always where it needs to be: on the students above anything else.”

DEFINING THE BRAND

When the re-brand initiative began, the question was asked: What does Gardner-Webb University stand for and what can it “own”?

“When defining a brand, you want to highlight those traits that are most compelling to your target audiences, but you also need to make sure these things are authentic,” Poillucci said. “Brand pillars and attributes are the foundation of your marketing and communications platform.”

Leveraging everything they learned, VisionPoint conducted a brand message workshop with participants from across the Gardner-Webb community in order to define the brand pillars and attributes.



Brand attributes are traits that help define the personality and culture of an organization. Gardner-Webb’s attributes are:

- ACCEPTING & WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT**
It’s safe to truly be yourself at Gardner-Webb.
- AWARE AND GLOBALLY CONSCIOUS**
Gardner-Webb’s campus may be in a small, rural town in western N.C., but the University is filled with people who understand how the issues of the world impact them and how they, in turn, can impact the world.

- FAITH IN ACTION**
At Gardner-Webb, Christian values are exhibited through action, not just words.
- DEDICATED & PASSIONATE COMMUNITY**
Dedication, passion and hard work lead to success. You’ll see these qualities every day at Gardner-Webb.

Brand pillars focus on what an organization actually delivers. The pillars at Gardner-Webb are:

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY	<i>Gardner-Webb’s values and belief system are founded on the teachings of Christ.</i>
PARTNERSHIP	<i>Gardner-Webb is a true partner in a student’s academic, spiritual and professional journey even beyond graduation.</i>
STUDENT-CENTERED	<i>Students are always the focus at Gardner-Webb. Nothing should get in the way of that.</i>
SMALL SCHOOL, SMALL TOWN	<i>You’re going to get all the wonderful benefits that come with a small town and a small school.</i>
PREPARING STUDENTS BROADLY & DEEPLY	<i>Gardner-Webb is a liberal arts university that provides students with a well-rounded experience and skill set, while also training students with substantial expertise in specific disciplines.</i>
CHALLENGING & WORLD-CLASS ACADEMICS	<i>Gardner-Webb’s curriculum and passionate faculty members continually challenge students to achieve at the highest level, and it shows in the reputation and quality of the University’s programs.</i>

BRINGING THE BRAND TO LIFE

With the pillars and attributes defined, the next step was to extend the brand into the visual realm. While a brand is much more than a logo, designing the logo was a crucial part of the process. This new logo needed to be more than an interesting design; it needed to tell a story.

Officials decided that two of the brand pillars—student-centered and partners—needed to become most apparent in the University’s future promotional materials, including its new logo. The interactive design process was shared with the Gardner-Webb community, and after input and dialogue, a logo was created to capture the essence of the Gardner-Webb experience.

Gardner-Webb’s new logo is made up of two key parts: the interwoven flames represent the Gardner-Webb student, Christ as the light of the world, and the warm and welcoming environment of the University; while the shield conveys the University’s environment where students are provided a supportive community for spiritual and intellectual growth.



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY

THE FUTURE

Gardner-Webb has always offered much to the world. With a clearly established set of attributes and pillars to lean on, as well as a logo that reflects its true nature, the University now has a brand platform to base future marketing and communications efforts.

“Our brand showcases our vision for Gardner-Webb’s future,” said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner. “We wanted to identify, in a clear and compelling way, what makes our University truly exceptional, and demonstrate the tremendous value of the Gardner-Webb experience. I’m proud to say we’ve done just that.”

While spreading the news about Gardner-Webb’s brand is important, VisionPoint believes fulfilling the brand promise must be the core of daily commitment. “This is much more than putting a new logo on shirts, hats and business cards,” Poillucci said. “It is about living up to the promise made to each student—to keep them fundamental to all University choices and to be lifelong partners through their academic, spiritual and professional journeys.”

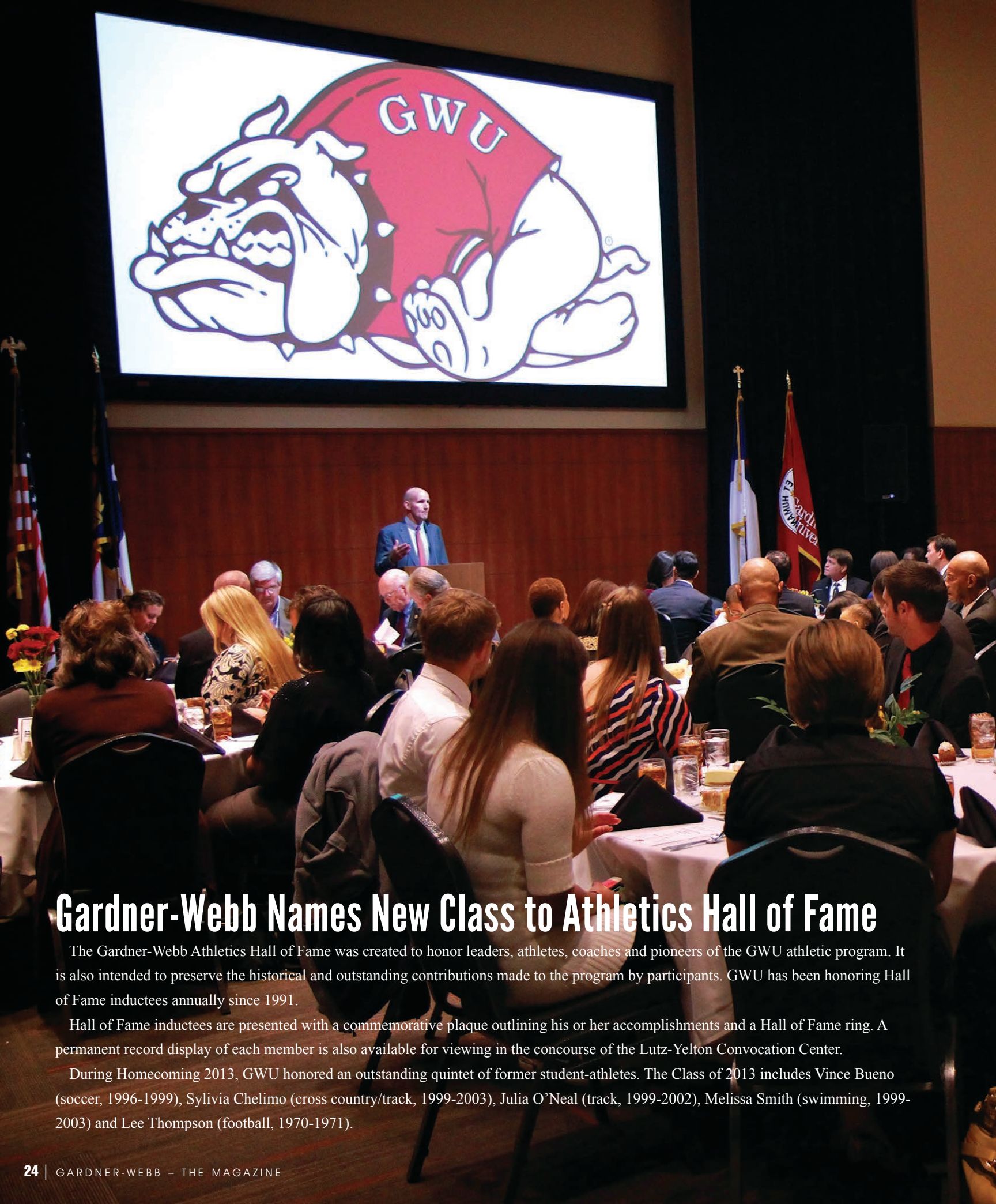




Scenic Impressions

In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.

Bill Cosby



Gardner-Webb Names New Class to Athletics Hall of Fame

The Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame was created to honor leaders, athletes, coaches and pioneers of the GWU athletic program. It is also intended to preserve the historical and outstanding contributions made to the program by participants. GWU has been honoring Hall of Fame inductees annually since 1991.

Hall of Fame inductees are presented with a commemorative plaque outlining his or her accomplishments and a Hall of Fame ring. A permanent record display of each member is also available for viewing in the concourse of the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

During Homecoming 2013, GWU honored an outstanding quintet of former student-athletes. The Class of 2013 includes Vince Bueno (soccer, 1996-1999), Sylvia Chelimo (cross country/track, 1999-2003), Julia O'Neal (track, 1999-2002), Melissa Smith (swimming, 1999-2003) and Lee Thompson (football, 1970-1971).



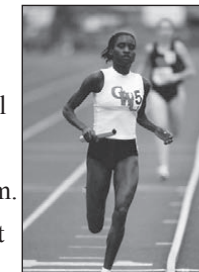
Vince Bueno (New Braunfels, Texas) was a scoring standout during his time with Tony Setzer's Runnin' Bulldogs in the 1990s, finishing his career as the second-leading scorer in program history.



Bueno was a four-time All-South Atlantic Conference choice, after scoring 145 points in his four seasons in Boiling Springs. Bueno tallied 52 goals and 41 assists, and remains the only player in GWU history to rank in the top-2 in both categories for a career. In 1999, Bueno earned first-team All-SAC honors after dishing off a school-record 15 assists and scoring 49 points. His efforts keyed Gardner-Webb to 25 wins over his final two seasons, one of the top stretches in school history.



Sylvia Chelimo (Kampala, Uganda) enjoyed one of the finest overall careers of any student-athlete in Gardner-Webb history, setting the bar in both cross country and track. Chelimo won two NCAA Division II national titles in 2000, crossing the finish line first in both the 5,000m and 10,000m.



She earned All-America status in four different events that season, helping Gardner-Webb to top-5 team finishes (for both indoors and outdoors) in the program's first season. Chelimo also excelled in cross country, winning the Great American Cross Country Festival in 2000, the ECAC Cross Country Meet in 2001 and earning 2002 Atlantic Sun Conference Runner of the Year honors in the sport. She won A-Sun titles in 2003 in the 800m run, 1,500m run and 10,000m run and remains one of that conference's most accomplished distance runners. Chelimo still holds 13 different Gardner-Webb records in Track & Field. She competed for her native Uganda at the 2001 World University Games in China.



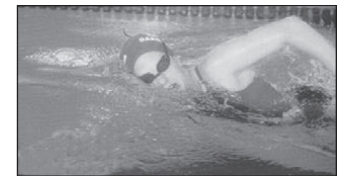
Julia O'Neal (Bradenton, Fla.) quickly established herself as the top sprinter in Gardner-Webb history early in her career, and continued to build on that reputation during her time in Boiling Springs. O'Neal won a pair of NCAA Division II national titles during her first season with the Runnin' Bulldogs, sprinting to



victory in the 55m dash and 100m dash in 2000. She earned All-America honors in three events that season and helped Gardner-Webb finish in the top-5 nationally at the NCAA indoor and outdoor championship meets. O'Neal's victory in the 100m dash came just four weeks after knee surgery. She was the fastest woman in the world in the 55m dash in 1999, running a blazing time of 6.69 seconds at the Tennessee Indoor Classic in Knoxville. She competed at the 2001 U.S. National Indoor Meet in the 60m dash and won an ECAC title in the 100m dash in 2002. O'Neal still holds seven different Track & Field records at Gardner-Webb.



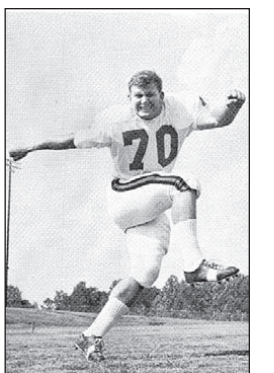
Melissa Smith (Clearwater, Fla.) was a pioneer of Gardner-Webb's success in the pool, swimming into the record books during the program's first season. Smith won the 2000 NCAA Division II national title in the 1,650 free



in dominant fashion, winning by more than 10 seconds. Smith earned All-America honors in both the 1,650 free and 500 free at the national meet, scoring well enough individually to place Gardner-Webb 14th in the final team standings. Smith led that inaugural GWU swim team to an impressive 9-1 dual meet record and a second-place finish at the Southern States Conference Meet. Smith also earned All-Southern States honors in 2000 and 2001.



Lee Thompson (Mabelton, Ga.) was a defensive stalwart for Gardner-Webb's first senior college teams in 1970 and 1971, starring at linebacker under



Coach George Litton. The hard-hitting Thompson helped Gardner-Webb to a 3-0 win over Newberry for the program's first senior college win in 1970 and was voted a team captain in 1971. Thompson became the first player to sign an NFL contract in 1972, joining the Houston Oilers as a free agent.



WIN BY DECISION

Daniel Elliott Takes Life Lessons to the Mat

Written by Paul Foster

When Daniel Elliott stepped into the shoes of Gardner-Webb's head wrestling coach Dick Wince after Wince's retirement in 2012, it seemed he had assumed a role he was born to play. The journey included finding the strength to overcome a serious injury that threatened his collegiate wrestling career. During his time as a student athlete at Gardner-Webb, doctors told Elliot he would never wrestle again, but he refused the takedown, fought back to full health, and set numerous records during his remaining time on the GWU wrestling team.

Originally from Fuquay-Varina, N.C., Elliott started wrestling at the age of six. Coming from an athletic family that included his father, Hal (a football player at Gardner-Webb in the early 1970s) and his brother, Carl (who shares his love for wrestling), Daniel developed into a multiple-sport athlete throughout his early years. In his middle and high school years, Elliott participated in baseball and basketball, but it was wrestling where he excelled the most.

"My brother and I both earned wrestling scholarships," said Elliott. "Carl ended up at Appalachian State (Boone, N.C.), while I accepted an offer from Gardner-Webb. I always felt this was the right place—the right environment," said Elliott.

Elliott's wrestling accomplishments at GWU were tremendous and what makes his success even more astonishing is that they followed a serious car accident in May of 2002, in which he suffered a broken back and was in a brace for three months.

"Doctors said I would never wrestle again," Elliott reported. "When you get something taken away from you, it takes on a sense of urgency, which motivated me to prove them wrong even more."

Elliott was red-shirted. All he could do was watch his teammates practice during his sophomore season. Although difficult to accept, the recovery season taught him quite a bit. Coach Wince and Scott Simpson, an assistant at the time, could see Elliott's desire to get well.

"That season, they provided encouragement in my comeback. The next year, I returned to the mat as a redshirt sophomore. It was like I was starting over," commented Elliott. Early in that season things started slow on the wrestling mat and the competition was tough. Then, a turning point arrived around Christmastime.

"I told my teammates, 'I'm not going lose anymore,'" he

reflected. From that point, Elliott nearly pulled off a nearly unbeaten streak, which paved the way for outstanding junior and senior seasons that made GWU wrestling history.

Elliott's accomplishments involved becoming a two-time NCAA Qualifier, as well as a two-time regional champion at 149 pounds. He finished his senior season with a record of 40-2 and was ranked 10th in the nation in the final standings. Elliott holds the GWU record for career wins, single-season wins and consecutive wins. He also led the team in each of his last three seasons in the category of takedowns and was named team MVP and Athlete of the Year for Gardner-Webb his senior year. Elliott graduated in 2006 with a double major in history and communications, before earning a Master of Arts in Sports Sciences and Pedagogy from GWU in 2008.

Elliott is now in his second season as head wrestling coach. He joined the staff as an assistant in 2008, then served as associate head coach two years, which gave him the opportunity to be groomed for the head coaching position.

"Coach Wince wanted me to be able to do it myself. So, I started taking on aspects of the head coach's job, made it my own, and took a leap of faith with my ideas," said Elliott.

Elliott's team for the 2013-14 season is described as young yet talented, so he hopes they reach their potential. "I don't want my athletes to fail. This experience for many of them is special. According to the NCAA, wrestling is the number one sport where the student athlete is the first member of their family to attend college," he shared. "I want them to be proud, enjoy the process, and not just be goal-oriented. I've always looked at the mat as an escape from the rest of the world when it comes to problems and stress."

Since being on staff, Elliott has helped several wrestlers make it to the NCAA Championships. He has also raised money for the program's new practice and locker room facility.

There have been other coaching opportunities at bigger institutions for Elliott, but his mind is made up. "I've invested a lot here and I believe in this University," he offered. "It's a great place to build relationships that give our students and players more opportunities for success."

I would like to thank you for your generous donations and loyal support to our program. Without your contributions, my teammates and I would have not been given such great opportunities to succeed. My experience at Gardner-Webb has been outstanding thus far. I have been able to receive a great education while also playing the sport I love. I can honestly say I will be proud about suiting up in the red and black and attending Gardner-Webb University. Thank you once again for your support and GO RUNNIN' BULLDOGS!

- *Matt McAlvin*
Junior/Football

A THANK YOU TO BULLDOG CLUB LIFETIME MEMBERS

IMPACTING

THE LIVES OF GWU STUDENT-ATHLETES

The generous donation you have made has gone to fund scholarships that go to athletes such as myself. Your kindness does not go unappreciated! I'm so blessed to be a student-athlete in college. This year, our team traveled to California to play in a preseason tournament against some of the nation's top competition. The trip is something I will remember for the rest of my life. It is the support from people such as yourself that make these memories possible. The bonds I have formed with my teammates and coaches here at school have resulted in life-long friendships. I am so appreciative of all the support that allows me to make memories I will cherish my whole life through.

- *Heather Feldman*
Junior/Volleyball

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Gardner-Webb University Bulldog Club. Because of donations like the one you have contributed, students-athletes like me are able to attend this university. My athletic scholarship has provided me a wealth of opportunities. Not only does it allow me to attend Gardner-Webb, it also allows me to pursue my passions for both golf and science. It means a tremendous amount to student-athletes; these contributions allow many of us to pursue goals that otherwise would not have been attainable.

- *Matt Yelverton*
Junior/Golf



To see what kind of impact you can make as a **Bulldog Club Lifetime Member** call 704-406-4630 or visit us at www.gardner-webb.edu/bulldogclub.



DADDY'S GIRL ...AND MORE

Family Tragedy Leads GWU Student on Unexpected Journey

Written by Alyssa Gutierrez

Continued on next page



Growing up, Kala Cole did not have a care in the world. Having freedom on the family farm and spending every summer there with her loved ones, Cole describes her childhood as “perfect.” She continued her seamless life into high school where she was a cheerleader, a member of the cross-country team, an American Red Cross volunteer and was involved with groups such as the Beta Club and Key Club, all with the unconditional love and support from her father, who singlehandedly raised her. A daddy’s girl from birth, the only thing the Rutherford County, N.C., native had to work for was her own spending cash and gas money. After graduating from Chase High School in 2009, she went on to Western Carolina University, in Cullowhee, N.C., and entered the nursing program. Not allowed to work because her father wanted her to focus on studying,

she continued her stress-free lifestyle and involvement in school activities. It was on May 20, 2011, when life the way that Kala Cole had always known it was gone forever.

“I was at my friend’s house spending the night, when her parents told me that my aunt had called and I needed to go home,” said Cole. “Then my uncle called me and said, ‘Kala, go home now, it’s your daddy!’ and I knew what had happened.”



After driving as fast as she could, Cole came home to witness what she feared most. Her father had passed away from a heart attack at the age of 41. “He was my best friend,” said Cole. “Everyone I knew was already at my house and I was the last one to hear what happened to my own father.”

Since he had no will, Cole took on the responsibility of everything in her father’s name, including \$15,000 of debt, her four-bedroom childhood home, utilities and car, home, and health insurance. With the harsh reality of life after her father’s passing, she decided to withdraw from WCU and postpone her dreams of becoming a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse. She came home and enrolled in Cleveland Community College but they did not offer classes that would help her accomplish her dreams. It was while she was working at Georgio’s Mediterranean Restaurant, in Boiling Springs, N.C., when Cole got the break that she needed.

“[Director of Event Services] Leif Hamrick came up to me and asked if I needed a job,” chuckled Cole. “I told him I was at work already, but I listened to what he had to say.”

Hamrick explained that if Cole decided to work at the Tucker Student Center and with event services, she would be able to enjoy certain benefits. In addition to being a better paying job than the one she had, Cole took note of the benefit that included tuition remission after working full-time for a year.

With her aspiration of becoming a nurse still in limbo, Cole saw this as her chance to make it a reality. She took the job in June 2012

and spent the next year working as hard as she could to earn the benefit of an employee grant to attend GWU the following school year.

Since the summer of 2013 marked the one-year anniversary of her employment at Gardner-Webb, Cole had the opportunity for which she had been working and waiting for. She took the first step of finally reaching her dream and enrolled as a full-time student in the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program. She has managed the difficulty of a full class load and full-time employment but not without some personal resolve. With a strong work ethic, Cole has developed and adhered to a strict weekly schedule that allows her to finish her class assignments and get her work for GWU Event Services completed.

“Five years ago, I never imagined that I would be where I am today.”

Cole, who has always been close with her aunt (her father’s sister), is thankful to continue to have that strong relationship. “My aunt and uncle help me with anything and everything,” said Cole. “But my aunt has especially been there for me; she was the female figure in my life because sometimes dads don’t always know what to do.”

Lucky to have a supportive extended family, Cole has also been blessed to feel the same kind of love from the people at Gardner-Webb. “I cannot even begin to express how thankful I am for the help I have gotten from the administrators at the nursing program,” said Cole.

Her supervisors at work have also been flexible with her scheduling, which is something that she hopes will continue in the future. “As I get further in school, the class times become more concrete, so I sometimes worry about my work and school schedules coming together,” said Cole. “But I know that both sides understand how dedicated I am and hopefully they both will continue to help me.”

Scheduled to graduate with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2016, she knows that she has a long road ahead of her but that the outcome will be worth it. “Five years ago, I could never have imagined that I would be where I am today,” said Cole. “But when I finally get to where I am going, I know that it would have all been worth it.” 🍷

EXPANDING EDUCATION

STUDENTS EMBRACE SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL



Three Gardner-Webb students completed a program designed to engage them in extensive research, and officials predict the results will benefit both the individual participants and the University at large. Megan Frost, Blaire Teeters, and Kaitlyn Washburn each believe their summer research experience will help them take on any challenge the future may hold.

Dr. June Hobbs is the director of Undergraduate Research at Gardner-Webb. She developed the Summer Research Scholars Program as a special initiative within the University's Undergraduate Research Program. After providing resources for one summer research scholar in 2012 (Jeremy Griffin examined the chemical properties of ginger ale), the program was expanded in 2013 and three students embarked on a summer of learning, research, and experience. Frost, Teeters, and Washburn each received a 2013 Summer Research Scholars grant, which required them to engage in five weeks of focused research and provided them with on-campus room and board, as well as tuition remission, if applicable. The students each worked with a faculty mentor, who offered guidance and encouragement along the way.

For as long as she can remember, **Megan Frost** (Crofton, Md.) wanted to pursue a career in medicine. She was fascinated by the human body and assumed that becoming a doctor, nurse, or chiropractor would naturally be the right choice. She loaded her high school schedule with advanced placement classes and planned to double major in biology and chemistry at Gardner-Webb University in order to get into medical school—even though she hated chemistry. “Midway through my junior year of college, I realized that my heart wasn’t in the pursuit of medicine anymore,” Frost reflected. “There was constant pressure, feelings of inferiority, and years of much-despised chemistry to come.”

In an effort to make a change, she decided to major in biology and minor in chemistry, which opened up room in her class schedule. So, during the fall semester of her senior year of school, Frost took her first art class. “I fell in love with the art department. The teachers were extremely supportive and the students were as well,” she declared. “I remember one of the first things Ms. [Susan] Bell told our drawing class was, ‘I’m not going to teach you how to draw; I’m going to teach you how to see.’”



Megan Frost

Working with art professor Susan Carlisle Bell as part of her summer research, Frost examined the work of classical artists in order to perfect her craft and determine if she could combine her knowledge of medicine with her love for art. “I realized that medical illustration could be the solution that would allow me to do what I love without losing the years of pre-med study,” she shared.

“If someone had told me that I was going to graduate with a major in art, I would have laughed at them.”

She discovered the focus and dedication required during the program helped her in a variety of ways, particularly in offering her a better understanding about what defines an artist. “I learned so much not only about anatomy and art, but about the life of an artist: coming in to the studio in the morning and staying until late at night, sometimes even 2 a.m.; just getting lost in my work focusing solely on just what I am doing in the present time; some days even forgetting to eat and not realizing until I get home very late that I hadn’t eaten since breakfast! I gained enormous amounts of practice without the pressures of due dates or time restrictions that taking a class or anything other than this project would have imposed,” she stated. “If someone had told me that I was going to graduate with a major in art, I would have laughed at them and said they were crazy because



Blaire Teeters

I'm terrible at art and I haven't taken a single art class since fifth grade. The Summer Research Scholars Program gave me the opportunity to really delve into the concept of medical illustration. When I found out I had been chosen for the program, I knew this was God's plan for me and that it was Him letting me know I had made the right decision."

Blaire Teeters (Parkland, Fla.) is another Gardner-Webb student with eyes on the medical profession. Teeters is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and was selected as a summer research scholar so she could further analyze how patient death influences nursing staff and other healthcare providers.

"I took Dr. Hobbs' class 'Death and Dying in American Culture,' and I was fascinated," Teeters explained. "People, especially in the health industry, view death as a bad thing when other cultures relate very differently to it. I wanted to try to explore the topic as it relates to nurses in the areas of perceived compassion

fatigue, compassion satisfaction,

and burnout for nurses who

experience work-related

deaths. My research

paper focused on how, as a student, I can suggest a more thorough teaching curriculum of death education within the pre-licensure curricula of nursing school."

Working with mentor Dr. Susan Lane in the GWU School of Nursing, Teeters' goals included conducting a survey for online summer nursing students and to complete at least one publication that she would be able to submit to a nursing journal. She also desired to learn more about the research process and begin to understand what is involved in that aspect of the healthcare profession.

"By far, the most valuable result of the project for me was learning the processes and details of writing a research paper and hopefully becoming a published writer," Teeters shared. "Learning how research began and why there are so many regulations and restrictions helped me gain a new appreciation for my own participation."

Teeters believes the survey component also taught her a great deal about the research process. "Our goal was to have at least 20 submissions and we received well over that number," she explained. "I learned to analyze data and truly enjoyed discovering more about the details of this process."

In summary, Teeters' experience as a research scholar will help her tremendously in the future. "This program really opened doors for me and I look forward to seeing where it may take me," she offered. "This is an accomplishment I am proud to put on my resume and present to potential graduate programs."

"This program really opened doors for me."



Kaitlyn Washburn

Kaitlyn Washburn (Shelby, N.C.) is a physical education, health and wellness major who is already making plans for graduate school. As a senior with her focus on a graduate studies degree in psychology, Washburn wanted to examine whether Gardner-Webb students are indeed at risk of gaining more weight after spending a year as a college student. She, under the guidance of mentor Dr. Jeff Hartman, initiated research into whether the "Freshman 15"—an expression commonly used to reference an amount of weight often gained during a student's first year at college—should be a concern for students who attend college here. Washburn began with a survey of over 100 freshmen in which questions were designed to gauge first year behaviors and weight changes. Students were surveyed at the start and at the end of the fall 2012 term, and again following the 2013 spring term.

"We wanted to determine if the 'Freshmen 15' was fact or fiction at Gardner-Webb," Washburn said. "We discovered that almost half of freshmen students came in to Gardner-Webb with a body mass index (BMI) greater than 25. By the end of the spring semester, over half of the students had a BMI greater than 25. This means that our campus is making students bigger, and given the lack of self-reported strength training activity, bigger means fatter."

Washburn said the overall research process and resulting paper have given her rich experience from which to draw upon as she begins to make plans for graduate school. "From start to finish, my mentor [Dr. Hartman] and I met frequently to discuss the project and work on processing the data," she explained. "He greatly helped me understand more about analyzing data and how to tie every piece of information together. I really enjoyed the opportunity to conduct research this summer and I know it better prepared me for graduate school. I've learned how to be disciplined throughout the research process and most of all, how to persevere."

With a vision to offer increasing opportunities for Gardner-Webb's undergraduate students, Hobbs hopes to facilitate the program's continued expansion. "My dream is to eventually have at least 10 students living on campus and working on undergraduate research projects each summer," she explained. "Without question, these projects are a very important way we can add value to the overall educational experience for our students." 🔥

For more information on the Undergraduate Research Program at Gardner-Webb contact Dr. June Hobbs at 704-406-4412 or email jhobbs@gardner-webb.edu.

"I know it better prepared me for graduate school."



Dr. Doug Eury teaches a graduate class on the campus of Gardner-Webb University.

MAKING THE GR^ADE

School of Education Continues to Produce Award-Winning Principals and Teachers
By Alyssa Gutierrez



Craig Hall, home of the School of Education at GWU

Generally speaking, there is at least one favorite teacher or principal who made getting up early a little easier and studying for tests a little less tedious. Whether at a lecture hall at Gardner-Webb or at Boiling Springs Elementary School, the influence educators have on their students is significant. A combination of time spent together and the educational and life lessons that are passed along in the classroom is what makes these unique relationships blossom.

Although their guidance is powerful, some kids are still looking to get out of the classroom. But at the Gardner-Webb School of Education, there are students who want nothing more than to be allowed back in. With a combination of undergraduates, graduates and doctoral students, the School of Education revels in the opportunity to not only educate but also nurture current and future teachers and administrators of America. Several of these graduates go on to gain award-winning recognition for their work as principals and teachers.

Since taking over as dean in 2011, Dr. Douglas Eury has witnessed the School of Education grow in size and prominence, but believes that it can have more of an impact on the community.

“Our mission statement talks about reaching out to those we serve through collaboration and innovation and working within our department to better serve any constituent,”

said Eury. “We want the School of

Education to be known as a resource for people to improve their quality of life.”

With approximately 100 undergraduate students focusing mainly on elementary and middle school education, the rigorous course load has made a number of potential students realize the goal is not for the faint of heart. With the required liberal arts curriculum, students gain knowledge in a wide range of subjects. Those interested in teaching high school take a number of high level courses in the subject of their choice as well as education classes to become fully prepared in subject expertise. Mandated by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the faculty focuses on not only meeting those requirements for teacher preparation and leadership but also exceeding them.

“We are building our culture to become one of contribution and collaboration,” said Eury. “Now teachers are more responsible for contributing to their own growth and development as well as to their peers.”

By demanding a high level of dedication to their work as well as the responsibility of helping others, the students in the School of Education become better prepared to have their own classroom. In this past year, several Gardner-Webb graduates have been named “Teacher of the Year” by their schools and/or school districts.

Similar success has been seen in the graduate program. With over 1,000 students participating online and at the 17 extended campuses throughout North Carolina and the upstate region of South Carolina, the School of Education is finally getting the recognition it deserves. With Master of Arts programs in elementary education, middle grades education, executive leadership studies, as well as an add-on



Dr. Doug Eury

licensure in school administration, there are more school administrators with a Gardner-Webb University degree than ever before.



Susan Bunch

Susan Bunch and Jennifer Freeman, who serve as principal and assistant principal, at Mount Airy Middle School (MAMS) in Mount Airy, N.C., both earned their Master of Arts in School Administration and give credit to their GWU education for effectively preparing them well for the roles they play in the lives of over 400 students.

“My master’s degree has been very beneficial to my success as an administrator,” said Bunch. “I often have flashbacks to my GWU professors and their words of wisdom as they offered such deep understanding of principalship.”

Bunch, who served as the assistant principal at MAMS before being promoted to principal, took a combination of classes online and at extended campus sites in Winston-Salem and Statesville.

“The module was extremely conducive to my schedule as a working mother,” added Bunch. “I am so grateful that I had such a solid educational experience at Gardner-Webb, and I strongly believe that has contributed to my career today.”

Freeman, who also took classes at the extended campuses in Winston-Salem and Statesville, felt the master’s program at Gardner-Webb fully prepared her for her new position.

“My courses utilized current educational materials, initiatives, and legislation, which I could use immediately in my role,” said Freeman. “[They] gave me confidence to persevere and succeed in this ever-changing profession.”

Both Bunch and Freeman give credit to the GWU professors for their first-rate education, who were not only diligent in laying out their coursework, but also emphasized Christian character.

“The program at Gardner-Webb allowed me to further affirm my passion for serving children,” said Freeman. “Every step of my GWU experience encouraged me to seek God’s purpose in my life, refine my vision for my career, and become the leader I was meant to be.”




Jennifer Freeman

With the success of both the undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Education it is only fitting that Gardner-Webb continue that practice with the doctoral degree plan. The program, which began 10 years ago, is now expanding beyond the early vision. Initially offered only at sites in Charlotte, Statesville and Winston-Salem, today, the degree is now offered at eight of the 17 extended campuses. In its first year, the doctoral program had 20 students but today it now boasts 87. With six semesters of classwork and two semesters of dissertation work a student can receive a doctorate in two years. The relatively young doctoral program already has several former students working as superintendents in school districts.

As Gardner-Webb alumni are serving as teachers, assistant principals, principals, and superintendents, they are having an impact on the communities in North and South Carolina. This reaffirms the positive reputation of the department and the University as a whole.

“We add value to what the University produces from the standpoint that we are getting people in key positions who can also demonstrate and exhibit the name of Gardner-Webb through their performance and their role within the communities,” said Eury. “We have started to build a network across the state and the upper part of South Carolina, which is helping promote and market Gardner-Webb because it is a name that people are becoming more familiar with.”

With all their success, the School of Education at GWU has a bright future that will impact all of the students who will one day be taught by Gardner-Webb graduates. 

“THE PROGRAM AT
GARDNER-WEBB ALLOWED
ME TO FURTHER AFFIRM
MY PASSION FOR SERVING
CHILDREN.”

ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION

Photography and Paintings Offer Revealing Look at Political Science Professor Dr. Michael Kuchinsky

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Gardner-Webb University is known for carefully selecting faculty members who are both experts in their field of study and who display highly developed skills sets. Dr. Michael Kuchinsky is no exception to this practice, and the proof was featured at the Tucker Student Center Art Gallery with an exhibit that unveiled his love for both photography and painting.

Many people are familiar with Kuchinsky in his role as associate professor of political science at Gardner-Webb. But many are not aware that he attended seminary and earned a Master of Divinity at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Ill. The art exhibit was titled, “Through a Glass Dimly—Crossing Borders and Some Sights Along the Way,” and it featured various photographs and supplemental paintings arranged in five subject/concept cuts.

“I believe this exhibit is truly a testimony to the power of the liberal arts,” Kuchinsky reflected. “I am a teacher, turned pastor, turned activist, turned political scientist, turned artist, using written, spoken, and visual word for messaging across a lifetime.”

Currently, Kuchinsky teaches political science from a global perspective. Founder and advisor for Gardner-Webb’s Model NATO and Model Arab League programs, he teaches courses on African politics, Middle East politics, Asian politics, international relations, and global understanding, among others. He believes his artistic endeavors offer him an opportunity to enjoy both a needed separation from—and a valuable combination of—his roles and responsibilities.

“Photography has at times been something I have used as a personal expression—something to just go out for a day and do something that doesn’t necessarily have anything to do with my profession at Gardner-Webb—that is really a treat, a moment of grace,” Kuchinsky shared. “My role as a professor can certainly be discerned through a number of pieces which are political or end up being used in classrooms as pieces of evidence or to help groups in small communities. So I can definitely see application both personally and professionally.”

Although photography has long been an art form through which he has found expression, painting is a more newly acquired skill. “Painting is more recent and I can’t tell you why,” Kuchinsky declared. “I just woke up one morning saying, ‘I want to paint.’”

His mother is an accomplished water colorist, but he primarily works with acrylic paint. His private emotions and inner struggles are often voiced through the practice of painting. “I have been living with cancer for the last four years, so painting didn’t begin synonymously with the start of the disease but has been a part of this phase of my life,” Kuchinsky explained. “There is at least one painting [not on display] in which I have used the art form to rail against the disease. So all of this is sort of a personal extension of who I have been over the years.”



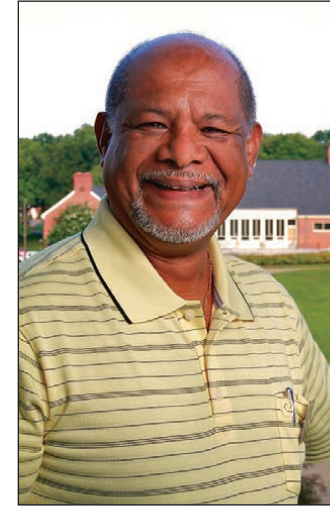
Watch Dr. Michael Kuchinsky at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/art-kuchinsky



THE CUBAN MISSION CRISIS

Dr. Hebert Palomino Helps Spread Christian Faith in Communist Cuba

Written by Alyssa Gutierrez



Dr. Hebert Palomino

Although the Cold War ended over 22 years ago, a long-standing prejudice against religious practice is finally beginning to thaw in the island nation of Cuba, due in part to the efforts of one Gardner-Webb University professor.

For several years now, Dr. Hebert Palomino has been teaching and preparing Cuban citizens to become pastors, and has made over 10 trips in the past several years to the capitol city of Havana to offer his services and to help spread the Word. While the prevailing religion in the country before the Communist takeover was Catholicism, the nation, who became almost totally secularized, is now hungry for the Gospel and has seen a rise in Baptist affiliated churches and congregations.

In 1959, when Fidel Castro and his communist regime completely took over Cuba, the Marxist-Leninist ideology took over as well, and a restriction was put on all religious practice. Cuba adopted a policy of promoting atheism and any Christianity practice was considered backwards, reactionary, ignorant and superstitious. The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution even declared, “It is not good for your children to go to church.” They backed up that claim by releasing studies that linked religion to mental illness.

Since the new communist government assumed that anybody who joined the party would accept the policy and doctrine, all believers were persecuted. New parents were so afraid to burden their children with the discrimination that most of them decided to not baptize their children as Christians at all.

The Cuban constitution was amended in 1992 to make any discrimination based on religious belief illegal. Palomino, a Colombian native, became involved several years ago after he was invited to participate in a series of conferences for the pastors of Western Cuba.

“The main concern at that moment was the compassion fatigue, stress, and in some cases a close burnout in several of the pastors because of the fast church growth,” said Palomino. “Not long afterwards the Baptist seminary at La Havana, in conjunction with the Western Baptist Convention, saw the need to prepare several leaders in the area of pastoral care and counseling. They knocked on some doors and a donor provided the funds for this project.”

With the help of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and other Christian counselors, Palomino has helped shape the curriculum at the Theological Seminary of Western Cuba at La Havana.

“Initially, we started with 40 potential students and after the first module, 20 candidates were carefully selected to continue in the program,” Palomino added. “Close to 15 graduated this past July!”

The new pastors are all Cubans and represent varied backgrounds including medical doctors, psychologists, special education teachers and worship ministers. The average age of these new ministers is 27 years, and Palomino believes that they represent “a new generation of Christian workers.”

“The Cuban people are hungry for the Gospel and I reaffirm that pastoral care and counseling is one of the key ways to reach Cubans for Christ,” said Palomino. “Being able to see students put into practice what they have learned makes each trip exciting.”

Palomino hopes one day his GWU students will be able to travel with him to Cuba and to other countries that are growing fast in their faith but still have a long way to go.

“It’s my goal in the Lord to encourage, challenge, stimulate, affirm and show my students that this world is smaller than we think,” Palomino reflected. “It’s a changing, dynamic world which is inviting us to engage and make a difference with our caring presence. I hope to take my students one day, in spite of the language barrier, to experience that care is much more than mastering a language; it is making His presence known.” 🍷



Palomino teaching in Cuba

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION COOPERATION

GWU & SHELBY POLICE DEPARTMENT TEAM UP FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM
WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

Shelby, North Carolina is nicknamed the “City of Pleasant Living” and officers with the Shelby Police Department (SPD) are serious about maintaining the integrity of that description for its residents. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and within an hour’s drive of the larger municipalities of Charlotte and Asheville, Shelby is a city of just under 30,000 citizens that has faced its fair share of challenges. With one of the highest per-capita crime rates in the nation back in the late 1990s, leaders began investigating new and improved strategies for securing public safety and fostering positive community relations. Police agencies across the country—particularly in smaller communities where traditions reign supreme—often encounter the mentality, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” Such thinking often becomes the motto of a decaying institution, and a leader’s effort to effect lasting change becomes a seemingly insurmountable challenge.

Jeff Ledford is the Chief of the Shelby Police Department, and in late 2011, wanted to begin a process of establishing a transformational leadership model within his department. “We were looking—as any organization does—at ‘How do you grow? How do you get better?’” Ledford explained. “Not only as an organization, but how do you get better at serving the community?”

That question, and the foundational desire to improve the soft-skills of the officers in his employ, ultimately led him to a unique collaboration with the University at his back door. Gardner-Webb University is also a longstanding institution within the community, and Ledford had learned of a customized leadership training program being offered through the GWU Center for Innovative Leadership Development. That’s when he met with Gardner-Webb School of Education Dean Dr. Doug Eury and began exploring the concept of establishing a unique training project for the supervisors of both day and night shifts of the SPD.

“We knew we didn’t want to just be ‘status-quo’ and we didn’t want to be just a run-of-the-mill group,” Ledford shared. “We wanted to be the best we could be for the citizens of Shelby. So that’s what started it. It wasn’t anything bad; there wasn’t anything wrong. We just wanted to get better.”

Eury, who serves as the director for the Center for Innovative Leadership Development (CILD) at the University, strongly believed the collaboration had the potential to dramatically improve the officers’ soft skills such as communication, adaptability, active listening, and critical thinking. The development of these traits is often overlooked, yet can make all the difference in a department’s overall reputation in its respective community.



Shelby Police Chief Jeff Ledford

“We started from day one with the Shelby Police Department talking about what it meant for each individual to get better at what they do, so that collectively, the organization could be as great as possible,” Eury reflected. “I don’t think a meeting went by that we didn’t reinforce the concept that ‘you are a good group—the numbers show that, the attitudes show that, the perception of the community demonstrates that,’ so all of the pieces were in place, but there is always the opportunity to transform that into something that’s even better—and they’ve got to want to do that. If they don’t, they’ll probably stay pretty close to where they are.”

Ledford, Eury, and Dr. John Balls (then assistant director of the CILD) began to outline a year-long training program that was customized to the needs of the police department without focusing on crime stats, arrest percentages, or other “police specific” topics. “This academy was about people,” Ledford emphasized. “It was about communication; it was about diversity; it was about leadership; it was about how you collaborate with a community.”

As part of the comprehensive program designed for supervisors and leaders within the force, participants traveled monthly to the University where they spent the day in interactive discussions on a variety of topics relevant to a wide range of organizations, yet still specific to the daily functions, duties, and challenges of the officers. As facilitators of the program, Eury and Balls witnessed a new level of excitement amongst the participants from the very first session. The officers discovered right away that their feedback would be

almost immediately implemented into the curriculum they were discussing.

Balls said the sessions were structured in a way to offer the men and women of the force an opportunity to explore thoughts, feelings, beliefs and attitudes in a safe place, where there was room to make mistakes without compromising the mission of the department or the safety of the community. “Humble leaders who empower others understand that they must give their subordinates latitude,” he explained. “Chief Ledford understands this as well as any leader I’ve encountered. People are not going to grow if they are on a short leash, so we can afford to make some mistakes. But let’s make sure the mistakes are low-profile kinds of things.”

Captains Lisa Green and Rick Stafford said the entire experience was eye opening. They hadn’t realized the extent to which the divisions had been operating as separate entities instead of in the framework of a unified team, or how that was hindering the overall mission of the department. “Traditionally, we’re broken up as a department into patrol division, criminal investigative division, vice division,” Green shared. “And we all work and do a great job at doing our respective duties, but they definitely overlap. We’re all police officers. I think this is just a reminder to get back to ‘we all have one mission, one focus, one goal, and that is to make the citizens of Shelby and Cleveland County safe.’”



Dr. John Balls



Shelby Police Captain Steve Canipe

Stafford agreed. “Now you’re starting to see everybody pull together and everybody realize that it’s about us,” he said. “It’s not about me, or you, it’s about us. And this department is about us. And this department is about the community. And that’s the biggest accomplishment I have seen. It’s not about me, but what I’m seeing take place within me and within my fellow officers.”

The department’s mission statement was completely revised as part of the leadership training, which was a component of vital importance to Ledford, Eury, and Balls. “The officers redeveloped our mission statement, so now every leader within the organization has ownership in the mission of where we are going,” Ledford explained.



CILD Police Academy graduates

Often, organizations demand their employees operate within a mechanism that in no way capitalizes on their individual strengths and assets. By working together as a team to completely redefine the mission of the Shelby Police Department, Ledford witnessed an awakening that continues to impact the day-to-day operations of the organization. “We had to examine questions like ‘What are we here for?’ and ‘Where are we going?’” he explained. “The new mission is not mine. I didn’t write it as the chief of police. I didn’t come in and say, ‘This is what you’re going to do.’ This mission is theirs. And it’s been amazing to watch some of the transformations that have taken place. There’s definitely more of a ‘we’ mentality.”

As an officer with SPD for nearly two decades, Ledford developed his leadership style by learning what to do—and what not to do—through the example of those who came before him. He had seen the department at its best under the guidance of wonderful mentors; he had also witnessed the internal fracturing that occurred as the result of a finger-pointing and blame-game leadership style. “Not many

leaders have enough humility to say ‘We’re doing well, but we want to do better,’” said Balls. “Chief Ledford took an ‘inspect what you expect’ approach to his team. Through this process, he asked his officers to always begin by looking inwardly to investigate whether they might be the unintentional source of a perceived problem. Throughout the entire leadership training, he encouraged his team to ‘look in the mirror, not out the window’ when they were tempted to place blame. That is leadership at its finest.”

Stafford said the soft-skills training was so beneficial to him, he wishes he had been exposed to the concepts when he first entered the force. “I look back and wonder ‘What if I had done this 15-20 years ago?’” Stafford pondered. “Even as a young officer with no rank, what if I would have had this in my tool belt? There’s no question it would

“THERE’S NO QUESTION IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS BENEFIT TO ME AND THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMUNITY.”

have been a tremendous benefit to me and the citizens of this community.”

Ledford still believes the best asset of the Shelby Police Department is its people. “Through this process, we wanted to try and grow people,” he shared. “There’s no question that we succeeded. The customer—the citizen—is going to see a better outcome because of it. I believe our department is going to be more efficient because of it. We focused on who they were, not what they were. And I think that’s where our payoff will be.”

The GWU Center for Innovative Leadership Development focuses on distributed leadership promoting the idea that organizations need to unleash the leadership that exists throughout the organizational hierarchy, wherever expertise, vision, passion, new ideas, and commitment are found. Partnering with clients, the Center works with organizations on developing individual and collective efficacy driving toward creating and sustaining high performance teams. More information is available by calling 704.406.3030.



Watch a summary of the CILD police training at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/CILD-police

THE DOCTOR OF THE FUTURE

Advanced Physiological Technology Unveiled in New Facility

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

“The doctor of the future will give no medication, but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame, diet and in the cause and prevention of disease.”

- Thomas A. Edison



Gardner-Webb University’s aspiring exercise physiologists and other allied health professionals will be among the first to benefit from a brand new laboratory designed to shift healthcare emphasis from disease management to preventive care. The vision for an advanced human performance lab is now a reality, due in part to the lead gift by Carolina Chiropractic Plus of Shelby, N.C. along with significant contributions from the Nanney Foundation and the McNair Educational Foundation.

Officially named the “Carolina Chiropractic Plus Human Performance Lab” and located in Gardner-Webb’s Suttle Wellness Center, the 1,300 square-foot facility will serve as the main supplement to the undergraduate exercise science program and is directed by associate professor of exercise science Dr. Jeffrey Hartman, in the GWU School of Preventive and Rehabilitative Health Sciences.

“The lab has been established to provide resources of the latest and greatest technology to our students so they can learn how to assess the physiological variables of human performance,” Hartman explained. “This facility is comparable to labs at much larger schools—Duke, Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest—the difference here

at GWU is that every undergraduate student within the allied health field will have access to both use and run this equipment. That’s a privilege I didn’t even have as a graduate student at a larger school.”

A range of data can be collected with various pieces of equipment in the lab, and an individual’s overall physical condition can be assessed, potential problem areas can be identified, and a fitness prescription can be offered that will ultimately improve their strength, flexibility, range of motion, endurance, and cardiovascular capacity.

Dr. Rich Berkowitz and his wife, Dr. Danielle Rogers-Berkowitz, owners of Carolina Chiropractic Plus of Shelby, N.C., believe this project has the potential to eventually transform the scope and focus of healthcare at both Gardner-Webb University and within the community at large. With their gift, the Berkowitz's hope to encourage a renewed awareness about the importance of an intentional health plan for individuals both within the Gardner-Webb family as well as the community at large.

"We always talk about scales of wellness. We are either moving toward disease and sickness and ill-health, or we're being proactive and we're moving towards health and vitality and wellness," said Dr. Rich Berkowitz. "It's a dynamic scale. We always need to evaluate where we are on that scale, and then we need to understand 'which way are we moving?' Most people




are clearly moving in the wrong direction. The lab will help them identify where they are on the scale and then give them tools to begin moving toward wellness."

The Berkowitz family (the couple has three children) practices a healthy lifestyle and works together to incorporate fitness into their daily schedules. Dr. Danielle Rogers-Berkowitz understands the importance of leading by example and hopes the lab will give individuals an opportunity to establish new habits of exercise and healthy eating to maximize their positive results. "We've watched Gardner-Webb grow over the years and we were thrilled at an opportunity to be personally involved with this facility," she explained. "We're excited to see where the students can take it—and not only the students, but also the employees and the community."

For students, the benefits of the lab may not be fully realized until graduation. "The students coming out of our program will be so far ahead of other undergrad students, based on the vision of our donors who instructed us to get the best equipment on the market," Hartman explained. "Whether they want to go into strength and conditioning, personal training, or corporate wellness, these students now have access to objective-assessment equipment that will make them head-and-shoulders above what we would consider our competition."

Currently, the lab is still in the first of four phases of implementation. Phase one involves full exposure to the undergraduate exercise science majors (and other majors as desired). "The curriculum has been redesigned based on the available opportunities the lab offers to our students and faculty," Hartman shared. "The next phase will involve the lab playing a major part in assessing the initial wellness of the University community—faculty and staff—so we can measure the long-term progress those individuals can make in terms of their overall health and wellness."

Eventually, the final phases will include exposure to GWU athletes and finally, to members of the community at large. Hartman emphasized the residual benefits of the facility. "Really, the opportunities are endless with this lab," he said. "It is a gem and we can do so much with it."

The Carolina Chiropractic Plus Human Performance Lab is located in Suttle Wellness Center. For more information, call Dr. Jeff Hartman at 704-406-3202. 

Close to the Root

Written by Matt Walters

*Longtime Donor and Trustee Inscribes His
Name in Gardner-Webb's Family Tree*





Frank Nanney at the ribbon cutting of Frank Nanney Hall on Aug. 28, 2008

To say longtime Gardner-Webb trustee Frank Nanney's commitment to education runs deep would be an understatement. As Nanney himself puts it, education has always been a family affair.



Growing up, Nanney's father, a banker by trade, spent time as chairman of the Rutherford County Board of Education. His mother, one brother, and two of his sisters were teachers. Before joining the Army during WWII, where at Fort Bragg he managed the testing portion of

the enlistment process for new soldiers, Nanney himself returned as a young Wake Forest alumnus to Rutherfordton's Tri High School where he taught algebra, chemistry, biology, and directed the band.

After embarking on what would become an extremely successful career with the Stonecutter Mills Corporation, where he eventually rose to oversee pricing strategies, Nanney directed choir at First Baptist Church Rutherfordton and then Round Hill Baptist Church, combining his passion for music with his love for teaching. He even spent several years conducting and performing with a barbershop quartet.

"I'm a tenor," says Nanney, who also plays the saxophone and clarinet. "Not a very good one, but a tenor anyway."

A Renaissance man and an embodiment of the liberal arts ideal, Nanney was asked to join Gardner-Webb's trustee board more than two decades ago. Since then, he has devoted himself tirelessly to fueling Gardner-Webb's growth and improvement, giving generously to fund scholarships, capital projects, and new programs.

In fact, Nanney's total lifetime giving has now eclipsed the \$1,000,000 mark, landing him in the prestigious President's Roundtable Society and solidifying his legacy as one of the most generous friends in Gardner-Webb's history.

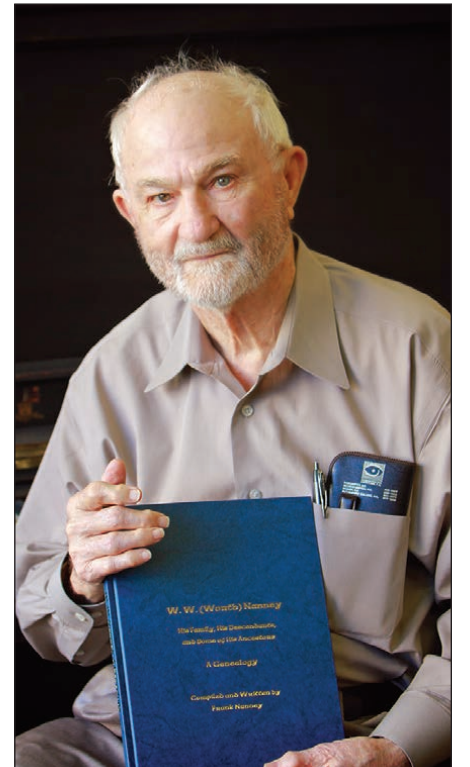
The enduring symbol of Nanney's generosity—and his proudest achievement—is Frank Nanney Hall, the home of the Social Science Department and the Noel Program for Students with Disabilities. Built during the recent Higher Ground Campaign, the

facility is gratefully named for its most generous benefactor, who says the project "tugged at his heartstrings."

"When I learned that the Noel Program needed a new building, and thought of all the wonderful students that program has helped throughout the years, I just felt like I needed to give," Nanney said. Frank Nanney Hall has provided the Noel Program the centralized space it needed for an accommodative testing center, a production lab for alternate text materials, and classroom and meeting spaces that are fully-accessible to all students.

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

"By giving to Gardner-Webb, you're giving to the future of humanity," Nanney said. "You're empowering young people who are going to serve humanity for years to come. That's what the mission of Gardner-Webb is all about."



Like the Gardner-Webb students he champions, Nanney himself is still immersed in the lifelong process of learning. The 93-year-old has just finished writing his first book, a genealogy that traces his lineage from 12th-century Wales to a North Carolinian niece born just months ago. He's thinking of writing another.

Ever humble, Nanney avoids remarking on the scale of his legacy at Gardner-Webb.

"He'd never say it, so I will," says GWU President Frank Bonner. "When Gardner-Webb's family tree is traced, Frank Nanney will find his name carved close to the root." 🍁

ClassActs

The 1940s

ALUMNA PASSING

BERNICE MCMURRY HOYLE '45 AA passed away on Sept. 5, 2013. She taught in Gaston County and Charlotte Mecklenburg County Schools before to Cleveland County where she eventually became the assistant superintendent. She was a lifelong member of Kadesh United Methodist Church, belonged to the United Methodist Women of Kadesh and was on the advisory board for Senior Citizens of Shelby, N.C. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband and is survived by three brothers.

EDWARD CAMPBELL '48 AA has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni and was honored as Junior College Alumnus of the Year. He graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1948 and furthered his education at Western Carolina University. He later established a lucrative career as vice president of sales for Kenneth G. Lilly Fasteners, Inc. Prior to attending Gardner-Webb, Campbell served in World War II and sailed in the North Russian convoys from 1942-1945 with the U.S. Merchant Marines and U.S. Navy. Due to his involvement with the convoys, he was invited in 1992 to the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., to receive a medal from the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Vladimir P. Lukin. He frequently speaks to history classes at Kings Mountain High School (N.C.) and relates his experiences during the Great Depression as well as World War II. Campbell and his wife of 20 years, Phyllis Henderson Campbell, reside in Kings Mountain, N.C. He has one son, Scott Campbell, and two granddaughters.

The 1950s

ALUMNA PASSING

WILLIE ALMA JOLLEY '50 AA passed away on Aug. 30, 2013. She retired as a reading coordinator from Rutherford County Schools and was a member of Prospect Baptist Church. She is survived by five nieces and three nephews.

ALUMNUS PASSING

REV. CLINE BORDERS AA '52 passed away on Nov. 1, 2013. Borders knew his calling was to the Lord and after serving in WWII he returned home and began his ministry by gaining training at Gardner-Webb. He went on to Wake Forest University, Southeastern Theological Seminary as well as N.C. State University and Indiana University. After serving as a pastor at several churches in the Piedmont area he took over the position Director of Missions for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, a position which he held for 18 years. He was eventually elected president of the missions conference for the Southern Baptist Convention. He also served as director of Ministerial Referral Services for the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity and is placed in the Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He is survived by three sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren.

ALUMNUS PASSING

DR. GAYLORD L. LEHMAN '52 AA passed away on Nov. 15, 2013. After receiving his Doctor of Theology degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., he began serving as the pastor of Lakeside Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, N.C., where he preached for 32 years. He gave back to the community after retirement and served on the Rocky Mount City Board of Education in addition to serving as a trustee

at Meredith College. He is survived by his wife, two brothers, three children and six grandchildren.

ALUMNUS PASSING

RICHARD M. YEARWOOD '54 AA passed away on Feb. 3, 2013. After Gardner-Webb, he served in the Army for two years. He went on to complete his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Tennessee and earned his doctorate at the University of Florida. He worked as the Regional Director of Planning for the city of Asheville, N.C., until joining the faculty at Virginia Tech in 1967, where he worked until his retirement. He is survived by his two children and four grandchildren.

The 1960s

ALUMNA PASSING

BEVERLY PONDER '66 AA passed away on June 27, 2013. She was a member of the Clover Hill United Methodist Church and retired as an administrative assistant at Cleveland Community College. She is survived by a daughter, several grandchildren and a brother.

FAREN CREWS '69 AA

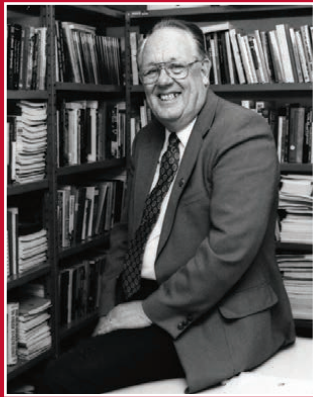
was honored as the featured speaker and artist at The Center for Global Health Diversity Event, held on July 10, 2013, which spotlighted American Indian and Alaskan Native cultures. As a direct descendent of survivors from the Trail of Tears, Crews delivered an inspiring lecture about her life, family and experiences as a Cherokee woman. Crews' discussion also included personal anecdotes about the Green Corn celebration, Cherokee history, tribal culture, celebrations, and pervasive Native American stereotypes.



JUNIOR COLLEGE
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
EDWARD CAMPBELL '48



Gardner-Webb Says Farewell to Gentle Giant



Dr. Lansford Jolley

Reliable, solid and consistent are the words Dr. Bob Lamb used to describe his friend of 51 years, Dr. Lansford Jolley (class of 1947).

Jolley, 86, a community leader in Boiling Springs, historian and a former professor at Gardner-Webb University, died Sept. 16.

"Some people seem to be up and down or struggling, but the natural for Lansford was a smile," said Lamb, former chair of the GWU religion department and

founding dean of the GWU Divinity School.

"His faith was solid and consistent. It would be interesting what kind of church you could build if you had it full of people like Lansford," he said.

While Jolley was a faithful church member, he was also an integral part of the GWU campus, said Dr. Robert Earle Morgan, former professor of French and mathematics.

"Lansford Jolley was one of the kindest, most considerate, and caring persons I have ever known," Morgan said in an email. "I cannot even imagine the Gardner-Webb that I have known and loved since 1967 without his having been a vital part of the institution. He is truly one of the legends of Gardner-Webb."

'Incredible loss for Gardner-Webb'

Jolley had the distinction of being the only Gardner-Webb professor born, reared and retired in Boiling Springs. And in 1997, Gardner-Webb honored him with an honorary doctorate of humanities degree in recognition of his lifetime of service to the University and to the community.

Because he was a native to Cleveland County, Jolley knew many details about the founding of GWU and its history. His knowledge will be missed, said Noel T. Manning, the University's chief communications officer.

"It is an incredible loss for Gardner-Webb," Manning said. "If anybody asked me about the history of Gardner-Webb, I would always go to Lansford. You could ask him anything about the history and he would bring up all these amazing things he knew."

His wife, Cothenia (who passed away in November), was a former archivist for the University, and together they worked to preserve Gardner-Webb's history, Manning said.

'Faithful and Wise Steward'

Jolley shared his knowledge in the book, "Dreaming, Daring, Doing ... The Story of Gardner-Webb University," published in 1997. The book recorded the University's history from the time it received a high school charter in 1905.

Dr. Tracy Jessup,
vice president

for Christian life and service and senior minister to the University, said "Gardner-Webb University is the outstanding Christian university she is today, due in no small part to the doing of a gentle giant named Lansford Jolley who was born, raised, and retired in the shadow of a small Christian college in Boiling Springs. And in all his doing, Lansford Jolley was a faithful and wise steward of Christian higher education at Gardner-Webb University. And for this we say, 'To God be the glory.'"

Jolley's love of history and writing led him to produce other books, including a book of his favorite short stories and a novel. His history of the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, "Visions of Faith," received the prestigious Ethel W. Twiford Religious History Book Award from the N.C. Society of Historians in 2002.

'He filled the room with warmth'

As much as writing, Jolley enjoyed teaching young people. He retired in 1992 from GWU after 35 years of teaching and 34 years as chairman of the Department of Social Sciences. At GWU, he established the criminal justice program, chaired numerous committees, and served as faculty marshal.

Jolley had an intuitive rapport with his students, Lamb said.

"When he was presiding or leading or relating to students he could make it look so easy and natural," Lamb said.

To describe Jolley's relationship with his students, Jessup quoted one of Jolley's former students, Ray Hardee. Hardee, a pastor and former GWU employee, said about him: "Lansford filled the room with warmth that wrapped around like a warm blanket on a cold day. His humility was disarming in places where pride is more common. Every time I think of him, I smile."

Keith Dixon of the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association said many students remember Jolley for the marriage and family class he taught at GWU.

"Lansford loved young people and always had a comical story or joke to tell," he said. "I still hear fellow classmates talk about what Lansford taught in his class."

Community Leader

Jolley was a 63-year member and past president of the Boiling Springs Lions Club. He received the Lion of the Year Award in 1976. He also served as board member and fundraiser for Crawley Memorial Hospital, chaired the Board of Elections in the town of Boiling Springs, chaired the planning committee for the 75th anniversary of the town in 1976, and participated for many years in the town's Christmas parade.

He served Cleveland County as a member of the board of directors of the Department of Social Services, and also the United Way. He had been a member of the Cleveland County Historical Association and also served his country in the Navy.

Written by Jackie Bridges

Courtesy of the Shelby Star

GWU Alumnus Unveils New Documentary

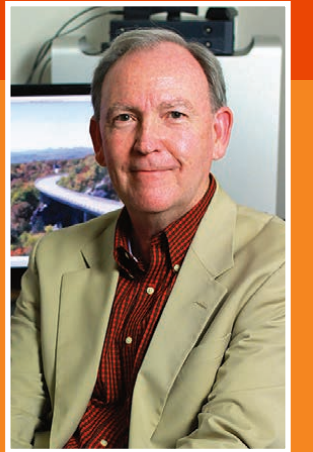
When Bruce Bowers ('68) began investigating ideas for a new documentary, he was not expecting to take on an issue of tremendous social significance or to become an advocate for an overhaul of the country's foster care system. Yet, his piece "Without Perfect Answers," which has aired on several public broadcasting stations, takes a closer look at some of the most inspiring—and the most frustrating—examples within what Bowers believes is a social system with many faults.

"What I like to do is tell stories. And wherever the story leads us, that's what we like to do," Bowers explained. "I didn't intend for it to become a social issue documentary. It just kind of happened. We followed the story, and that's where it went." Little did Bruce know that the story would lead him and his crew overseas to Jerusalem, Israel and an Israeli youth village.

Bowers understands that producing documentaries demands an ability to see the bigger picture while weaving together commonalities within a story. "You go out and you shoot 30 hours of footage, and it's like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle dumped out on the table," he reflected. "Where on earth do you start? What's the first thing you're going to hook on and eventually turn it into an hour? So it's extraordinarily complicated."

The inception for his latest work began while Bowers was at a luncheon in Charlotte, N.C. He was asked if he knew about The Crossnore School, a boarding school founded in the middle of the North Carolina mountains in 1913 to serve impoverished children of the region. Intrigued, he scheduled an interview with the school's headmistress and the result is the documentary "Without Perfect Answers." Bowers' own perception of the foster care system in the U.S. dramatically changed after uncovering the difficult truth related to the needs of children in protective custody.

"I'd like to see a grassroots movement start to take shape out of this if at all possible," he revealed. "Just to get this issue on the front burner for people who have a passion for children to get involved."



Bruce Bowers

The 1970s

ALUMNUS PASSING

JOHN HENDERSON '70 BA

passed away on July 24, 2013. He was the former owner and operator of Henderson's Textiles and Mildew Magic. A member of First Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, he was also a teacher of the Ready Men's Sunday School Class. He was active in the Southern Baptist Foreign Missions, the Prison Ministries of Leath and McCormick Correctional Facilities and conducted weekly worship classes. He is survived by his wife, two children, four grandchildren and two sisters.

SAUNDRA HOWELL GUERARD '71 BS

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She graduated from Gardner-Webb in

1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education. She was a member of the first four-year graduating class at the college. During her time at Gardner-Webb, she lettered in cheerleading for the Runnin' Bulldogs and received the Cheerleader of the Year Award. From 1971 to 2009, she served as a physical education teacher for middle and high school grades in the public school system. During her career, she coached cheerleading on both levels, serving as an assistant junior varsity coach and a head varsity coach. At Summerville (S.C.) High School, she led her team to 12 region championships, 10 lower state championships, and two state championships. She was named Region Coach of the Year numerous times and was awarded South Carolina Coach of the Year honors in 2008 and inducted into the Dorchester District 2 Athletic Hall of Fame. She resides

in Summerville with her husband of 42 years, Pinkney Guerard, a former Bulldog football player and also a graduate of Gardner-Webb ('71). The couple has two daughters and two grandsons.

ALUMNUS PASSING

REV. MEL CAMPOS '72 BA

passed away on June 28, 2013. He was the associate pastor at Crestview Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. After a mission trip to Ocean City, Md., in the late 80s, he discovered his calling and used his ministry to show people how to love others. He was very active in missions and led members of his church numerous times back to his home state of Hawaii to help the local churches. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, one grandchild, mother and three siblings.

Live with Purpose

Miriam Ezell '80 is Author, Coach, and Motivational Speaker

Written by Paul Foster

At the age of 40, Gardner-Webb alumna Miriam Ezell (Madison, Ala.) decided to take inventory of her life and felt it was time to make some significant changes. Within a decade, she had switched professions and authored the book “Listen To Your Heart – She Knows Best,” which offers valuable information on ways women can live their lives with more purpose.

“When I turned 40, I knew without a shadow of a doubt that something was missing in my life, but I didn’t know what, or how to find it,” said Ezell (’80), who then embarked on a journey of self-discovery. “What I learned during that season was that I was not the only woman out there who was searching for more peace, joy, and purpose.”

As a result, Ezell left her career as a CPA and VP of finance in 2008 to form her own business called “Life by Design.” That life transition allowed her to serve as a coach, motivational speaker, and trainer. “I teach my clients to create personal transformation and make healthy choices that enable them to live a purposeful life,” said Ezell.

Through it all, God was a part of Ezell’s life. She remembers when she first sought a genuine relationship with the Lord. Ezell was paying her own way through Gardner-Webb, and while working and keeping up with her classes, there were many moments when she found strength in God. She believes the experience was a very special time in her life because it ultimately brought her to Christ.

Whether coaching a client one-on-one or reaching a vast audience through her book, Ezell gives specifics regarding what happens as mid-life approaches. For instance, when women enter their 40s, they face struggles that include finding more time in their schedule, more balance in their life, and more clarity on who they are and whether they are fulfilling God’s purpose for their life. “My first God-experience happened at Gardner-Webb and I will never forget it,” said Ezell, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

“I think we all get caught up in life’s daily routine and trying to get it all done,” she reflected. “We forget to stop and refresh our spirit, which comes from spending quiet time with God. I encourage my clients to take time out for themselves for mental, spiritual, and health wellness.”

“Listen To Your Heart – She Knows Best” is available through amazon.com, while additional information about Ezell, including speaking engagements and more, can be obtained on her website coachmiriam.com.



SUE HUNNICUTT '73 BA

passed away on August 15, 2013. She retired after 30 years of teaching from Black Mountain Middle School and Owen Middle School, where she also served as Athletic Director. Sue was an avid Owen High School Warhorse Fan, and devoted many hours of preparing pre-game meals for the Warhorses. She is survived by her son, brother and aunt.

JAMES “JIM” WASHBURN '73 BS

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. Washburn earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education degree from Gardner-Webb in 1973 after spending four years as a standout on the Runnin’ Bulldogs football team (1967-1970). In 1975, he received a master’s degree from North Carolina A&T University. He coached in the World League of American Football (NFL Europe) with the London Monarchs, the Arena Football League, and at several colleges including Houston, Arkansas, South Carolina, New Mexico and Southern Methodist. He

then embarked on a coaching career in the National Football League which has spanned more than 15 years to date. He most recently served as a defensive line coach for the Detroit Lions of the NFL and was previously a member of the Tennessee Titans’ coaching staff when they went to the 2000 Super Bowl. Washburn is a native of Shelby, N.C. and a graduate of Shelby High School. His wife, Sandy, is a 1971 graduate of Gardner-Webb and a 2009 Distinguished Alumni recipient. The couple has three children and six grandchildren.

BENNY GARRETT '74 BS

passed away on Oct. 7, 2013. Garrett had been employed as a realtor with the Citizens Trust Company for over 10 years and was a member of the Greenwood (S.C.) Association of Realtors. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, three children and five grandchildren.

JAMES WILLIAM “BILL” ELLIS '75 BS

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. A 1975 graduate of Gardner-Webb, Ellis was a standout basketball star during his time with the Runnin’ Bulldogs. He was inducted into the GWU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005 for leading his team to 97 wins during his career with an average of more than 24 wins per season. Following his time at Gardner-Webb, Ellis was a successful coach for more than 20 years at Statesville, McDowell, and Crest High Schools where he was named Coach of the Year and led all three schools to conference championships. In 2005, he coached his team at Crest High School to the State 3A Finals. He coached over 500 games with a record of 307/196. Bill is married to Patti Ellis, who is a 1978 graduate of Gardner-Webb. The couple has one daughter, Elizabeth Ann. Bill and Patti are actively involved in the community, and reside in Boiling Springs, N.C.



ALICIA ELLEN SCUDDER '77 BA

passed away on Aug. 18, 2013. She was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Colonial Heights, Va., and worked as the children’s minister at May Memorial Baptist Church in Powhatan, Va. She is survived by her husband, three children, both parents and a brother.

The Crossroads of Education and History

Cothenia Jolley was a Conductor on that Journey

Beloved educator, alumna, and friend to Gardner-Webb, Cothenia Jolley (’47) passed away Nov. 8 at the age of 86. Jolley and her husband of 63 years, Lansford, who preceded her in death, had a special bond with their alma mater.



Jolley served 36 years in education, teaching in Cleveland County, N.C., at Boiling Springs and Caroleen elementary schools, as well as Crest High, where she also served as a guidance counselor. Following retirement, Jolley took on a newly created position in 1993 as archivist for Gardner-Webb. She cataloged and researched thousands of historical materials related to the University, and solicited items from the community and alumni that would serve to fill in the historical gaps she discovered. Her goal was to create a location and resource that would serve to preserve GWU’s heritage for future generations.

“She had her hands full performing this role,” said Dr. Robert Lamb, dean emeritus of Gardner-Webb’s School of Divinity. Lamb and his wife, Rhea, were long time friends to the Jolley’s. “I walked through the Library on one occasion and had the chance to see her sorting, cataloging, and labeling some of Gardner-Webb’s history.”

The Lambs and the Jolleys became dear friends back in 1962, when Lamb first came to Boiling Springs to work at the University.

“The Jolleys welcomed us to the community and into their home. I admired them both and witnessed their dedication to preserving history in their community and Gardner-Webb. Cothenia was also active in collecting the history of the county’s public schools,” said Lamb.

Jolley chaired the N.C. Retired School Personnel Committee. They researched and wrote a series of books on the history of schools in Cleveland County. That recently completed series titled “Tracings: Schools and Schooling” covers the time period 1800-1970. It was only fitting that when a new school was opened in the county, it would be Jolley, who came up with the name Springmore for the new elementary school (serving the towns of Boiling Springs, Mooresboro and Lattimore).

Jolley also served on numerous civic and community groups and was a devoted member at Boiling Springs Baptist Church, where she once served as organist, choir director, Sunday School teacher, and in missions organizations.

Jolley received undergraduate degrees from Gardner-Webb and Carson Newman (located in Jefferson City, Tenn.), and earned masters and educational specialist degrees from Peabody College, now a part of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Cothenia is survived by her daughter, Lana and two grandsons.

Written by Paul Foster



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Threading History

Dr. Timothy Vanderburg '81 Explores Kannapolis' Cannon Mills in New Book

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

The history and importance of cotton mills throughout the South during much of the 20th century is part of North Carolina's rich heritage. Gardner-Webb University professor of history, Dr. Timothy Vanderburg, explores the significance and the long-term effects of one of the giants of the early Southern industrial economy in his book "Cannon Mills and Kannapolis: Persistent Paternalism in a Textile Town."

Vanderburg, who was raised in Concord, N.C., has studied aspects of the textile mill industry, specifically Cannon Mills, for decades. "I grew up in the shadow of the mill (right next to Kannapolis) and had two grandparents who worked there most of their adult life," he shared. "My father had worked there when I was younger, and I had a brother who worked there for a while. When I was in grad school, my master's thesis was on Cannon Mills' advertising from 1935 through 1950. My research later expanded to include the specific type of paternalism used by Cannon Mills, why it was different and so persistent."

"Gardner-Webb gave me a good background intellectually."

According to online resources and Vanderburg's own research, Cannon Mills was once the largest manufacturer of household textiles in the United States, and utilized a strong form of paternalism (the policy or practice of treating or governing people in a fatherly manner, especially by providing for their needs without giving them rights or responsibilities). "At its peak, Cannon employed around 24,000 people. In many ways, it exemplified the textile

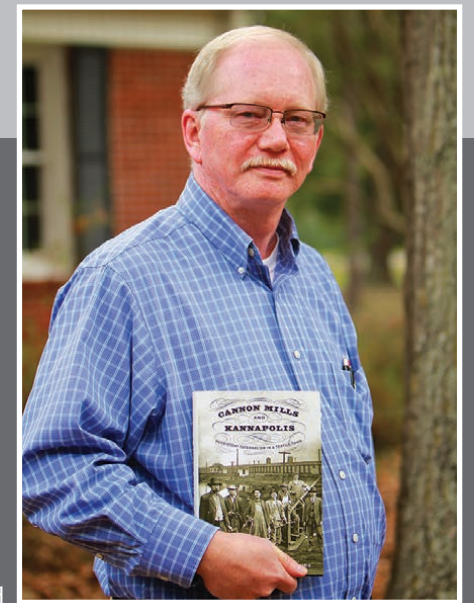
industry and paternalism in the postbellum South," he shared. "The particular brand of paternalism utilized at Cannon Mills was much stronger and more enduring than elsewhere and it remained intact long after much of the textile industry had already transitioned to a more modern management style."

Vanderburg himself nearly followed in the footsteps of other family members, but ultimately decided to attend college instead of working at the mill. He came to Gardner-Webb in the late 1970s and emerged with a bachelor's degree in social sciences in 1981. Initially majoring in Spanish, he changed his major after finding inspiration during history and political science classes, ultimately leading him to a career in higher education and opening doors for publishable research.

"Gardner-Webb gave me a good background intellectually," Vanderburg reflected. "I attribute a lot of my success to Dr. (Tony) Eastman and Dr. (Barry) Hambright who piqued my curiosity in both political science and history. Without my time at Gardner-Webb as an undergraduate, I'm sure this book would not have come about."

Vanderburg earned a Master of Arts in History from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1994 and graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in History in May 2001 from Mississippi State University. His doctoral dissertation was titled "Cannon Mills: A Case Study in Southern Industrialization."

His book is available from the University of Tennessee Press as well as via [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). "Cannon Mills and Kannapolis: Persistent Paternalism in a Textile Town" has been nominated for the internationally renowned Hagley Prize in Business History in 2014.



Listen to Vanderburg talk about his book:
www.gardner-webb.edu/Vanderburg-cannon



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 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.*

First NameLast Name

Maiden Name (if applicable)

Street Address

CityStateZip

☐ **YES**, please include my mailing address in my class acts

Home Phone Number

E-Mail Address

☐ **YES**, please include my e-mail address in my class acts

Graduation YearDegree

Notes:

The Gardner-Webb Magazine reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and space. Please submit only high-quality photos. Submitted photos cannot be returned. Not all photos or submissions will be included in the magazine.

The 1980s

TERESA PHILBECK '80 BA married Harold “Hal” Hoyle on May 24, 2013, at the Gaston Shrine Club, in Gastonia, N.C. She is employed by Gaston County Schools at John Chavis Middle School in Cherryville and Hal is employed by WIX Filters in Gastonia. The couple resides in Dallas, N.C.

OZZIE MCFARLAND '82 BS '84 MA was recently named the Athletic Director at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, N.C. After graduation at GWU, he stayed in Boiling Springs serving as a baseball, volleyball and cross-country coach. He also became GWU’s first full-time Sports Information Director and the Director of the Bulldog Club. In 1990, he took over as Athletic Director and was present for three South Atlantic Conference titles. McFarland took over his new role on December 31, 2013.

ALUMNA PASSING

RUTH MARIE HANES '83 BA passed away on Sept. 3, 2013. After graduating from the N.C. Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, she was commissioned into the Air Force as an officer where she served as a nurse during the Vietnam War. She went on to become a Certified RN Anesthetist and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1976. After retirement, she attended several universities, including Gardner-Webb, to broaden her horizons and earn several degrees. She is survived by her sister, Catherine Hefner, of Hickory and numerous nieces and nephews.

ALUMNA PASSING

SYLVIA RAY LUTZ BOYLES '84 BS passed away on Aug. 22, 2013. She was a member of Kadesh United Methodist Church where she served as an assistant organist, assistant Sunday school teacher and was on the Pastor Relations Committee. She enjoyed spending time with her family, reading, playing the piano and going on family vacations. She is survived by her husband, two sons and a sister.

HANK GUESS '86 BS is currently a member of the Hickory (N.C.) City Council and was recently reelected. He is a 30-year veteran of the Hickory Police Department where he was a supervisor and the Police and Community Together (PACT) Commander for different neighborhoods in the area. He and his wife reside in Mountain View with their two sons.

Jeff Baker '90 BS Named Campus Safety Director of the Year

Gardner-Webb University alumnus, Jeff Baker, was named the 2012 Campus Safety Director of the Year by Campus Safety Magazine for his outstanding service at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where he serves as chief of police. Based in California, the magazine exclusively serves campus police chiefs, security directors, emergency managers, and others who protect universities, schools, and hospitals across the United States.



Baker joined UNC Charlotte in 2009 after retiring from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department as a captain. In June 2010 he was named interim chief of police and then named chief of police in May 2011. Implemented in only two years, Baker developed a plan focusing on community oriented policing, successfully lobbied for more officers, and pushed for more thorough investigations. His efforts led to a nearly 36 percent reduction in total incidents reported. In addition, Baker implemented an internal affairs unit that helped to ensure officers are guided by his department’s mission and values.

“There were so many wonderful finalists and I am humbled,” said Baker. “Nothing is more important than the safety and security of students, staff and faculty. I am a de facto dad, brother, and friend to our community. A chief must be connected to the community that they serve in as many ways as possible in today’s environment.”

ALUMNUS PASSING

BILLY SANDIFER '86 BS passed away on Oct. 9, 2013. A quality control inspector at Baldor for the past 25 years, he was also member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, active in the Walk to Emanus Association and belonged to the Wagon Wheel Dance Club. He is survived by his wife, two sons, three grandchildren and four siblings.

MELONI WRAY '87 BS was appointed by the N.C. State Board of Elections to serve as the Elections Director in Craven County. She recently served as the deputy director for the Cleveland County Board of Elections. In her new role, she will be responsible for organizing and maintaining voter registration as well as overseeing the election process in accordance with the state and county board of elections laws.

THURMAN LEACH '89 BS has been named the head football coach at Garner High School, in Garner, N.C. He joined the staff in 1990 as an assistant coach; helping the Trojans reach two state championship games and three regional championships. As a former N.C. High School PE Teacher of the Year, he will continue to serve in that capacity during the regular instructional day.

DEBORAH MCMILLAN '89 MA retired from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system on July 31, 2013. She most recently served as an elementary instructional math coach with the district. She currently resides in Belews Creek, N.C., and can be reached at debmcgi@aol.com.

The 1990s

CHARLIE FREEMAN '91 BA was recently named the new Career Technical Education (CTE) Director with Rutherford County Schools (N.C.). Before taking this new position, he previously served as the vice principal at Chase Middle School in Forest City, N.C. As the new CTE Director, Freeman will be in charge of making sure the teachers have the supplies and the equipment they need to adequately prepare the students for their future careers.

BRENDA JOHNSON '91 MA has accepted a teaching position at Dillon Christian School, in Dillon, S.C. She brings 24 years of teaching experience to Dillon Christian, where she will be teaching sixth, seventh and eighth grade math.

TERRY MCGOWAN '93 BS has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. McGowan holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with minors in Economics and Psychology, a degree he earned in 1993. For more than 15 years, he has served as a valued leader for the world’s largest retailer, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. He has developed leaders throughout the supply chain of distribution and sponsored a number of projects that have assisted the company in providing the very best logistics service to its stores. While at Gardner-Webb, McGowan earned All-American honors playing football. He is married to Kathryn, and they have five children: Kenbriitt, Patrick, Kendall, Olivia, and Marshall. The family resides in Forest City, N.C.



DELAINA ADAMS SMITH '95 BS, '10 MA

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni and was honored as Alumna of the Year. She graduated in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and in 2010 completed a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership. Smith is an educational leader with more than 14 years of teaching, coaching and educational leadership experience. While at Gardner-Webb, she earned all-conference honors playing women's basketball. She was inducted into the GWU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009. She is married to Anthony "Amp" Smith for 15 years and they have one son, Kamen. The family lives in Roaring River, N.C.

ALUMNUS PASSING

STEPHEN ERIC BROWN '98 MBA

passed away on Oct. 28, 2013. He had been employed as a chef and was member of the Seventh Day Advent Church in Marion, N.C. He is survived by his father, mother and stepfather, and a brother.

MARY FINLEY '98 BS

was recently named as the new Director of Career and Technical Education for McDowell County Schools in N.C. She has served in the district in multiple roles since 1995. She has spent the last seven years as the Instructional Management Coordinator at McDowell High School.

KEVIN PUTNAM '98 BS

has recently been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Gastonia Police Department. He joined the department in 1996 and has served as a patrol officer with the Street Crimes Unit, Detectives Bureau, and Vice and Narcotic Divisions. He has also been a member of the SWAT team for 16 years.

ALUMNUS PASSING

DR. JAMES WATERS '98 M.Div

passed away on Sept. 6, 2013. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Lenoir (N.C.) and served as an associate minister there before his retirement in 2001. Before being called to serve in the church he had a successful career in the furniture industry.

JASON ALLEN '99 BA '13 MA

has been named the head tennis coach at Stone Memorial High School in Crossville, Tenn. For the past three years, he was the head men's and women's varsity tennis coach at Page High School in Greensboro, N.C., where he was named the 4A Metro Tennis Coach of the Year in 2011. During his time at Page, his teams posted a record of 120-15 and won three conference championships. In addition to coaching, Allen will also serve as a Spanish teacher in the Foreign Language Department.

LINDA CARSWELL '99 BS '04 MBA

has received Western Piedmont's Community College's 2013 Outstanding Staff Award following nomination by her co-workers. Sponsored by the Western Piedmont Foundation, the award recognizes an outstanding staff member who has a superior work history, strong commitment to the college's open door philosophy, and dedication to assisting students, faculty and other staff members.

ALVIN COLEY BS '99

has recently named the Chief of Police for the city of Oxford, N.C. He was with the N.C. Highway Patrol for 20 years, serving as a major and Director of Troop Operations West, before retiring in 2012. Before taking this new position, Coley was serving as the police chief of Sharpsburg, N.C., a small community of around 2,500 people.

BRIAN HUNNELL '99 MA '08 Ed.D

has been promoted to Director of Administrative Services for Cleveland County Schools. He has been with the school system for over 17 years, serving as a teacher at Burns Middle School, the assistant principal at Washington Elementary and principal at West Elementary School. For the past two years he was the principal at Kings Mountain Middle School. He and his wife reside in Lawndale with their two children.

The 2000s

BRAD RICHARDSON '00 MA

was named the 2013-2014 Principal of the Year for Rutherford County Schools in N.C. He is in his second year as principal at Forest City-Dunbar Elementary School, where he was instrumental in obtaining a 21st Century Community Center Learning grant for the school, which provides additional instruction time for students after school and in intercessory programs.

TERRY SULT '00 BS

has recently been named the Chief of Police in Hampton, Va. He has over 27 years of experience in law enforcement in Charlotte, N.C., as well as stints as the police chief in Gastonia, N.C. and Sandy Springs, Ga. He was chosen as the head of the police department in Hampton after the city went through a nationwide search that involved extensive public and community input including a series of interviews with carefully selected city and community leaders.

AMY GRAYSON ALLEY '01 BA

recently became the Director of Preschool Ministry at Pitts Baptist Church in Concord, N.C. She has previously served on staff at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. and Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. Amy and her husband, Joel, currently reside in Charlotte.

PAM HELMS '01 MA

has recently been named the new principal at Kernersville Middle School in Kernersville, N.C. She previously served as the principal of Oakwood Elementary School in Hickory, N.C., where she was named the 2012 Principal of the Year for Hickory City Schools.

KELLEY JAMES '01 MA '08 MS

was named the principal at Union Grove Elementary School. He has over 22 years of experience in public education, 14 of which were spent as an elementary school teacher. He most recently served as the assistant principal at North Iredell High School.



ALUMNA OF THE YEAR
DELAINA ADAMS SMITH
'95, '10



Protecting the Little Ones

Alumna Coordinates Volunteer Program for Abused/Neglected Children

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

When Dawn Stover ('01) was in college, she studied criminal justice so she could one day become a police officer. But when life circumstances forced her to reconsider the career she had always dreamed about, she ultimately discovered a position that perfectly suited her skill set and capitalized on her passion for helping kids.

"It was always about children for me, I knew that whatever I did in life was going to have to impact children," Stover offered. "This is one of the most amazing opportunities that I've ever had and I'm very thankful to be in this position."

Stover, who graduated in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, now serves as a program coordinator for the Cleveland County (N.C.) Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program. Initially established in North Carolina in 1983, GAL volunteers serve the best interests of thousands of children in the state who are in protective custody due to abuse or neglect. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the GAL program teaches volunteers how to dig for details, collaborate with other participants, and closely monitor their cases; recommend what's best for the child through written court reports and testimony; empower the child's voice; and keep all information confidential.

In Cleveland County, N.C., Stover recruits volunteers and trains them how to effectively advocate for the children in protective custody. Currently, there are 47 individuals who are sworn in as local GAL volunteers, yet there are over 200 children in protective custody in the county at any given time. Each volunteer commits to at least one case in which they give just eight hours a month to the child/family they have been assigned. Stover believes more volunteers will translate into a higher number of children being impacted in a positive way.

"The time commitment is very minimal, and I will work to give volunteers every skill they need and support them with every breath of my being doing this work," she shared. "I honestly believe this is the one job that I would do without pay because I get more out of the impact my volunteers make in the lives of these children than I've ever gotten from a paycheck. I believe there was a Higher Power who had a hand in where I ended up and I know that I'm doing what I need to do."

In 1995, Stover was a young student at Gardner-Webb and was pursuing a degree in criminal justice. She spent about a year as a traditional undergraduate student, and then gave birth to a precious little boy. Her new role as a mom resulted in her postponing her studies for awhile. When her son got older, she continued to work on her education at Cleveland Community College and then came back to GWU. Still inspired by her psychology and sociology classes, she knew that a police officer's schedule would be too unpredictable for her to effectively manage her duties as a single mom. Upon graduation in 2001, she began working at the Cleveland County Department of Social Services within the foster care program. After about four years, she transitioned into her current role as program supervisor for the Guardian ad Litem program.

"I really saw this role as an opportunity to focus on the children," she recalled. "One hundred percent of the focus in this program is on the child. These are children who may not have ever had somebody to stand up for them and speak for them and just be there for them. Just knowing that a child is going to bed safe, that they are going to bed knowing that they have somebody looking out for them. The feeling is priceless."

For more information on the Cleveland County Guardian ad Litem program, or to find out more on how to volunteer, call 704-476-7821. Additional information on the GAL program is available at www.nccourts.org/citizens/GAL.



Dawn Stover

Photo: Randy McNeilly

Listen to Stover talk about her experiences at: www.gardner-webb.edu/stover-protection

GWU Alumnus Named Regional Superintendent of the Year

Gardner-Webb University alumnus Dr. Marty Hemric '03 MA, '07 Ed.D, was recently named superintendent of the year for his region by the Northwestern Regional Education Service Alliance (RESA) in North Carolina. Hemric serves as superintendent for Wilkes County Schools and has been in that role since January 2012.

The Northwestern RESA is made up of 13 school systems in their region of North Carolina, including Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, and Hickory, as well as the N.C. School for the Deaf. The superintendents of those systems are responsible for selecting a colleague for this prestigious annual award. Candidates are judged on things such as creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students, strength in personal and organizational communication, participation in local community activities, and understanding regional, national, and international issues. Hemric was also one of finalists for the A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year.

"It's a true honor," said Hemric. "Being recognized for district achievement, for my leadership in learning, professionalism, and community involvement is a tribute to the fine people we have in place in Wilkes County. I share this honor with all the students, staff, boards, and communities where I have served, and continue to serve."



Dr. Marty Hemric

TONY WORLEY '01 MA

was recently promoted to the Director of Secondary Education for Lincoln County Schools. He previously served as the principal of Lincolnton High School in Lincolnton, N.C.

DIANA PARKER '02 MBA

was recently named the Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Care Hospital of Montana. The 40-bed, freestanding facility is the only long-term acute care hospital offering critical care services for patients recovering from serious illnesses or injuries in the surrounding area. With over 20 years of healthcare experience in operations management, she most recently served as Director of Cardiovascular Services within a regional not-for-profit healthcare organization that serves 40 counties in Montana and Wyoming.

ANDY POLK '02 BA

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He graduated from GWU in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Business Administration. He was selected Most Outstanding Male Graduate and served as president of the Student Government Association



(SGA), held numerous posts and chaired several student organizations. Following graduation, Polk served as director of communications for U.S. Representative Sue Myrick's Washington D.C. office from 2002 to 2008. In this post, he developed and directed political communications strategies and campaigns. He became Myrick's Foreign Policy and National Security Advisor in 2008 as she served on the House Intelligence Committee. In 2012, Polk earned his master's in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), ranked the No. 2 International Relations program in the world. Currently, he serves as the vice president of the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA), which is the world's largest footwear trade association and represents the interests of affiliated companies in the nation's capitol including Nike, Foot Locker, Wal-Mart, and Steve Madden.

CRISTEN MARIE TRANTHAM '02 BA

married George Saunders on May 18, 2013 at Ephesus Baptist Church, in Raleigh, N.C. She is a kindergarten teacher at Carver Elementary School in Henderson, N.C., and George is a Technology Expert for Apple, Inc. in Raleigh. The couple resides in Oxford, N.C.

ALUMNA PASSING

TAMMIE CLINE '03 BSN

passed away on Sept. 9, 2013. She was a member of the Oxford Baptist Church in Conover, N.C., where she served in the choir and drama ministry. She was a loving and devoted wife and Christian. She is survived by her husband, Christopher, and her parents, Sandra Perry and Johnny Chapman.

CHAD MERRITT '03 BS '05 IMB and KATHERINE THALL MERRITT '04 BA

Chad has helped take over the family business, serving as the General Manager/Vice President of Merritt Marine. Katherine graduated from Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law in 2008 and is now a partner in a law firm located in Hillsborough, N.C.

BRAD ARROWOOD '04 MA

has recently been named the Executive Director of Administration for McDowell County Schools in N.C. His duties include acting as the human resources and public information officer, making him the point of contact for any media inquiries. He previously served as the principal of Mountain Crest Elementary School in Burke County.

ZOMBIES RULE

EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT MEET ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE
WRITTEN BY MATTHEW RENFER

What happens when you cross education with an entertaining learning experience? The result is Zombie College: The 5 Rules of Lab Safety, a fun instructional video set during a zombie apocalypse caused by—you guessed it—not adhering to lab safety rules.

The nearly 11-minute video, produced by alumnus Dan McClellan ('02) and Mike Gentilini, premiered on the group's Facebook page on Aug. 29. Since then, the short film became available for lab classrooms to show as their safety instructional video.

"I think it's very entertaining," said producer Dan McClellan, in an interview with Gardner-Webb's WGWG radio station. "It's very fun, but at the end of the day, I think you come away with those five important lab safety principles."

The idea for Zombie College came about during a brainstorming session to produce a video that would effectively instruct an audience by way of storytelling. McClellan recalled his most memorable learning experiences while an undergraduate at Gardner-Webb as those taught by great storytellers—professors and instructors who told stories to help their students remember concepts and ideas.

"The purpose of the film is to teach the basics of laboratory safety—for chemistry, biology, and any kind of science lab," said McClellan. "Each science class starts the semester off with a lecture about safety, and people usually tune out. If you start your class out by showing this film, I think it'll be a great discussion starter. It's not an everything-you-needed-to-know-about-lab-safety, but we hope that it'll be the catalyst for a good discussion about safety principles in whatever lab you're working in."

The five lab rules laid out in the video—seamlessly interwoven within an action-packed zombie adventure—are explained as the following: dress for lab, PPE (personal protective equipment), chemical safety, safety equipment, and lab behavior.

McClellan worked for three years as Gardner-Webb's WGWG station manager, later receiving his master's degree at Appalachian State in New Media and Global Education. He now works as an Instructional Designer at Gaston College, creating interactive learning experiences for 58 community colleges. He and his team hope to produce educational videos similar to Zombie College in the future.

To view the video on YouTube, visit the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/zombicollege. The film was also made into an interactive game for the PC, Android and iOS, as well as a music video on their Facebook page.



Listen to McClellan discuss the Zombie College concept and watch the short film at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/zombie-college

FUELING THE FUTURE

Chemist at National High Magnetic Field Laboratory Named GWU Young Alumnus of the Year

Written by Matt Walters



David Podgorski

Before he was named Gardner-Webb's Young Alumnus of the Year in 2013—before he was an accomplished chemist and faculty member at Florida State's National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, doing compelling work with the Future Fuels Institute—before he earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Florida State in just four years' time—David Podgorski '07 was...a self-proclaimed average student?

“Oh, I was a borderline B-C student, at best,” Podgorski says. “Academically, I’m not a superstar. I’ve never been the straight-A student type.” In fact, if you expected the opening sentence of this article to culminate in the phrase “an academic prodigy,” then you probably hold the misconception that Podgorski has made it his goal to dispel: that only the most genius, “superstar” students can be successful scholars.

Podgorski recently worked to topple that misconception when he visited Gardner-Webb as a distinguished guest lecturer this fall. “When I started at Gardner-Webb—even after I became a chemistry major—I never thought I could go to graduate school,” he told students. “I didn’t even start applying until the spring semester of my senior year, much later than most students start applying.”

So, what changed his mind? Podgorski gives credit first to his family for challenging and encouraging him. He and his wife, Colette (also a Gardner-Webb alumna), met and were married on campus in Boiling Springs. Academically, though, Podgorski says his relationships with professors—relationships that form what Podgorski calls the “core” of the Gardner-Webb experience—made all the difference.


“The professors here believed in me and challenged me to believe in myself. They played the role of cheerleader and coach,” said Podgorski. “They boosted my self-esteem.” Podgorski insists that the practical lessons his professors taught him about graduate study—how to handle the workload, how to choose an advisor, how to conduct long-term research projects—were the secret not only to his getting accepted, but to his finishing the Ph.D. in just four years.

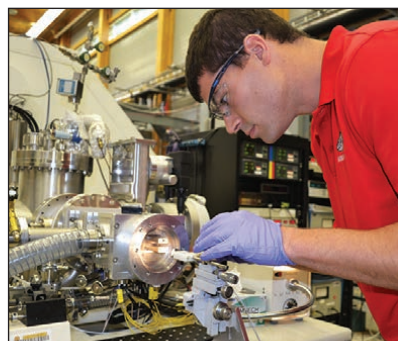
“I give our professors a lot of credit for my success,” Podgorski continued. “At larger institutions your professors might not even know you. Here [at Gardner-Webb], the lasting relationships between professors and students are what make us unique and worthwhile.”

Today, Podgorski works as a chemist at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory—the “Magnet Lab” for short—where he was offered a postdoc appointment and then a full-time faculty position after completing his own graduate work. Podgorski and his colleagues use chemical separations methods and mass spectrometry to help petroleum companies engineer better, more sustainable fuels. He also does environmental work to analyze the fate of petroleum in spills, like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. A faculty member now himself, Podgorski mentors current undergraduate and graduate students, paying forward the relational gifts that Gardner-Webb's professors invested in him.

One of Podgorski's colleagues at the Magnet Lab is Jackie Jarvis '08, another GWU alumnus whose work was featured in the Gardner-Webb Magazine several issues ago. “We sort of have a mini-pipeline from Gardner-Webb to Florida State,” says Podgorski, speaking of himself, Jarvis (who recently finished her Ph.D. in chemistry) and Alesha Shorts, another GWU alumna who recently began graduate work in chemistry at Florida State. Podgorski challenged today's Gardner-Webb students to capitalize on that pipeline and join him at FSU.

Ultimately, whether it's Florida State or some other graduate school or professional destination they pursue, Podgorski hopes his story will inspire other students to dare to dream bigger—especially those who don't necessarily fit the “honors student” mold.

“This is how I can give back,” Podgorski says. “I know what it's like to not feel like the brightest student in the class. I was there. But I want students to know that, if they're willing to work hard, they can accomplish something tremendous.” 



YOUNG ALUMNUS
OF THE YEAR
DAVID PODGORSKI '02



GW-YOU

Having lost my mom when I was four, and then my father as a teenager, I've had to deal with grief on two completely different levels. Without going into a career in counseling, nothing I've experienced would make any sense. Instead, every hardship I've encountered has played a role in shaping who I am today and what I do professionally, and it's my hope that I'm becoming the person God wants me to be. The knowledge I've gained at Gardner-Webb has become a part of me, so it will never really stop. I'll not only use these lessons as a professional counselor, but I'll carry them with me for the rest of my life.

Jesse Roberts
Graduate Student
Mental Health and School Counseling

ADAM DUNN '04 BS

was recently named the 2013-2014 Davidson County (N.C.) Schools Teacher of the Year. A seventh-grade science teacher at Central Davidson Middle School (CDMS), he is the co-director of the 21st century after school program and hopes to start a Science Olympiad team this academic year. He began teaching at CDMS in 2010 and has plans to continue educating young minds and apply to become a National Board Certified teacher.

WAYNE HYATT '05 D. Min

previously served as the Executive Director and Program Director at Westgate Training and Consultation Network in Spartanburg, S.C. In January 2011, he opened up Wayne Hyatt Counseling, LLC, a private practice that serves couples, families and groups in the Spartanburg area. Hyatt is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Family Therapy Supervisor, serving clients of all ages with a variety of mental illnesses and issues. He can be reached by email at wayne.hyatt@charter.net.

NICK KULICK '05 BS AND NICOLE KULICK '05 BA

welcomed their beautiful daughter, Noelle Lauren Kulick, who was born July 16, 2013. She weighed 7lbs. 5oz.

STACIE REICHERT SMITH '05 BS

and her husband, Tyler, welcomed a handsome baby boy, Gabriel Charles, on Aug. 20, 2013. He weighed 8lbs 15.5oz.

RICHARD KIM ELLIS, JR. '06 B.S., '08 M.B.A

married McKenzie Elizabeth Stevens on Aug. 24, 2013 at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. Ellis is an Associate at The Teague Group specializing in personal financial services. The couple resides in Charlotte.

HEATHER SELF '06 MA

was recently named the principal of Marion Elementary in Shelby, N.C. She has served several Cleveland County area schools as a teacher and assistant principal. For the past four years, she has been serving as an administrator at Burns Middle School.

MELISSA ANN SPACH '06 BS

married Andrew Ross Lail on Jun 29, 2013 at Farmington Methodist Church, in Farmington, N.C. The bride was formerly employed by Salem Family Practice in Winston-Salem, N.C. and the groom is the owner and operator of S&L Riverside Dairy. The couple resides in Vail, N.C.

RACHEL ZAIONZ '06 Ed.D

was named the Knapolis City Schools' 2013-2014 Principal of the Year. The principal at Shady Brook Elementary School in Knapolis, N.C., since 2006, she led the school to become the first North Carolina School to be nationally recognized as a Professional Learning Community. She has previously taught in Cleveland County, Gaston County and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

SUSAN BUNCH '07 MA

has recently been named the principal at Mount Airy Middle School, in Mount Airy N.C. She began her educational career in Iredell-Statesville Schools, where she taught middle school math for four years. Before accepting this new position she recently served as assistant principal for the middle school since 2007. She is the mother of two sons, Evan and Cameron.

JERI KATHERINE WARDEN SIPES '07 BA

is the United Methodist Pastor at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Columbia, S.C. After Gardner-Webb, she graduated from Boston Seminary and married the love of her life, Hiram Sipes, in 2011. She now works with college students from USC and led a team of 12 on a mission trip to the Bahamas to help build houses through Habitat for Humanity. Jeri and Hiram currently reside in Columbia with their two dogs, Zip and Nova.

BRYANT KEITH WHITAKER '07 MA

was recently named the principal at West Pender Middle School, in Burgaw, N.C. He has previously served as principal in Davie, Randolph and Cabarrus County Schools. His other experiences include serving as assistant principal, athletic director, social studies teacher and department chair. He is also a national certified athletic administrator.

DR. JONATHAN AHEARN '08 BS

is the newest physical therapist at Cleveland Physical Therapy Associates & Prescription Fitness, in Shelby, N.C. After school at GWU, he went on to the Medical University of South Carolina where he received a Physical Therapy doctoral degree and also received his certification as a strength and conditioning specialist. He and his wife, Victoria, reside in Cleveland County.

JENNIFER FREEMAN '08 MA

was recently named the assistant principal of Mount Airy Middle School, in Mount Airy, N.C. She was the assistant principal for Jones Intermediate School from 2007-2011, and this past year served as the choral director at Mount Airy Middle. She and her husband, Justin, have one daughter, Addison.

JESSICA DAWN FREEMAN '08 BS

married Aric Norby on May 15, 2013, at Frenchman's Resort, in Tortolla, British Virgin Islands. She is a major accounts manager with Micro D and an account executive with Curtis Media Group and Aric is a cost estimator/manager with Caudill's Electric. The couple resides in Winston-Salem, N.C.

SARAH MAIER '08 MA

was recently named the assistant principal at Davis-Townsend Elementary School, in Lexington, N.C. She most recently served as the district lead teacher in the central office for the school district and was the assistant principal during the 2011-2012 school year for both Pilot and Friendship elementary schools.

KATHY ALMOND '82 AAS '09 BS

has been named the new president and CEO of the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce. For the past three years, she has served as the executive director of the Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation. She is also very active in the community serving on the board of directors for United Way of Stanly County, Stanly County Arts Council and Stanly County Habitat for Humanity.

DR. GEORGE B. JACKSON '09 D.Min has published his first book, “Tears of a Clown: Memoirs of a Gospel Preacher.” It is a collection of sermons and newspaper articles from the past 12 years that he felt would serve as an inspiration to community members, as well as clergy. It is the first volume of the six he has planned. It is available for purchase at *amazon.com* or at the bookstore of Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship Church, in Thomasville, N.C., where Jackson is the founding pastor. Jackson is the president and co-founder of United Cornerstone School of Divinity.

BRANDON SCOTT LYON '09 BS was married to Kayla Lauren Trivette on June 1, 2013 at Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University, in Winston-Salem, N.C. He is employed with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and his bride is currently attending the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. The couple resides in Vanceboro, N.C.

The 2010s

CHRISTA FULLWOOD '10 BA was recently named the assistant softball coach at Gardner-Webb. After ending her record-breaking softball career at GWU, she went on to use her fifth year of NCAA eligibility playing basketball at Wake Tech in Raleigh, N.C. For the past two years, she has been serving as the graduate assistant for the Frostburg State (Md.) University softball team.

DENNIS HUTCHENS '10 BS was named Chief of the Fire Department in Statesville, N.C. He has been a member of the Statesville Fire Dept. for 26 years, spending 20 of them as an officer. Since 2008, he has been in charge of administration and has served as the interim chief.

BRYAN PASLEY '10 MA was recently named the principal at Troutman Middle School, in Troutman, N.C. He previously served as the assistant principal at South Iredell High School

(SIHS), where he was heavily involved in the SIHS Success Academy – a program that helps ease the transition from middle school to high school for incoming freshman.

CINDY BOOMHOWER '11 BS has recently graduated with a Master of Education degree from the University of North Georgia and has accepted a teaching position at Savannah Christian School in Savannah, Ga. She is teaching sixth grade English as well as serving as the assistant coach for the high school varsity softball team.

RANDY SCOTT MANN '11 Ed.D was named the assistant principal at West Caldwell High School in Lenoir, N.C. He most recently served as an assistant principal for the Cherokee County Schools in Murphy, N.C.

TODD MARTIN '11 Ed.D was recently named the superintendent by the Yadkin County Board of Education. He has served in many roles including principal, assistant principal and most recently was the assistant superintendent of Stoke County Schools.

LYNETTA SIDES-WITHERSPOON '11 MA was recently honored as the Charlotte Post Foundation’s Top Teacher for 2013. She has taught fourth and fifth grades for the past 12 years at Westerly Hills Academy School.

TAKEDA LEGRAND, '12 Ed.D has been named the Chief Accountability & Quality Officer for Montgomery County Schools in N.C. She has served in various education roles in public schools, public health facilities, community colleges and at the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction as an educator.

GORDON PALMER '12 MA was recently named the principal at West Iredell High School, in Statesville, N.C. He has served as the assistant principal at the school since 2011 and was previously a history teacher at Statesville High School.

AUSTIN SARGENT '12 BS is now living his dream as a Ninety Six High School (S.C.) football coach and teacher. He returns to his alma mater as a linebacker coach after a successful four-year career at GWU.

DAVID R. CASH '13 MA was recently named the assistant principal at Heide Trask High School, in Rocky Point, N.C. He previously served as an Intervention and Student Support Coordinator in New Hanover County schools and has also worked in Guilford County schools as a graduation coach and social studies teacher.

ANDREW PRESTON CORLEY '13 M.Div married Meghan Raye King on July 6, 2013 at First Baptist Church in Laurens, N.C. The bride is employed at Boiling Springs Baptist Church Day Care and the groom is currently the Youth Director at Zion Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON '13 M.Div AND MELINDA MCNEELY '13 M.Div were united in marriage on September 21, 2013, at New Hope Presbyterian Church, in Gastonia, N.C. Melinda is currently employed by Crossroads Worldwide and Christopher is the graduate residence director at Gardner-Webb.

THOMAS S. THARP '13 M.Div recently became the new pastor at Adams Baptist Church in Adams, N.Y. He previously served as a youth minister and interim pastor at Mountain Grove Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C., and before that had a career in television news production. He and his wife, Katie, reside in Adams.

THERESA WHITLEY '13 MA was recently named as a finalist for the Nash-Rocky Mount Teacher of the Year award. She currently teaches English, math, science and social studies for students in grades 3-5 at D.S. Johnson Elementary School.

Canine Certified

Tucker Usher '(12) Finds New Life Through Therapy

Written by Alyssa Gutierrez

Dogs have always been known as man’s best friend. Most people see them as loving pets, playful companions and a source of unconditional love, but Chelsea Usher ('12) views dogs as an opportunity to help those in need. After completing a project in high school about Leader Dogs for the Blind, Usher knew this was something that she wanted to pursue in college. Coming to Gardner-Webb as a freshman in the fall of 2008, she inquired about the possibility of training a future Leader Dog for the Blind on campus, but was turned down.

“My sophomore year, [biology professor] Dr. Tom Jones suggested I go straight to President Bonner and ask him for permission, so I did,” said Usher. “Dr. Bonner allowed me to go before the senior staff in the spring of 2010 and it was approved!”

After waiting on the list to become a trainer her entire junior year at GWU, Usher finally picked up her future leader dog, Tucker, in June 2011. Now in charge of teaching him basic obedience and public behavior techniques, Usher was excited to train Tucker but knew it was going to be challenging in an academic setting.

“It was hard at first because at school other students did not know that he was there to work,” she said. “They would try to pet him or call him from a distance which can be very distracting and hard for a puppy to ignore.”

Persevering against naysayers and trying to balance a full school load, along with Tucker’s training, Usher began to treasure her friends and supportive professors.

She worked hard with Tucker, purposely putting him in uncomfortable and random situations so that when he was a leader dog in crowded places, new people or amusing objects would not have an effect on him. He was a regular at campus events and even had better class attendance than some of the human students. When Usher was honored as Who’s Who Among Students In American Universities and Colleges, Tucker also received a “Who’s Who” award for four-legged friends. “I was so shocked and excited when that happened,” said Usher. “That really showed me that I did have people’s support.”

Tucker finished his training with Usher in summer 2012 and he went back to leader dog headquarters to complete the last phase before becoming a full-fledged Leader Dog for the Blind. Although prepared for this phase, Tucker’s friendly and rambunctious personality made it difficult for him to concentrate when there were a lot of people around. Because of that, he was unable to advance to the final stage of training and become a certified Leader Dog for the Blind.

“In October 2012, they called me and said Tucker was a great dog but he was sometimes too easily distracted,” said Usher. “They offered to let me keep him and of course I jumped at the opportunity.”

After spending a year with Chelsea as a normal pet, he was recently certified as a therapy dog through Therapy Dogs International. Usher is excited about Tucker’s certification, which gives him the opportunity to visit nursing homes, hospitals and other institutions where a dog can provide comfort.

“Tucker made such an incredible impact on such a wide variety of people during his time at Gardner-Webb, and he continues to educate and impress here in Winston-Salem,” said Usher.

Unaware of the full impact of Tucker’s presence at Gardner-Webb until he left, Usher now realizes that together they broke down walls and helped pave the way for the increase of service dogs on campus. While she says that training Tucker was one of the hardest things she has ever done in her life, Usher never regrets one moment she had with him as a student and she is eager to continue giving back to the community with her best friend.



Chelsea Usher & Tucker

PICTURE PERFECT

ALUMNA TEACHES PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS IN POVERTY-STRICKEN NATIONS
BY: NIKI BLISS-CARROLL



The joy captured on the little girl's face in the photograph is contagious, and upon viewing her immediate surroundings, the resulting juxtaposition is difficult to process. The child, though dirt-smudged and surrounded by the

squalor of a trash heap, radiates laughter and a spirit of gladness that is somewhat hard to comprehend.

Gardner-Webb alum Kate Gazaway ('08) did not take the photo, but she is responsible for the images captured. Gazaway is the founder of a non-profit organization known simply as "Picture Change," which teaches basic photography skills and provides donated equipment to impoverished people (mostly women and children) in under-developed countries including Nicaragua and India. A former student of Gazaway's, Nicaraguan translator Rosa, snapped the shot of the laughing child in the dump. "I am in awe and sometimes shock as I look through Rosa's stunning work," Gazaway shared. "This photo of a girl named Velma who we met while in Limonal (a landfill village outside the city of Chinandega) is particularly striking."

Gazaway said that Rosa has developed a relationship with Velma's family and others in the village and has taken many beautiful photos over the past two years. "Rosa is Nicaraguan just like they are and the interactions and culture she captures are simply magnificent," she explained. "I couldn't be more proud of or humbled to know Rosa and see the impact she is having on her community and the world with her photography. She is changing the perspective on people in poverty: to not just see poverty, but to see people. And that is the point of Picture Change."

Picture Change is a non-profit organization developed by Gazaway in 2011 with the goal of inspiring women and children to discover self-confidence, innate creativity, and their ability to create change in their community through photography. "Our motto is, 'You are important because you exist, and you are not defined by your circumstances,'" she reflected. Many of her students have endured hardships and trials from which recovering would be difficult. Yet, by offering them a different way to view their communities—and themselves—her students discover that they too have a gift they can share.

Gazaway's own journey toward photography held many twists and turns, and after spending two years studying journalism and interpersonal communication, she arrived at Gardner-Webb and began to focus on photography. Under the leadership of Dr. Bob Carey, an award-winning photographer and chair of the GWU Communications and New Media department, she said she began to understand the vast career opportunities within the realm of creative photos. Following two international trips in which she further explored photojournalism, a new idea began to take shape. That's when she established Picture Change.

"After visiting an Indian orphanage, I realized that I hated taking pictures and leaving," she shared. "I wanted to stay and offer more of a lasting impact." In 2009, she began teaching basic photography skills in countries where most of her students had never seen their own photograph, let alone been trusted with an expensive camera. Immediately, Gazaway began to see a new kind

of hope emerge within her students. "One of my students, Mongola, was tricked and then trapped in a brothel in India for years," Gazaway said. "Many others have similar stories. Because they don't know how to read or write, photography becomes a wonderful form of expression and creativity for them."

With a desire to teach her students that they matter and they each have something special to contribute, Gazaway emphasizes community service. "We have a community 'give-back' day in which we show students how they can use their gifts to give back to their communities," she said. "We locate a gallery where students can exhibit their work. And we want them to continue to use photography to benefit the towns and villages in which they live, long after we leave."

Although she is not yet 30 years old, Gazaway has learned at least one lifelong lesson. "I know now not to be timid with my gift," she offered. "I'm not claiming to be the best teacher or the best photographer because I know I'm not. But just because you're not the best at something doesn't mean you shouldn't share it. Everyone has a gift they can share."

Gazaway is available to speak to groups and organizations about Picture Change. For additional information, visit picture-change.org or email info@picture-change.org.

 Listen to Gazaway talk about her experiences at: www.gardner-webb.edu/picture-perfect



Where
are they
Now?

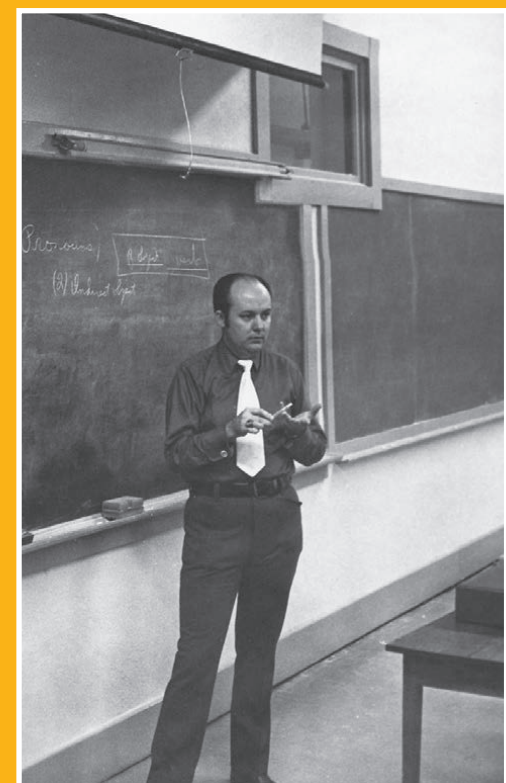
The Human Experience

Written by Paul Foster

You don't often think of someone at the age of 78 years as being young, but if you spend much time around the infectious personality of Dr. Bob Morgan, a man full of life and vitality, you just might change your mind. The former do-it-all professor at Gardner-Webb not only chaired the Department of Foreign Languages, but also taught French, mathematics and literature before retiring in 1998 after 31 years of service.

Since retiring, Morgan has pursued one of his true loves—traveling—and has taken it to a global magnitude that many of us could only dream.

"I've been on seven continents and visited 50 nations from 1998 to 2006," said Morgan.



Dr. Bob Morgan

"The last continent I visited was Antarctica.

Then, in January of 2013, I decided to visit

India, where I rode an elephant for the fun of it." His all-time favorite place to visit is no

surprise: Paris, France tops Morgan's 'Best of Trips' list. "France has had such an influence in the world when it comes to the arts, literature, and fashion," he explained. "Then, it has such an important place in the diplomatic world and even theology. I got to visit the Notre Dame Cathedral on Good Friday, which is one of the few times of year when the relics (representing the crucifixion of Christ) are presented to visitors. I saw things like the Holy Nail, the Crown of Thorns, and the Sponge." The cathedral is considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture and among the largest and most well-known church buildings in the world.

One thing that stands out about the Rutherford County, N.C., native is that he feels at home in Green Hill (population under 2,500) and walking the streets of Paris among thousand and thousands, and loves to take time to hear the personal stories of people of all backgrounds.

"I always wanted my students to leave my class and Gardner-Webb with two things; intellectual humility and curiosity. Humility means to listen to everything someone else has to say whether a business leader or a custodian. You can learn

from both. Curiosity means to be curious in seeking to learn from others. I'm still learning from others today and it's inspirational," explained Morgan. Morgan has never met a stranger and does not seem to have a bashful bone in his body. He has a genuine interest in everyone he meets.

While Morgan's trips around the globe have slowed down for now, the man himself has not. Just as he has done for years, Morgan attends and teaches Sunday school at Green Hill Baptist Church and is currently involved in the Green River Baptist Association serving as treasurer.

Bob Morgan is a true Gardner-Webb treasure and he continues sharing his worldly knowledge, funny one-liners, and deep love for both GWU and God.

"I feel like I'm a world citizen, not just an American," he offered. "My philosophy on learning things is that it's God's purpose for us to use it and share it with others."

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