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Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2013, Fall (Volume 48 No. 2)

Noel T. Manning II
Gardner-Webb University

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GARDNER-WEBB

VOL. 48, NO. 2, 2013

THE MAGAZINE

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a blue t-shirt and white earbuds, holds a small American flag. She is standing in front of a large pile of debris, likely the remains of a building destroyed by a tornado. In the background, another person is visible amidst the wreckage.

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FACULTY MEMBER PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO TORNADO VICTIMS

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GWU TO ADD WOMEN'S LACROSSE PROGRAM

WGWG RADIO TRANSITIONS TO ONLINE DISTRIBUTION

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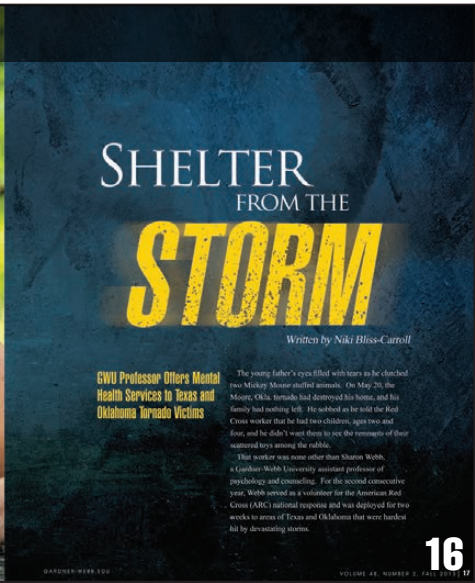
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Gardner-Webb-The Magazine
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ABOUT THE COVER

GWU assistant professor of psychology and counseling
Sharon Webb served as a volunteer for the American
Red Cross national response team and was deployed to
Texas and Oklahoma following deadly tornados. Webb
counseled victims like the one pictured on the cover. For
more on her story, check out page 16.

GARDNER-WEBB.EDU

PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES

TRUE NORTH

In his very fine book entitled "College (Un)Bound:
The Future of Higher Education and What it Means for
Students," Jeffrey J. Selingo suggests that "American higher
education is broken" (p. x). The titles alone of some recent
books on higher education might lead one to agree: Richard
Arum, "Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College
Campuses;" Robert B. Archibald and David H. Feldman,
"Why Does College Cost so Much?," and Derek Bok, "Our
Underachieving Colleges."

Of course, titles alone do not fairly represent the various and complex discussions and
arguments in these books, nor does Selingo's statement do justice to the thorough treatment
of the topic within his book. Still, the mainstream media—and much more so publications
within the industry—continuously point out serious problems and issues, including:
affordability and student debt; the impact of technology, online learning, and MOOCs
(Massive Open Online Courses); the financial struggles of colleges and universities both
public and private; liberal arts and career preparation; and even the very value and relevance
of higher education. My own experience as an accreditation visiting committee chair and
a trustee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
(SACSCOC) has made me only too well acquainted with the problems and challenges facing
higher education institutions, including my own.

The president of a college or university today has no more important—or complex—
responsibility than to ensure that his or her institution is properly positioned within the
environment of higher education in accord with the purpose, mission, and values of that
institution. Even more challenging is to ensure, as best one possibly can, that the institution
is properly poised to move forward into a rapidly changing and largely unpredictable
future. Again, properly means to be consistent with the purpose, mission, and values of the
institution.

The late Stephen Covey used the metaphors of a compass and "true north" to represent
the need for a person to be guided by principles and values in the management of time and
effort. In the same way, an institution of higher education must know and be guided by
its own "true north." It is not enough to know that we are in the business of education, no
matter how successful we appear to be as a college or university, or how much we know
about teaching, curriculum, technology, institutional effectiveness, assessment, finances, etc.
Nor is it enough to be preparing students for jobs, as important as that is.

At Gardner-Webb University, our true north is our commitment to our ultimate purpose:
To advance the kingdom of God through Christian higher education. The other parts of our
compass are our mission—which grows out of our purpose—and our strategic plan, which
lays out how we intend to accomplish that mission. I am not suggesting for one moment
that the "compass" makes it all simple. The challenges remain daunting! I am suggesting,
though, that it all begins with the compass, for without it we are definitely adrift.

Dr. Frank Bonner

A. Frank Bonner

President, Gardner-Webb University

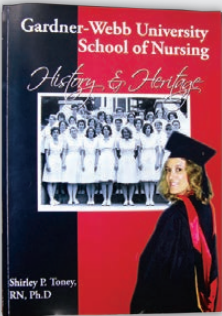
* This is the first in a series of essays and letters addressing the challenges and complexities of higher education.



Gardner-Webb Dean Emeritus to Author Nursing History Book

Gardner-Webb School of Nursing Dean Emeritus, Dr. Shirley Toney has been chosen to author the 110- year history of the North Carolina Board of Nursing. Toney has been working on the project for over a year conducting interviews, examining archives and researching the rich history of the North Carolina nurses. The book is scheduled for release later this year. Toney was also the author of “*Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing - History & Heritage*.”

Toney concluded 45 years in formal nursing education, primarily at GWU in June 2008. Toney was dean of the GWU School of Nursing from 1978-2006 (after helping to bring the program to life in 1965).



Gardner-Webb Announces Brinkley Financial Master of Wealth and Trust Management Degree Program



Gardner-Webb University’s Godbold School of Business is thrilled to announce that a Master of Wealth and Trust Management degree will begin this fall exclusively at the Charlotte, N.C. satellite location.

The Brinkley Financial Group Master of Wealth and Trust Management degree is designed to prepare students for careers in trust management, financial planning, private equity, investment management, securities and financial regulation, risk management, and other sectors within the financial industry.

“The program was created for students who desire to increase their credentials as a pathway to enter the wealth and trust management fields, and for those individuals who wish to advance their current careers within the financial industry,” said Dr. William Little, assistant professor of business and coordinator of the program at GWU.

The 36-hour curriculum model will be consistent with the fields of study required under the CFP (Certified Financial Planner) Certification Examination and will be offered during evening classes during the fall and spring semesters, while summer courses will be offered online, enabling students to finish within two years without taking more than two courses per term.

“Marie and I believe God has blessed us, and we want to be good stewards of all that we’ve been given. We are excited to help make a difference in the lives of the many students who will benefit from this exceptional program,” said David Brinkley.

Brinkley added that the program’s emphasis on Christian ethical reflection played a role in their decision to invest. “A high standard of character and integrity is central to the Brinkley Financial Group philosophy. We’re not perfect, but we strive to serve our clients well, and that commitment to service and integrity will make Gardner-Webb’s program distinct.”

Plans for the program include establishing a dedicated cutting-edge financial laboratory that can simulate a real-world trading/portfolio management environment. The laboratory’s range of technology would offer real-time market data, including global securities, analyst commentaries, and financial ratios information that would help students learn to follow and interpret the market-moving events that investment managers and professional traders use to make critical decisions.

University Named to President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for Sixth Straight Year

Gardner-Webb University has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the sixth year in a row by the Corporation for National and Community Service. A formal announcement of the 2013 inductees was made during the American Council on Education annual Conference, held on March 4 in Washington, D.C.



Gardner-Webb was one of just over 20 colleges and universities in North Carolina to make the distinguished list. Each year the selection process is decided by a group of high-level members of the federal government. The process is based on commitment to service and civic engagement on campus and across the nation. According to the group’s official press release, “This honor recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcome in their communities.”

“The reality of an honor like this is that regardless of the existence of the award, our University would still be committed to volunteerism and serving the community,” said Stephanie Capps, Coordinator for Community Engagement at GWU. “We are honored to be recognized and hope that our recognition encourages other universities to make the same commitments to service that we have made.”

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll began in 2006 and annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a life path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.

Gardner-Webb Students Receive National Recognition for Academic Success and Community Involvement

Gardner-Webb University is pleased to announce that 35 students have been named to the 2012-13 “Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.” Each year, more than 2,800 schools across the United States and the District of Columbia nominate students for selection of this prestigious award.



For consideration into the Who’s Who Program students must have an outstanding grade point average (GPA), must participate in school organizations or leadership activities, must be involved in the community, must exhibit future leadership ability or potential, and any other requirements that the student’s member institution requires. In order to be considered for the program, students have to be nominated by a faculty member of a student’s college or university.

The Who’s Who program has been recognizing students since 1934 and is one of the highest academic honors that anyone can receive. Students receiving acceptance into the program receive a certificate acknowledging their accomplishments. The program also provides Who’s Who students the opportunity to win scholarships. Students also had the chance to submit a biography highlighting accomplishments or other important milestones. All winners will have their name in an official Who’s Who book of accomplishments. For a complete list of students, visit www.gardner-webb.edu/newscenter and search “Who’s Who.”

GWU Student’s Photography Honored at National Conference

The thought of winning a photography contest never crossed her mind. As a participant in the annual Southwestern Photojournalism Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, Gardner-Webb photojournalism major Heather Pendergraft (Stanley, N.C.) was simply excited to absorb knowledge from some of the world’s most elite and accomplished photographers. But as they often do, one of life’s finest moments took her by complete surprise when her photo was chosen as the winner of more than 100 student submissions.

“Every professional that I talked to said to practice, practice, practice,” Pendergraft shared. “You have to keep going and set your work apart from everyone else. Each person has their own style. I definitely have to work on my niche.”

Dr. Bob Carey, chair of the communication studies department at Gardner-Webb, served as a staff liaison for the conference, which was attended by GWU alumna Rebekah Rausch and students Jessica Hibbard, Amanda Smith, and Pendergraft.

.....
“This experience was life-changing for me.”
.....

Following several workshop experiences in which each student snapped hundreds of images, participants sifted through the shots and industry professionals helped them select four or five photos to be considered for the student photography contest. Out of all of the submissions, Pendergraft’s photo of a hockey player scoring a goal as the goalie narrowly misses blocking the puck was ultimately chosen as the winner.

While the entire conference was packed full of tips and techniques offered from world-renowned professionals, Pendergraft said it was the component of spiritual formation that really struck a chord with her. “This experience was life-changing for me,” she reflected. “Not just because of the photography, but also for how it helped my relationship with God. Every professional made sure they mentioned their relationship with God and how the scriptures spoke to them.”

* To see the winning photo, search for this story gardner-webb.edu/newscenter.



Gardner-Webb Professor Wins International Award from Broadcast Education Association

A unique Scottish-Gaelic short film written and produced by Gardner-Webb University Communication Studies Professor Dr. Jim Lawrence has received the Award of Excellence for a Narrative Video from the BEA (Broadcast Education Association). His film was an adaptation of the classic Edgar Allan Poe story, *The Tell-Tale Heart* (An Cridhe Cabaireach). The BEA Festival of Media Arts is an international exhibition of award-winning university faculty and student works. Winners receive recognition for their projects during the annual convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

“I was happy that our video received this recognition because the BEA Media Arts awards are awarded by other university video professors – our peers,” said Lawrence. “I’ve especially appreciated the genuine excitement of Gaelic speakers who responded to the announcement. I think they feel like this award gives some recognition to the Gaelic language.”

The Broadcast Education Association’s Festival of Media Arts is a competitive festival open to BEA members (faculty and students). The Festival awarded nearly \$30,000 in prizes in 2012 after receiving nearly 175 faculty entries and nearly 1,000 student entries in 15 competitions. Separate competitions range from dramatic narratives, non-fiction documentary, sports, audio and even interactive multimedia. More information is available online at beaweb.org.

When in Rome: GWU Group on Hand for Naming of New Pope

When Dr. Nancy Bottoms planned a spring break trip to Italy last year for a group from Gardner-Webb University, she had no idea they would be in Rome during the significant and historic naming of a new Papal (Pope) for the Catholic Church. Members of the group from Gardner-Webb were among thousands of spectators from all over the world who gathered at the Vatican’s St. Peter’s square when the final vote was announced and Pope Francis of Argentina was elected.



“We could not have predicted that a pope would resign or have inside information on when the conclave of cardinals would begin, nor did we know which vote would end in election,” said Bottoms, assistant professor in the School of Performing and Visual Arts. “Since luck put us in Rome at the right time, we were in St. Peter’s square to witness the smoke that marked the results of each vote.”

“Although I wasn’t at the Vatican, being able to say I was still in Rome when the Pope was elected is something I will always remember as a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said Allison Drennan, senior graphic design major with a minor in public relations.

Among other historical sights the group visited was Assisi, the home of St. Francis. Bottoms added, “This was a moment never to be repeated, and we were there.”

Organized through the GWU Office of International Programs, the group from GWU included students and alumni: Joanne Bolet-Cafaro, Steven Calabrese, Pam Darrow, Allison Drennan, Rebecca Ennis, Stephanie Haylock, Hannah Mayfield, Caitlin Pinkerton, Gina Santos, Janice Smith, Jennifer Willis, Brett and Heather Wyatt; as well as faculty and staff members Bottoms, Paula Casper, David Dunham, and Kaye Schenck.



GWU AWARDS NEARLY 750 DEGREES DURING SPRING COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Gardner-Webb University hosted Spring Commencement on Monday, May 13 and nearly 750 graduates were honored during the three ceremonies. The University awarded its 26,000th overall degree and its 6,000th graduate degree during the celebration.

Several morning graduates were honored for outstanding leadership, citizenship, and academic excellence. The Most Outstanding Male Graduate medal was presented to history major Madison Ward Cates of Hillsborough, N.C. while Michelle Anne Palacio of Charlotte, N.C., a double major in global studies and political science, was awarded the Most Outstanding Female Graduate medal.

Four seniors were recognized for academic achievement as they received the Senior Scholastic Awards. They were Amy Rebecca Snyder (Winston-Salem, N.C.), Bachelor of Arts in English and History; Bradley Chase McCraw (Shelby, N.C.), Bachelor of Science in Chemistry; Hannah Rachel Rash (Kannapolis, N.C.), Bachelor of Science in Psychology; and Tyler Matthew Beckler (Hickory, N.C.), Bachelor of Science in Biology and Missiology.

Palacio also shared thoughts on her years at Gardner-Webb in a commencement address. She expressed that her educational experience at GWU was much more than the sum of her courses and assignments. “There were times when I wasn’t sure how I would make it through, but I was always encouraged by the fact that all of us were doing it together,” she told her fellow graduates. “Each of the things we learned, while not necessarily in a classroom, added value to our education.”

The afternoon ceremony featured graduates of Gardner-Webb’s Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL) program and School of Nursing, School of Divinity, and School of Business graduate programs. Two graduates were honored with the GOAL Senior Scholastic Award: Joshua Robert Valentine and Gabrielle Renee Waites, both from Rutherfordton, N.C., were each given the award for academic excellence. They both graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

GWU Awards Two Posthumous Degrees at Spring Commencement

Gardner-Webb University honored the memory of two former students, who passed away last year while still enrolled as students, as they awarded posthumous honorary degrees to the families of Ariane Patterson and Glenda Weaver during spring graduation ceremonies on May 13.

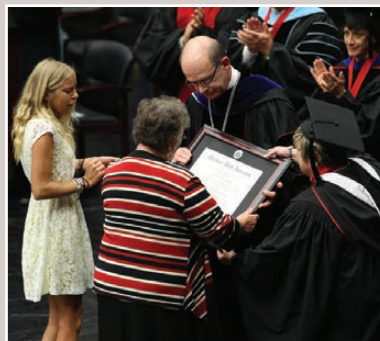
Patterson’s unexpected death occurred on Jan. 17, 2012 on her actual birthday at the age of 21. It was determined that Patterson suffered a heart attack due to systemic lupus erythematosus. She had been diagnosed with lupus at the age of nine. Patterson, of Rutherford County, N.C., was a religious studies major, who was known for always displaying a Godly spirit and an infectious smile. At her funeral, a group of Patterson’s friends and fellow students from GWU presented a poem they wrote about her entitled A Friend. “A friend is someone who brings out the best of you. Our best friend will forever and always be Ariane Noelle Patterson,” the poem stated. On that final day of her life, Patterson shared a tweet that was a testimonial of who she was and what she believed: “Thank you God for another year of life.” The Patterson family received an honorary bachelors degree on her behalf during the 10 a.m. traditional undergraduate ceremony.

A native and resident of Cabarrus County, N.C., Weaver worked for Kannapolis City Schools and served as teacher at Head Start for 16 years. Head Start, a federally-funded program targeting children ages three through five, provides a variety of services to children and their families, including education in the form of preschool, nutrition, and medical services. Colleagues described Weaver as a caring and devoted teacher to her students and the families that she served through Head Start. She began her teaching career as a parent and volunteer in the program and went on to earn her bachelor’s degree from Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C. At the time of her death on Oct. 24, 2012, Weaver, 55, was pursuing a master’s degree from Gardner-Webb. Members of the Weaver family received an honorary master’s degree on her behalf during the 7 p.m. graduate programs ceremony.

Both Patterson and Weaver were in good academic standing at the time of their deaths, which enabled the University to make the decision to award their degrees during this special occasion.



Patterson family members



Weaver family members



Tara Elizabeth Roberts of Shelby, N.C. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) and Calvin Sayles of Colorado Springs, Colo. (Doctor of Ministry, School of Divinity) both offered commencement addresses during the ceremony. For Sayles, the spiritual formation component of his education has become a valued treasure.

“At Gardner-Webb, I found professors and mentors who led me to unpack my own beliefs and then patiently and gently helped me examine each one,” Sayles shared. “Some were discarded and repacked stronger for the examination. Many were added. And in the process, our God became greater and more incredibly wondrous, not in His reality, but in my understanding. I am certain this was their greatest gift to me.”

The evening ceremony honored individuals who successfully completed masters or doctoral curriculum within the School of Education and School of Psychology and Counseling. Heather Hartsell of Shelby, N.C., an athletic training program faculty member at Gardner-Webb who earned a Doctor of Education, offered her thoughts on the post-baccalaureate challenges she and her fellow graduates endured, and the valuable life lessons they have provided.

“Each interaction with an individual in this program has touched my life and provided examples of characteristics I want

to make sure I possess and apply in my everyday life as a person and as an educator,” Hartsell declared. “Compassion, sacrifice, strong work ethic, encouragement, passion for educating others, devotion to students, setting high expectations for students, but also helping them to reach such expectations, and so many more. I have learned that each day is an opportunity for us to be intentional in the relationships we have with others.”

Another Doctor of Education graduate, Thomas LeGrand of Taylors, S.C., discussed aspects of his educational experience during his commencement address. As a minister who initially questioned his decision to enter the realm of education, he believes he has learned valuable lessons about the benefits of widening one’s sphere of influence.

“In all disciplines, we tend to ‘circle the wagons’ and remain inside of our little forts, unchallenged by and unaware of what others might bring to the table,” LeGrand reflected. “We build our most valuable and educational relationships when we open the doors to engage with those that are outside of our normal realm and subsequently learn from one another. This is the kind of innovative thinking and relationship-building that is allowing Gardner-Webb to continue to grow into a unique and special place.”

GWU Magazine Wins Writing Award

A longtime publication of Gardner-Webb University was recently named an award-winner for writing excellence by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District III, which serves the southeastern United States. The Gardner-Webb Magazine (Vol. 46, Number 2) was honored with a CASE District III Award of Excellence in Publications Writing at their annual conference, held in Atlanta, Ga.



The Gardner-Webb Magazine is the official magazine for Gardner-Webb University. The Office of University Communications publishes and produces the magazine three times a year. The winning issue was distributed during the summer of 2012, and explored the cultural heritage of one of the region's first and most deeply-rooted people, the Cherokee.

Noel Manning, chief communications officer at Gardner-Webb, is the managing editor of the magazine, and he accepted the award on behalf of the University. "It is always an honor to be recognized by your peers in the industry," Manning said. "This award from CASE is just that. Our writing staff may vary from issue to issue, but the writers are consistently strong and attentive to the unique stories reflecting the Gardner-Webb family. The Cherokee Culture edition, which was honored for excellence, is representative of what we endeavor to accomplish in each issue."

GWU Vice President for Advancement Monte Walker believes the publication offers its readers tremendous benefits. "With every issue of the Gardner-Webb Magazine, we strive to inform, engage and inspire our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the University," Walker shared. "The CASE Award of Excellence is yet another affirmation of the quality of our magazine and the talent of our staff."

GWU President Frank Bonner Named Chair of Big South Executives Group

Gardner-Webb University President Dr. Frank Bonner was recently elevated to chair of the Big South Conference's Council of Chief Executive Officers at the league's annual conference.



Dr. Bonner, who will begin a two-year term on July 1, previously served as vice president of the council. Campbell University President Dr. Jerry Wallace was elected to the office of vice president for 2013-15.

The recent meeting of the Big South Conference Board of Administrators and Council of Chief Executive Officers featured a strategic emphasis on basketball improvement. The conference is exploring new ways to enhance its men's and women's basketball programs and will embark on a strategic planning process.

Big South Conference members also discussed further enhancements to the Big South Network and committed to upgrades that will bring the digital network closer to television production standards. In addition, the Big South Network will now be a free service for live and archived events beginning with Football Media Day later this summer.



Faculty & Staff Awards and Honors

Gardner-Webb University recently recognized faculty and staff members for their tenures of service and presented retirement awards to eight employees during the annual "Apple and Accolades" ceremony. Honors were also presented for excellence in teaching, community engagement and staff members of the year.

The Gardner-Webb Excellence in Teaching Award recipient for 2013 was Dr. Ron Williams, professor of religion in the Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy.

"He (Williams) has long been hailed among Gardner-Webb's best," said University President, Dr. Frank Bonner. "His colleagues have described him as an innovator, listener, and teacher, who steadies and sharpens his students."

A part of the University since 1997, Williams' teaching duties have included Introduction to the New Testament, Greek, Biblical Backgrounds, the Life and Letters of Paul, and New Testament Theology.

Community engagement awards are given to those who exemplify the Gardner-Webb motto Pro Deo et Humanitate (for God and Humanity). Recipients are recognized for their civic responsibility through active participation and service to the community at large. This year's winners were Sherri Jackson, associate registrar (staff) and Dr. Jim Morgan, associate professor of psychology and counseling (faculty).

Staff Member of the Year Awards are presented to those who go beyond the call of duty for the University and its students, and are nominated by their colleagues. This year's female winner was Emily Robertson, educational technology coordinator. Greg Humphries, system analyst for technology services, was the male recipient.

Retirement awards were presented to Nancy Borders (business office), Gene Carpenter (GOAL program professor), Jerry Toney (maintenance and grounds), Dr. Susie Beck-Little (Dean of the School of Nursing), Dr. Frieda Brown (professor of psychology and counseling), Margaret Christopher (AV media assistant), Judy Dover (maintenance and grounds), and Dr. Charles Tichenor (professor of business administration).

Employees were also recognized for 10, 25, and 30 years of service. Thirty-year awards went to Brown (who is also retiring) and Dr. Glenn Bottoms, professor of economics and management information systems in the Godbold School of Business.

Twenty-five-year awards were given to: Dr. Donna Ellington, professor of history; Dr. Earl Godfrey, professor of business administration; and Tony Setzer, men's soccer coach.

Ten-year awards were presented to: Kathleen Ayotte, Ricky Beck, Joey Bridges, Ben Brooks, Wilson Brooks, Paula Casper, Kelly Collum, Travis Cunningham, Teresa Davis, Brad Harmon, Sherri Jackson, Laura Mode, Helen Pack, Laura W. Smith, Eddie Stepp, Robert Truesdale, Vickie Walker, Linda Wines, and Deborah Knupp Wilkinson.



Donna Ellington Dr. Charles Tichenor Dr. Frieda Brown



Dr. Earl Godfrey Emily Robertson Dr. Glenn Bottoms



Greg Humphries Dr. Jim Morgan Judy Dover



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Giving with PURPOSE

Written by Matt Walters

Those following the news are undoubtedly aware of the myriad economic challenges facing college graduates across the country. While the national economy is showing encouraging signs of growth and recovery, many families are still grappling with the financial realities of the recent recession, realities that threaten to undermine many prospective students' pursuit of a college education. Furthermore, total student loan debt has now surpassed credit card debt in the U.S, and scholarship support is being significantly cut by governments and granting organizations around the country. The need for scholarship gifts has therefore never been greater.

Still, in the face of these challenges, the Gardner-Webb community has rallied to offer unprecedented scholarship support, endowing new scholarship funds and amplifying others so that talented, mission-driven students can realize their full potential. Starting with this issue, the Office of University Advancement will begin featuring stories in The Gardner-Webb Magazine that illustrate both your tremendous scholarship support and our tremendous gratitude.

TOM AND GLENDA BELL - FIVE TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS, INCLUDING THE W. THOMAS BELL BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP



Tom Bell

As Gardner-Webb alumnus and Trustee Tom Bell puts it, “I know what it’s like to come through school without enough resources.” A ’71 graduate, Bell worked several jobs on campus to help fund his Gardner-Webb education. “Now, we’re fortunate enough to be in a position to give back in ways that will be instrumental to promising students who face the type of financial challenges that I did.”

Tom and his wife, Glenda, have established several scholarships at Gardner-Webb, including one named for Tom’s professional mentor and longtime friend Lamar Kennedy. They are also lifetime members of the Bulldog Club, which supports athletics scholarships, and as Chairman of the Godbold School of Business Board of Advisors, Tom played a key role in establishing the Board of Advisors graduate scholarship in business. “The fact that Gardner-Webb is a faith-based University with Christ as its anchor is why we feel so strongly about supporting the University,” the Bells said.

Perhaps the most special of the Bells’ scholarships, though, was a complete surprise to Tom. For his 60th birthday, Glenda surprised him during a Gardner-Webb reunion weekend with the W. Thomas Bell Business Scholarship, a gesture he said “just floored me. So many people have done so much more for Gardner-Webb than I have. The fact that I have a named scholarship here, a fund that helps propel students toward their dreams—I’m just honored beyond belief.”

MARY PADGETT - THREE TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS, INCLUDING THE MAX PADGETT MEMORIAL TEACHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

When Gardner-Webb alumnus and longtime educator Max Padgett of Hickory, N.C., passed away in 2012, his wife Mary decided to celebrate his life by establishing the Max Padgett Memorial Teacher Education Scholarship, a fund designated for students preparing for lives in the classroom.

“He worked his entire life in education,” she said, “so I thought that would be a fitting tribute.” Max and Mary both served for decades as teachers, principals, and finally county administrators before Max returned to Gardner-Webb to finish his career as Director of the Endowment. Before Max’s death, the Padgetts established two scholarships at Gardner-Webb, one for students preparing for full-time vocational ministry and another for students of music. Max’s memorial scholarship is therefore an extension of his life’s work in more ways than one. As Mary puts it, “We both believe there is nothing more important someone can do than to open the door for a young person to achieve an education.”



Max Padgett



WILL AND JONIE MABRY -
THE WILLIAM PASCHAL MABRY
MEMORIAL ART SCHOLARSHIP

As parents, there are simply no words to express the unimaginable grief of losing a child. Healing seems impossible, and the only paths forward seem impossibly dark and lonely. Still, for Gardner-Webb staffer Will Mabry and his wife, Joanie, whose son William Paschal Mabry passed away in 2011, one of the first steps along that path was to establish a memorial scholarship to celebrate his life’s passion: the visual arts. To date, William’s is the only scholarship at GWU devoted exclusively to students pursuing a major in the visual arts.

William was an extremely talented sculptor. In fact, one of his sculptures, “Fountain Wings,” was purchased and donated to Wofford College where it prominently marks the College’s main entrance (pictured left). William had been a student at Wofford and at Savannah College of Art and Design before his tragic death. “It was very important for us to remember him in this way,” said Will Mabry. “We have been honored by so many friends who have given to the fund as a tangible way to honor William and show their support for our family.”

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Some friends and supporters, like Mary Padgett and the Mabry family, establish scholarships to memorialize loved ones. Others, like Tom and Glenda Bell, give to propel students into meaningful, dynamic careers. Some give to advance the Gospel, others to celebrate sport and competition, and still others to ensure that young people from their town, church, or community enjoy the freedom to pursue a life-changing education.

Whatever your specific purpose, a scholarship at Gardner-Webb can fulfill your philanthropic mission and ensure a brighter, more promising future for our students and our world. If you’re interested in establishing a new scholarship at Gardner-Webb or strengthening an existing scholarship fund, contact the Office of Advancement at 704-406-4250 or visit the “Support GWU” tab on Gardner-Webb’s homepage. Thank you for your support!

“Fountain Wings” by William Mabry,
photo courtesy of Wofford College



WHAT WILL BE YOUR PLEDGE BE?

Each year, more than 90% of Gardner-Webb’s students receive financial aid. The Gardner-Webb Grant provides scholarship money to almost every University student (based on academic merit or financial need). This is one of the most significant forms of financial aid that each student receives...but where does a Gardner-Webb Grant come from?

It comes from you! Your gift to the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund goes directly to provide our students academic and need based scholarship assistance. And since so many GWU students take advantage of the grant, your support is vital to our students’ success.

To make a contribution or if you have any questions about the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund, please call (704) 406-4630 or go online at www.gardner-webb.edu/give.





SHELTER FROM THE **STORM**

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

GWU Professor Offers Mental Health Services to Texas and Oklahoma Tornado Victims

The young father's eyes filled with tears as he clutched two Mickey Mouse stuffed animals. On May 20, the Moore, Okla. tornado had destroyed his home, and his family had nothing left. He sobbed as he told the Red Cross worker that he had two children, ages two and four, and he didn't want them to see the remnants of their scattered toys among the rubble.

That worker was none other than Sharon Webb, a Gardner-Webb University assistant professor of psychology and counseling. For the second consecutive year, Webb served as a volunteer for the American Red Cross (ARC) national response and was deployed for two weeks to areas of Texas and Oklahoma that were hardest hit by devastating storms.



Like her encounter with the emotional father, Webb has dozens of similar stories of heartbreaking strength after returning from Grandbury, Texas and Moore, Okla. where monstrous storms left miles upon miles of damage. A licensed professional counselor, Webb provides emotional support to disaster survivors, serves as a supervisor to other mental health counselors, and checks on other ARC volunteers to see how they are doing emotionally throughout their responding roles.

“The most challenging aspect of providing mental health support to disaster survivors is being able to make time for self-care and ‘alone time’ to reflect and process what I’ve witnessed,” Webb explained. “I have to make sure I don’t become emotionally overwhelmed while I’m trying to help others.”

The work, while rewarding, does not come without an element of private grief. “I was most personally affected as I stood in front of Plaza Towers Elementary School in Moore early one morning before beginning my time with my clients,” she shared. “I was asked to be at that location on the day the school demolition was scheduled to begin and was the first to arrive that morning. As I read the names of those young children on the memorial crosses, I cried for their families and friends. Then, I compartmentalized my own emotion so that I could prepare to be supportive for the community members and others who would be coming that day.”

Although each individual’s trauma experience is different, Webb recognized common themes shared by many of the people she assisted. “In Moore, I talked with many people who are struggling with survivor’s guilt, post traumatic stress disorder from previous traumas, and some children who were

not ready to acknowledge or discuss the event,” Webb recalled. “However, I also discovered that many were very resilient, even finding creative ways to express humor at the sight of their demolished homes. There were also messages of strong faith painted on garage doors of homes that were left only partially standing.”

Initially deployed to Grandbury, Texas, Webb encountered many survivors who did not own their homes, but were renting and had no insurance. “Most of the people were determined to stay in their community, but there were a few who said they would relocate to a place where tornadoes were not a threat,” she said. “I had the honor of meeting people with great faith and resilience. One young couple wore rubber bracelets with the words ‘God is Big Enough.’”

After just five days in Texas, Webb was transferred to Moore, Okla. for the remaining nine days of her two-week deployment. She returned home in June, but the memories of her experiences are still fresh and vivid. Last summer, Webb participated in her first national deployment with the Red Cross when she assisted individuals affected by the Montana wildfires. She also spent a week on a Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation where she met with clients in the shelter and throughout the community. She believes her volunteer service benefits her students at Gardner-Webb in a variety of ways.

“Volunteering with ARC for national mental health response enhances my ability to share real-world experiences with my students who are pursuing similar professional degrees,” Webb offered. “I hope to increase students’ awareness of needs for service in diverse areas. Those who take my crisis intervention course this fall will be volunteering with a crisis agency of their choice and will be trained in national disaster response. Hopefully, that will inspire them to continue their involvement.”

As a volunteer with the ARC for several years, Webb believes there is a place of service for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. “If you enjoy meeting and helping diverse people from all walks of life, then national response with the Red Cross is a wonderful area to be involved in,” she encouraged. “I always come away from deployments with gratitude for the people I have had the opportunity to serve, and with reminders of gratitude for God’s grace.”

“I HAD THE HONOR
OF MEETING PEOPLE
WITH GREAT FAITH
AND RESILIENCE.”



OUTSIDE THE BOX

**GWU Students Experience
Unconventional Learning**

Written By Niki Bliss-Carroll

The belief that “education is a staging ground for action” is conveyed in many ways at Gardner-Webb University. Through a variety of opportunities, the concept became more than just a theory discussed within the walls of classrooms as dozens of students participated in a wide range of trips, missions, and activities in several locations throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

MISSION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

Of two trips to the nation’s capitol, one was academically driven, while the other helped advance a social issue important to many GWU students. In January, six students from the political science and communication studies departments attended a 10-day Washington D.C. seminar that centered on the re-inauguration of President Barack Obama. Last fall, around 20 students participated in the Invisible Children “MOVE:DC” March, held in November. Each of the students who took time to travel to the nation’s capitol took away an important lesson about the impact of their voice within the national political scene.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The MOVE:DC March was coordinated in response to a year-long international public awareness campaign to bring to light atrocities being committed in Africa by Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Kony is believed to be abducting children and forcing them into his army, known for attacking other innocent African communities. The Invisible Children organization is working to bring a responsible and permanent end to the LRA, and the MOVE:DC event was the final chapter in the KONY 2012 campaign. Participants at MOVE:DC stood with human rights activists and leaders from LRA-affected communities in central Africa and called for international leadership to arrest Joseph Kony and his top commanders. Marchers also lobbied for the passage of legislation that would help fund and prioritize efforts to restore African communities devastated by LRA violence.

GWU Community Engagement Coordinator Stephanie Capps helped organize and sponsor the trip for those interested. Student participants slept on floors at host sites and endured less-than-comfortable conditions throughout much of their trip.

“We drove until 2 a.m. Saturday morning, slept a couple of hours on the floor of a Jewish synagogue, caught the Metro to D.C., and didn’t stop moving until 11 p.m. Saturday night,” said Abby Simmons, an American Sign Language major. “In the end, I had to remind myself that the trip was not about me. I could put up with discomfort and exhaustion if it meant changing the lives of others.”

While many events like this don’t yield immediate results, the GWU students were thrilled to learn that just weeks after the march, Congress passed the “Rewards for Justice” expansion bill, the exact legislation for which they had lobbied. Kate Bumgarner, a nursing major, was surprised by the impact this movement had. “To see such a positive result happen during this whole ordeal was amazing,” she said. “We helped get a bill passed which creates more support towards ending this war. At the end of the day, I will forget many of the things I had to memorize from a textbook, but I will never forget marching for human rights.”



POLITICS IN ACTION

An academic conference designed to allow students an opportunity to witness history in the making was hosted and organized by The Washington Center during the spring semester, and focused on a wide range of speeches, learning sessions, tours, and educational opportunities. Gardner-Webb political science and communication studies majors participated in the historic events, along with hundreds of students from over 117 other colleges and universities. Gardner-Webb Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Ben Gaskins served as a facilitator and small group leader.

According to The Washington Center, through site visits, tours, and special events, faculty and students from colleges across the country were able to witness history and democracy in action, better understand the media’s impact on presidential campaigns, build a professional network and explore potential career paths, and interact with nationally and internationally recognized leaders in politics and media.

Senior Tyler Sain, a double major in history and political science, believes the “outside the classroom” learning experiences at Gardner-Webb have greatly enriched his overall understanding of a wide range of concepts and principles. “These types of unconventional learning opportunities are so important in receiving a complete educational experience,” Sain shared. “Anyone can sit in a room and read and talk about something, but it is totally different to be able to engage and react to a subject in a personal way. For instance, we discussed Political Action Committees (PACs) frequently in class, however on this trip, we actually met leaders of PACs and were able to discuss issues in a small group setting with them. That is irreplaceable.”

“ANYONE CAN
SIT IN A ROOM
AND READ AND
TALK ABOUT
SOMETHING.”

MISSION MINDED

During spring break in March and again during three separate mission trips in May and June, Gardner-Webb students once again had a unique chance to apply skills and knowledge from their classroom experiences in real-world scenarios.

Veteran mission-trip leader Sherry Ingram took a team of students to Guatemala during the week of spring break. The group ministered in a school for displaced children and orphans, ages two to 18 years. Ingram believes no matter what the destination, these trips are eye-opening experiences for all who participate.



GWU students stop to take a group photo in Guatemala.



GWU students giving new life to a building in Gautemala.

“Each trip is unique in its own way, yet they always offer something extremely beneficial to students,” Ingram shared. “Their perspectives are changed forever after participating. Guatemala is not westernized at all. You’re talking about roads that are pure dirt; people struggling to find food to eat and clean water to drink. People that live in shacks and don’t know where their next meal is coming from.”

With limited access to modern conveniences like electricity and nearby amenities like grocery stores, the 10 students who traveled to Guatemala received a first hand taste of a simpler lifestyle in which people are most productive during hours of daylight and live off the land as much as possible.



Darrelle Dove prepares to chop some firewood.

SPRING BREAK “OFF THE GRID” TRIP

Gardner-Webb students who took part in the “Off the Grid” spring break trip didn’t leave the United States, but they were exposed to the unique lifestyle of a family living on a small farm in rural Danbury, N.C. Five Gardner-Webb undergrads spent several days learning about how to live a less complicated existence without electricity and conventional heating/cooling systems. Instead, the family cultivates crops, cares for farm animals, chops wood for heat, and for the most part, enjoys a very eco-friendly lifestyle.

Amanda Smith, a photojournalism major who just completed her junior year at Gardner-

Webb, was one of five students who joined in the “Off the Grid” trip, and said being exposed to a completely different way of life was extremely beneficial to her educational experience.

“I really enjoyed the opportunity to get to know a very special family and get a brief glimpse into their daily life,” Smith shared. “We also visited a Hare Krishna temple, since they are somewhat known for living ‘off the grid.’ At first, it was hard for me to find a balance in honoring my own beliefs without disrespecting the Hare Krishna culture, but ultimately I did learn to appreciate certain aspects of their belief system without compromising my own faith.”



John Hartman pours homemade molasses for bread making.

MONTHLY PRISON FELLOWSHIP VISITS

Adam Barnes graduated from GWU with a degree in missiology and has been accepted to the Duke University Master of Divinity program where he will focus on prison ministries. Much of his passion for serving a sometimes forgotten population was first cultivated as part of Gardner-Webb’s monthly visits to a minimum security prison in Spartanburg, S.C. Each month, Gardner-Webb students travel to the prison to minister to and encourage inmates. Barnes learned some lessons that he may have never received in the classroom alone.

“Not only were we ministering to them, but they were ministering to us,” Barnes shared of his experiences. “We’ve had people go to the prison to serve, and they’ve had their vocational calling confirmed by these prisoners. That’s something you’re not necessarily expecting when you go.”

Regardless of whether students travel long distances, change time zones, need passports, or are back home in the same evening, trips outside the classroom are teaching valuable life lessons to those who participate. “There’s not a lot of difference between us and them,” Barnes reflected. “In spite of any preconceived notions we may have, many of us have similar backgrounds and comparable experiences.”



Adam Barnes

WAVES OF SOUND

GARDNER-WEBB RADIO NOW AVAILABLE ON SOUNDCLOUD, TUNE-IN, AND STREAMON

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL



The band Bearfoot stopped by WGWG in June 2011.

He walked into the studio and sat down. Plucking the strings of his acoustic guitar, he hummed a country tune he had written and recently recorded. He said he was nervous; this was his first radio interview. He thanked the hosts for having him as they discussed the song he would share with listeners. Just moments later, Gardner-Webb University student and country recording artist Jon Langston had successfully passed a significant milestone. His music had crossed both the airwaves and the tangled network of the World Wide Web. The GWU radio station, WGWG, had once again shared a piece of personal history with an emerging artist.

The nearly 40-year-old station that initially began as a broadcast to Gardner-Webb University and later became a broadcast from Gardner-Webb has weathered its share of both minor tweaks and major transitions over the years. Following a decade as an official on-campus radio club, WGWG 88.3 initially launched in 1974 as a 5,000-watt station on the FM dial, later expanded to a 50,000-watt broadcast, and will soon begin operating an Internet-only platform pending completed negotiations for the sale of the FM frequency. The station will continue to produce daily programming and operate from the WGWG studios located at the Elliott House on the Gardner-Webb campus.

In the beginning, WGWG was first established as a radio club at Gardner-Webb in the 1950s. Intended to serve as a hands-on instructional lab for students who were interested in broadcasting, the call letters “WGWG” were chosen in 1960 as an acronym for “Watch Gardner-Webb Grow.” According to WGWG General Manager Noel Manning, in many ways, the station will be going back to its roots.

GARDNER-WEBB.EDU

WGWG.org is available on your computer, and on your mobile device with the Tune-in Radio app or through wgwg.streamon.fm. On-demand programming is available at soundcloud.com/wgwgdotorg. You can also find WGWG on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wgwgradio and Twitter at @wgwgdotorg.





“WGWG will continue to serve as a training ground for students interested in radio broadcasting, programming, public speaking, media management, writing and community relations, and sales,” Manning said. “Discussions regarding this type of potential transition have been ongoing for several years. Technology has continued to advance for music delivery and on-demand audio programming, and WGWG has been active in that technology.”

The increasing popularity of Smartphones, tablets, and other mobile devices has transformed the way people receive news and pursue entertainment. Instead of tuning in to an FM dial, many mobile users are taking a proactive role by turning to online streaming via their computer or device. While traditional communication methods are certainly still viable, officials with WGWG recognized the importance

of reaching the mobile and Internet market and have made it easier than ever to access station programming via that platform.

“With modern technology and mobile apps, a user doesn’t have to be sitting in front of a computer to listen to the stream anymore,” Manning said. “Much like FM radio, it is truly mobile.”

The history of WGWG’s Internet presence spans more than two decades. During the late 1990s, the Internet became readily available in households all over the country. With the emerging technology revealing an increasing dependence on the Internet for a wide range of business and personal needs, leaders at WGWG took advantage of a new path to reach a worldwide audience and was among the first radio stations in the region to launch Internet programming. No longer encumbered by the broadcast limitations of their radio signal, alumni, parents and friends of students who didn’t live in the listening area were able to tune in via the World Wide Web (www.wgwg.org) to hear music, sports coverage, and news from both the University and the entire listening area.

Changing the primary platform in which programming is offered certainly presents new challenges. However, in many ways, the Internet-only platform lines up with other Internet-based access through which users are becoming increasingly familiar. “We’ve been utilizing the online Google-Plus Hangouts service in order to record video and archive some of our original programming,” Manning said. “This gives our audience the option to add a visual component to our offerings. Instead of hearing the audio only, they can see our musical guests perform and witness those interviews firsthand. Such options add a unique layer to the product delivered by WGWG radio.”



WGWG Operations Manager Jeff Powell believes that ultimately, the station’s roots reveal a deep and longstanding commitment to the students at GWU. For instance, during the 2012-13 academic year, 19 students were active in WGWG on the air and behind the scenes. Faculty and staff members are utilizing WGWG.org for their departments and programs through on-air shows available live, on-demand and through social media. WGWG.org plans to increase these opportunities as well, and will offer on-demand audio archives and downloads of Gardner-Webb athletics broadcasts.

“This fall, original programming offered each week will expand,” Manning announced. “The WGWG listeners will still be able to tune in to live broadcasts of athletic events—like the Runnin’ Bulldogs

football games—but they will also have the added bonus of being able to access those broadcasts later through the on-demand SoundCloud service if they miss a game.”

Other specialty shows hosted by Gardner-Webb students and faculty, volunteers and WGWG staff will cover Christian music, exercise and science news, entertainment news, computer and health tips, Bluegrass music, deep cut rock and much more. The station will continue to utilize a “Jack” format (variety) and the specialty programs will be available for on-demand access and/or download via the WGWG SoundCloud at www.soundcloud.com/wgwgdotorg.

“The history of the radio club shows, even at the very beginning stages, that WGWG was intended to serve as a training ground for students,” Powell reflected. “And today, that tradition of hands-on learning is still being carried forward.”

Keeping their focus on the future and the expanded opportunities for hands on training, station leaders at WGWG are looking forward to offering an even more meaningful educational experience for Gardner-Webb students. “I’m excited about the fact that we will be even more student-focused in our approach to teaching radio,” Manning shared. “The theories and concepts they are learning in the classroom will continue to be solidified with a real-world approach at WGWG. I firmly believe the station has found many ways to open doors for students over the years, and that remains our ultimate goal.”



Radio and Audio Technology Timeline

1909

KCBS becomes first AM station in nation (San Francisco, Ca.)

1939

A new frequency is launched as four FM stations hit the airwaves this summer

1948

33 1/3 LP Record introduced by Columbia Records and becomes the new standard

1961

WGWG established as a radio club



1979 Sony Walkman

1974

WGWG signs on the air at 88.3 FM 5,000 watts offering “Beautiful Music” and The Afternoon Rock Show

1979

The Sony Walkman portable cassette player is introduced. Within a few years, cassette tapes become the standard for consumers

1982

Sony introduces the first compact disc (CD) player. Billy Joel’s 52nd Street became the first full album released

1990

The World Wide Web launches a new revolution



1993

WGWG transitions to a 50,000 watt FM signal. World Wide Web expands with the introduction of the Mosaic browser. First Internet Radio Station was launched

1998

WGWG.org launches online stream



1999

WGWG begins offering original local programming with live in-studio music performances, talk shows, movie reviews, high school football and more. Singer/Songwriter Don Conoscenti becomes first musical guest

2001 iPod

2001

Apple launches iTunes, Apple introduces first digital jukebox ... the iPod. Satellite Radio Launches with XM Radio

2004

WGWG gets remote broadcast van known as “Pete”

2005

WGWG.org begins offering limited archives of radio interviews and live in-studio music. Pandora Music is launched

2007

Soundcloud audio distribution platform is launched

2009

WGWG launches presence on social media (Facebook and Twitter)

2011

WGWG available on the Tune-in Radio App, “Pete” the Van is retired and “Cheech” is introduced as new WGWG van

2013

WGWG.org offers enhancements including downloads and on-demand programming available through Soundcloud, Facebook and Twitter

DISCOVERING GOD'S PLAN

GWU STUDENTS ACCEPT DIVINE CALL TO SERVE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll



Julie Sliwinski

“Our job is
to simply
love them
where
they are.”

When Julie Sliwinski left her home in Atlanta, Ga. and came to Gardner-Webb as a freshman just three years ago, she envisioned attaining a degree in health and wellness where she could offer people tips and techniques to eat better and establish more active lifestyles. She never imagined that her participation in a community engagement activity in the spring of 2012 would lead her to such dangerous surrender and a burning desire to do whatever God called her to do and to go wherever He led.

“I came to school to become a personal trainer or physical therapist,” Sliwinski recalled. “But as I came to know the Lord in a deeper way, I no longer had peace to pursue that. By the fall of my sophomore year, everywhere I looked and every conversation I had led back to human/sex trafficking or abuse.”

Unable to shake the feeling that she needed to know more, Sliwinski began intense study. She wanted to uncover more about the victims; she desired to know what drove the industry from every perspective. “I have a history of abuse, so I am familiar with some of the emotions and thought-processes the victims experience,” she shared. “I sat on pins and needles just desperate to be involved but not sure exactly where the Lord was calling me to plug in.”

The answer came in the form of the Gardner-Webb University Community Engagement “Human Trafficking Awareness Week,” held in April of 2012. Sliwinski wasted no time. “I immediately got involved and helped organize some of the campus events,” she reflected. “Through my involvement that week, I got connected with *On Eagle’s Wings Ministries* and their ‘Hope House,’ which is a safe house for girls coming out of sex trafficking.”

She applied for an internship and was accepted. Last fall, she visited the girls at Hope House every other weekend. “My responsibility was to just be with the girls, to serve as a role model like a big sister,” she explained. “I was deeply blessed through my relationships with these girls and I feel honored to have met them and been part of their recovery.”

With a sense that this was just the beginning, Sliwinski began to feel pulled toward street ministry, bearing a special burden for those being prostituted. “I did a quick Google search for organizations with street ministries in my hometown (Atlanta, Ga.) and stumbled upon ‘Nightlight,’” she shared. “I didn’t know much about what they did other than street outreach. But I knew the Lord had spoken about it, so I applied.”

As soon as her fall semester finals were over, she received a reply. “The email simply said, ‘When can you start?’” she recalled. “So, over the three weeks of winter break, I joined Nightlight on outreach every Friday night. We would go to the strip clubs and brothels of Atlanta and walk the streets most known for solicitation. The goal isn’t to save souls, condemn, or even preach to these men and women. Our job is to simply love them where they are.”



Because she is not yet 21 years old, Sliwinski was not allowed inside the clubs, but she still actively serves by providing prayer coverage from outside while others work to build relationships with the girls. “I have had the privilege of meeting a few of the girls in brothels and on the street and the Lord has been good,” she shared. “Following the third night on outreach, the two team directors told me they wanted me to intern with them this summer. Through this opportunity, I am becoming equipped to become a director of this organization.”

Sliwinski was once again instrumental in the planning and organization of Gardner-Webb’s second annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week, held in March. She and sophomore Caroline Nethery worked with GWU Community Engagement Coordinator Stephanie Capps to orchestrate several activities as part of this year’s awareness week. Nethery is also a student who has been profoundly impacted by her involvement in various social reform projects at Gardner-Webb, including the trafficking issue. A psychology major, she is currently making career plans to work specifically with victims of human/sex trafficking.

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



Above: A student reads about human trafficking during 2013 GWU Human Trafficking Awareness Week.

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

The week’s activities included an awareness fair, a documentary screening, a lecture on slavery throughout time, a “Stand for Freedom” event in which participants stood on their feet for 27 hours in honor of the 27 million people worldwide who are currently enslaved. The goal of each event was to raise awareness and teach fellow students that everyone can do something.

“The main focus of the awareness week was just to get people thinking about the issue,” Nethery said. “When people are thinking about the fact that there’s human trafficking going on and modern day slavery... well, you can’t fully understand that without wanting to do something to end it.”

Sliwinski agrees and is grateful for the chance to make a difference. “This is where my heart and my passion is,” Sliwinski shared. “My eyes were opened to it and I couldn’t ignore it. I know this is what I will be working on the rest of my life. I truly discovered my life’s calling at Gardner-Webb.”

For more information on Nightlight International, visit www.nightlightinternational.com.



Images from “Stand for Freedom” event at GWU.

Flags placed at GWU to represent the 1080 children sold into slavery while most people sleep.



strings Alive

GWU Student Takes an International Approach to Music

Written by Paul Foster

Gardner-Webb University student musician Hannah Blalock is in amazing company. She was one of only three harpists out of over 400 applicants across the country to have been invited to the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) National Competition in New York City. It was a proud moment for Blalock, one she dedicated to her deceased father.

“I feel very honored, grateful and thankful for the prayers and support of Dr. Frank Bonner (GWU president) and the University,” said Blalock. “This was a tremendous honor and opportunity.”

The ASTA was founded over 60 years ago and holds the national solo competition every two years in different locations throughout the United States. The event showcases stellar performers in all string instruments, including the violin, viola, guitar, cello, and double bass. The selection process for finalists is conducted through the submission of a video recording that is critiqued by a panel of judges. This year’s performances were held at the famous Merkin Concert Hall.

Blalock, from Matthews, N.C., will enter her third year as a harp performance and church music major this fall. She has also served as a resident advisor at GWU, a tutor for the Music Department, and a Presidential Scholar in Music.

This accomplishment was significant for Blalock on many levels, especially in relation to her late father’s inspiration. “I was so glad that mom could see me perform along with my harp professor, Sivan Magen.” Blalock knew this would have been extremely special to her father, who had passed away in March of this year, after a courageous battle against cancer. Hoyle Lee Blalock, Jr. was a graduate of Gardner-Webb in 1959 with an Associate of Arts degree in Math. He later received a master’s degree from N.C. State University before working for Central Piedmont Community College (Charlotte, N.C.) for 48

years. There he helped develop the Computer Information and Technology Department.

“He had viewed my video submission before his death and had hoped I would be selected. My dad has always been a tremendous source of inspiration in my life. He was my greatest fan and encouraged my work as a harpist,” said Blalock.

*“Music expresses that which cannot
be put into words and that which
cannot remain silent.” - Victor Hugo*

Blalock’s father even helped to paint a picture for his daughter of what life was like at Gardner-Webb. He was reared in Boiling Springs and knew the value of small town close-knit community values, and higher education. “Through my trips to Boiling Springs, Dad explained to me what it was like to grow up there. His boyhood adventures of things like going to the movie theatre (where the Italian Garden restaurant is located today) and watching westerns for 25 cents. How he delivered milk to the University in glass containers and how he would often run home and the bulldog, the GW mascot, would actually chase him down Main Street.”

It seems that a seed was planted long ago by the elder Blalock, whose Christian faith and perspectives on life helped to put his daughter on a course to GWU.

“I was even given the full name I have, Hannah Lee Blalock, so it would match the same initials as dad. HLB,” said Blalock proudly.

Blalock continues to cultivate her talents on the harp by preparing for future competitions including Holland’s Dutch International Competition and Music Festival in 2014.



Realizing a DREAM

THE GREATER SHELBY COMMUNITY THEATRE WAS BORN AT GARDNER-WEBB
WRITTEN BY GILDA W. PRUITT



Dr. Charles Cox

In the winter of 1974, Dr. Charles Cox, professor of Theatre Arts and Speech at Gardner-Webb College placed an ad in The Shelby Daily Star for children to audition for parts in the upcoming Gardner-Webb production of “The King and I.”

Community children arrived at Hamrick Hall Auditorium to fill the roles of singers, dancers and performers. Gardner-Webb students who had previously participated in theatre at Gardner-Webb and various high school and community programs took on the adult parts in the musical.

“The King and I” was presented in February 1974 in Hamrick Hall with a cast of more than 50 and an orchestra of 24 under the direction of conductor, Dr. Robert Decker.

Julie Huggins Daves, who is currently the director of the ACTIVE mentoring/tutoring program for Cleveland County Schools, recalls participating in the play as one of the King’s children.

Jenni Hassler performs a scene from
Greater Shelby Community Theatre’s
“Searching for Eden.”



“The King and I”

“I remember them doing our makeup – body makeup – to give us brown skin. I remember that I wore my hair in a bun. The play had three nights of performances and I enjoyed being with the Gardner-Webb students,” said Daves.

The event offered the area a unique treat: a homegrown and youthful production of Oscar and Hammerstein’s beloved musical. Response to the performance was positive and the seeds for a community theatre began to take root.

Cox received his bachelor’s degree from Roanoke College in Salem, Va. in 1941. He received his master’s in dramatic production from Cornell in 1942; and in 1957 he received his doctorate from Northwestern University in Chicago, Ill. He and his wife, Dr. Betty Cox, both served on the Gardner-Webb faculty until their retirement.

After the run of “The King and I,” Cox lost no time in calling together a meeting of like-minded theatre enthusiasts. This core group (many from the nucleus of “The King and I” production) came together and formed the Greater Shelby Community Theatre (GSCT). And those in the area who had long hoped for a community theatre organization realized that the dream was finally coming to fruition.

The inaugural production of GSCT, “Our Town,” was presented in 1976 at what was then Shelby Junior High School. Bob Allen, a local CPA played the lead role.

A \$1,000 grant helped fund the first musical performance, “Fiddler on the Roof,” presented at Malcolm Brown Auditorium on the Shelby High School campus. Cox directed both “Our Town” and “Fiddler on the Roof.”

The GSCT has continued to entertain audiences in Cleveland County for over three and a half decades.

Dottie I. Dickson of Shelby participated as pianist in many of the first plays. She wrote the musical score for “Cramp the Donkey,” an original play written by now deceased local author, Richard Dedmon. She also composed musical scores for “Kinakeet” written by Michael Goforth and “The Big Seed” written by Bill Reynolds.

Dickson said, “When you incorporate large casts, you make friends with the community. That is how we grew.”

Janet Sims, long term member of GSCT and past president, said, “Our plays draw patrons from Georgia, South Carolina and all parts of North Carolina.” She added, “The group has spawned actors, directors, playwrights, musicians, musical score writers, technical experts, stage managers and people who wish to contribute in many different ways.”



Gardner-Webb was the home for Greater Shelby Community Theatre between 1988-1997 while the group searched for a permanent home. Some of America’s most loved plays were presented during this time—“Peter Pan,” “Tom Sawyer,” “Anything Goes,” “Oklahoma” and “Blythe Spirit.”

Sims said, “The general public does not know just how much work must be done to pull off a play. We solicit volunteers from the community to join us and help us in this task. We would like to help tourism in Cleveland County grow through our group. The Greater Shelby Community Theatre has been performing at Cleveland Community College for the past 15 or so years. We invite you to join us to see a play or to work behind the scenes. You will be glad you did as magic appears right before your eyes.”





Scenic Impressions

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream;
not only plan, but also believe.”

Anatole France



The “DOC” Is In

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

At the start of her 35th year at Gardner-Webb University, Dr. Dee Hunt experienced a moment she had never and likely will never again encounter. She was seated on a stage next to Robert and Carolyn Tucker as the brand new Tucker Student Center was being dedicated. The Tucker family had already donated \$5 million toward the project that bears their name. But no one—not Doc Hunt, not Carolyn Tucker, not even Robert Tucker himself—was prepared for the announcement that took everyone by surprise at the conclusion of the dedication ceremony.

His words still echo in her mind. “I remember once being in New York,” Robert Tucker’s voice trembled. “And I crossed the street and saw a homeless man. I gave him \$5 or \$10. I always

wondered if I gave enough. So, I’m going to give another half-million dollars in honor of Dr. Dee Hunt.”

Hunt’s eyes still tear up when she recalls the moment when Gardner-Webb University received such a significant gift as a result of her commitment and service. “That was a spontaneous decision,” Hunt shared. “It was a surprise to Mr. Tucker too. I’ve thought about this, I don’t know if I’ve ever said it, but how rare in a lifetime are you alive and experience that. It’s not the money. Am I thrilled that the money is here? Oh gosh, yes! But that a family as kind and generous as the Tuckers would even fathom doing that in my honor—it was and still is overwhelming. That moment is probably one of the proudest and most



Dee Hunt hugging Robert Tucker at the Tucker Student Center opening in August 2012.

humbling moments of my entire life and I'm so grateful that I witnessed it."

If there was one thing that Delores "Doc" Hunt knew beyond any doubt as she was growing up, it was that she would teach. "I can't even remember when I didn't know I wanted to be a teacher," Hunt reflected. "When I grew up, a young lady did one of three things. She was a nurse, a teacher, or a mom. I chose to teach."

Born in rural northeast Alabama, Hunt was raised in the small community of Valley Head. In high school, she was a cheerleader and dated the captain of the football team. When

she graduated in 1964, she knew exactly where she was heading next. "In Alabama, you either went to Auburn or Alabama," she stated. "I was an Auburn person. I went there and graduated in 1968."

She desired to continue her education and began seeking a teaching assistantship at a university where she could pursue her master's degree and work simultaneously. By the fall of 1968, Hunt had accepted a position at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. where she served as a grad assistant and taught classes while she went to class. After finishing up her Master of Education, she took a position at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn. She spent three years teaching in the physical education, health, and wellness area and then became an administrator.

"I knew I wanted my terminal degree," Hunt shared. "At that time, Middle Tennessee State had a Doctor of Arts in Higher Education. My concentration was the organization of universities, the psychology of universities and all of that. I absolutely loved it. I could not have asked for a better degree to do what I am doing now and have done for 40-something years."

In 1976, Hunt graduated with her doctorate and got engaged. She and her fiancé moved to Chattanooga, Tenn. and she began teaching at Chattanooga State Technical Community College. However, the marriage was not meant to be. "We broke up, but that was okay," Hunt said. "I was too independent and I believe it worked out the way it was supposed to work out. Not long after that, I received a call about an opening at Gardner-Webb."

Dr. Dave Gardner and Hunt had met in the doctoral program at MTSU, and Gardner had taken a position at Gardner-Webb.

In 1978, he contacted Hunt to let her know about an opening in the Gardner-Webb Physical Education, Wellness, and Sports Studies (PEWSS) department. Since signing on to teach PEWSS curriculum, Hunt has worn a variety of hats during her 35 years at GWU: professor, coach, administrator, dean, department chair, etc. She now serves as vice president and dean of student development. In her current role, she has truly witnessed her gift and passion for teaching and coaching unite with her skills in organizational leadership.

~

“A COACH OR TEACHER EXPECTS THEIR STUDENTS TO MAKE MISTAKES, BUT TO LEARN FROM THEM AND DO BETTER NEXT TIME.”

~

"You don't have to be in a classroom to teach or coach," Hunt reflected. "There are a lot of experiences that occur on campus that are opportunities for learning. Not all learning takes place in an academic setting. I do my best to hold kids accountable and responsible. A coach or teacher expects their students to make mistakes, but to learn from those mistakes and do better the next time around."

Although she conveys warmth and compassion through her quick wit and willingness to listen, Hunt also realizes that she must earn the trust of the students before she can expect to have any sort of lasting impact.

"I think the kids realize that I don't kiss and tell, but that my number one concern is that they leave here as better people," Hunt explained. "I want them to be contributors to society—givers who take their faith and their leadership and their service—and become better people outside of this community."

Just a few years ago, after she moved from her faculty position in the PEWSS department to the role of vice president of student development, other members of the faculty and staff felt a

noticeable void and wanted to establish a scholarship in Hunt's honor. The Dee Hunt Scholarship Fund was fully endowed following the additional financial contribution of the Tucker family in Hunt's honor. The fund benefits select students who have completed at least one year of study and need financial assistance in order to continue at Gardner-Webb.

With a lifetime of wellness education under her belt, Hunt was shocked to discover in 2011 that she had colon cancer. She underwent major surgery and numerous intense chemotherapy treatments. During those darks days, she learned how much she treasured her Gardner-Webb family—and how much they treasured her.

"Without my friends outside of here, and without the people here at this university, I couldn't have made it," Hunt's voice wavered. "There were people here who would bring me food because I just didn't feel like eating. People would bring me meals. Other friends would go with me to treatments. The love they showed me was phenomenal."

At 67 years old, she is now considering retirement. "The prognosis is good, but you get scared," Hunt confided. "I sometimes get a little anxious about it and begin to worry about all of the little aches and pains that I'd otherwise ignore."

Thinking about the future is both exciting and frightening to Hunt. "I am scared to death of what my life would be without this place," she shared. "Yet, I'm also scared of what my life will be if I continue to put off retirement. I've never, ever wanted to do anything more than teach and be an educator. That's the number-one reason I love Gardner-Webb. This institution has allowed me to do what I do best, what I know best, and what I've always longed to do."



A Nurse's Service

BSN Grad Erica White gets Big South Player of the Year Tennis Honors

Written by Paul Foster

Gardner-Webb was fortunate to have had Erica White, and White says she was fortunate to have had Gardner-Webb. While both sides have their valid points, it was the match points that White delivered on the court that set the bar high for future GWU women tennis players. White was named Big South Conference Player of the Year for 2013 and became one of Gardner-Webb's first to be nationally ranked.

"Receiving the player of the year award, such an honor, in my senior year was extra special," said White.

"Erica was one of the best players in our program's history," said GWU Women's Tennis Coach Jim Corn. "She was as good of a competitor as we have ever had. She had all the tools. Such strength for her size, and boy, could she hit the ball."

White was the number one singles flight champion for GWU this past season with an impressive 18-3 overall record, including 8-1 in regular season conference play. She was also named to the All-Big South singles and all academic teams. White was also excellent in doubles play with Jenny Lunde.

"Even though we had been teammates for three years, we had never teamed up before," said White. The chemistry between the two was so great that they finished 16-3 overall. As the team's number one doubles unit, they earned conference recognition, and broke new ground when they entered into the national ITA (Intercollegiate Tennis Association) doubles rankings, a first for GWU tennis.

"Coach Corn played a big role in me coming to play tennis at Gardner-Webb. I was fortunate. He knew that I wanted to become a nurse and allowed me to balance studying nursing (getting in those required clinicals) while playing tennis," said White.

The Charleston, W. Va., native received a BSN from the School of Nursing when she graduated in May. She has already found a job as a nurse back in familiar territory at Charleston Area Medical Center. White plans to return to college in the future to become a nurse practitioner, but says playing tennis and participating in tournaments is still a top priority.

White said her relationships with the nursing faculty, her doubles partner, and Coach Corn were foundationally important to her. "Coach Corn made many of our conversations about family and spiritual things as well. I was lucky being around so many great role models. Some of them even trusted me to babysit their children," laughed White.

Corn may have summed it up best. "Erica was a joy to coach. She could have gone to a bigger school, but she felt at home at Gardner-Webb and I think we are all so glad she did."

Additional Tennis Accomplishments:

Big South Conference Freshman of the Year • All Conference in her Sophomore and Junior Seasons



GWU Men's Basketball Names Tim Craft as New Head Coach

Chris Holtmann Takes Position at Butler University

Written by Paul Foster and Niki Bliss-Carroll



New GWU Head Basketball Coach Tim Craft during a press conference

Following an impressive 21-win season in 2012-13, the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs Men's Basketball Program has named Tim Craft as its new head coach. Previous coach Chris Holtmann resigned in July to take an assistant coaching position at Butler University in Indianapolis, Ind.

Craft is no stranger to Gardner-Webb and is returning to the place he previously spent three seasons as an assistant coach from 2004-2007. He played a critical role in guiding the team to its two best seasons as members of the Atlantic Sun Conference.

"I am thrilled and blessed to have this opportunity at a place I truly love," said Craft. "We have wonderful memories of our years in Boiling Springs, and the Christian mission of the University is exciting for my family and I to support. I am humbled to help build upon a history of success at Gardner-Webb."

The hiring came on the heels of the unexpected resignation of former head coach Chris Holtmann, who pioneered the team into new territory with its first 21-win season since attaining Division I status. Holtmann received many accolades during the historic season, including being named Big South Conference Coach of the Year and ushering his team to its first post-season tournament appearance.

"My staff and players are the reason we had a record-setting year and went to the postseason for the first time," Holtmann said after announcing he would be stepping down. "The future here [at GWU] is very bright and those guys are responsible for

the great optimism around our program right now. Gardner-Webb University and this great community will always be special to the Holtmann family."

Craft will retain the current men's basketball coaching staff through the upcoming season, and is setting his sights on another record-setting season.

"Chris Holtmann has been an important mentor and close friend throughout my career, and I have tremendous respect for the success that he and his staff have worked so hard to achieve the last three years," Craft acknowledged. "I look forward to working with the talented coaches and student-athletes already in place in the program and continuing to build on what they have begun."

This coming season, GWU will be expected to compete for the Big South Conference title with three key starters (Donta Harper, Jerome Hill and Tyler Strange) returning to the court. The Bulldogs also welcome back five other players and add several exceptional transfers.

Over the past three years, Craft has served as an assistant coach at East Carolina (Greenville, N.C.), where the Pirates are coming off their best season in school history. The ECU team won a record 23-games and captured the CIT (College Insider.com) Postseason Tournament Championship. Before ECU, Craft served as director of basketball operations and assistant coach at Auburn University (Auburn, Ala.). At both ECU and Auburn, Craft worked with head coach Jeff Lebo, who is remembered as a former star point guard for the University of North Carolina Tarheels (Chapel Hill, N.C.).

"I want to thank Dr. Bonner and Chuck Burch for allowing me the chance to realize the dream of becoming a head coach," Craft noted. "There is history of success at Gardner-Webb and I am honored and humbled to help build upon that tradition."



THE FIELD NURSE

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

He's a tough guy on the football field. As a GWU Runnin' Bulldog, he plays offensive center. Snapping the football from the line of scrimmage and safely delivering it to the quarterback is a primary responsibility. After those split seconds have passed, he must analyze how to best defend his quarterback as he provides necessary blocks and offensive coverage.

Ashanti McPhee is physically imposing and underneath his helmet and pads, one would never suspect that he is one of the only Gardner-Webb football players to embrace a calling into the nursing profession. This Orlando, Fla. native came to GWU to play football and never expected he would enter a program so heavily populated by the female gender.

"I initially was interested in marine biology," McPhee shared. "I took a biology class to see if that was an area that I should explore. I realized that learning about biomes and animal environments wasn't that interesting to me. Then, we started studying material about the human body; the different systems, how they function, how they interact together to make the body work. That's when I knew this was something I wanted to pursue."

After completing a year of his core requirements, McPhee entered the Gardner-Webb Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) program. His instructors speak highly of him and are impressed with his abilities in both the classroom and within his clinical rotation. Although he knew being male was not necessarily common in the





His football teammates were understandably surprised when he chose to enter the nursing program, and McPhee said he definitely has endured a certain amount of teasing, ribbing, and tongue-in-cheek banter. At the same time, he knows they understand the challenging nature of the curriculum. "If I can get through this program, I want to try to help other guys who might be shy about it or scared to be ridiculed," McPhee said. "As a football player in the nursing program, I see a chance to help people. No matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and have a passion to do something, you shouldn't be afraid to do it."

McPhee is convinced that his year in the nursing program has assisted him immensely as a student athlete. "Nursing definitely helps me think more critically on the field," he reflected. "With nursing, there are a lot of context clues that help you figure out what is happening. I've learned to develop that skill and pick up on clues and that has transferred into how I think on the field. And I'm more dedicated to learning on the field, just like in the classroom."

He admits that he must access a different element of his personality when he is playing football. Those who witness McPhee on the field will likely never see the nurturing, caring and compassionate side of him. "In football, if the opposing team sees a weakness, they'll take advantage of it," he explained. "But when I'm working with a patient, I truly enjoy giving them a medication or a drink when they are thirsty, or doing something positive to help them in their time of need. That aspect is very satisfying to me personally."

With his first year in the ADN program now complete, he is more confident than ever that he made the right decision for his future profession. "With nursing, there's a lot that we know that allows us to take care of people," McPhee explained. "But there's still so much that can be discovered. That mystery and potential for ongoing discovery definitely keeps my attention and makes me excited about what my future holds."

nursing profession, he believes his gender can ultimately help him. "Even in my clinicals, people tell me, 'We love having you here,'" he explained. "I guess it is because of my size, it's easier for me to help lift and ambulate patients. There seems to be an increasing demand for male nurses."

**"AS A
FOOTBALL
PLAYER IN
THE NURSING
PROGRAM I SEE
A CHANCE TO
HELP PEOPLE."**

Ancient Sport Finds New Life at GWU

Gardner-Webb to Add Women's Lacrosse

By Paul Foster

Gardner-Webb has announced that women's lacrosse will be added as the 22nd overall sport at the University, and the ninth women's program in the Big South Conference. The team is scheduled to take the field for the first time during the 2014-15 season. The GWU Board of Trustees voted unanimously to add the sport earlier this year.

Women's lacrosse will be a spring-season sport and Big South Conference teams have a chance to compete for an automatic bid in the NCAA Tournament. Other current league members include Campbell, Coastal Carolina, Davidson (associate member), Liberty, and Winthrop.

The University named Jacquelyn Duggins as its first head coach for the team. She comes to GWU from Liberty University.

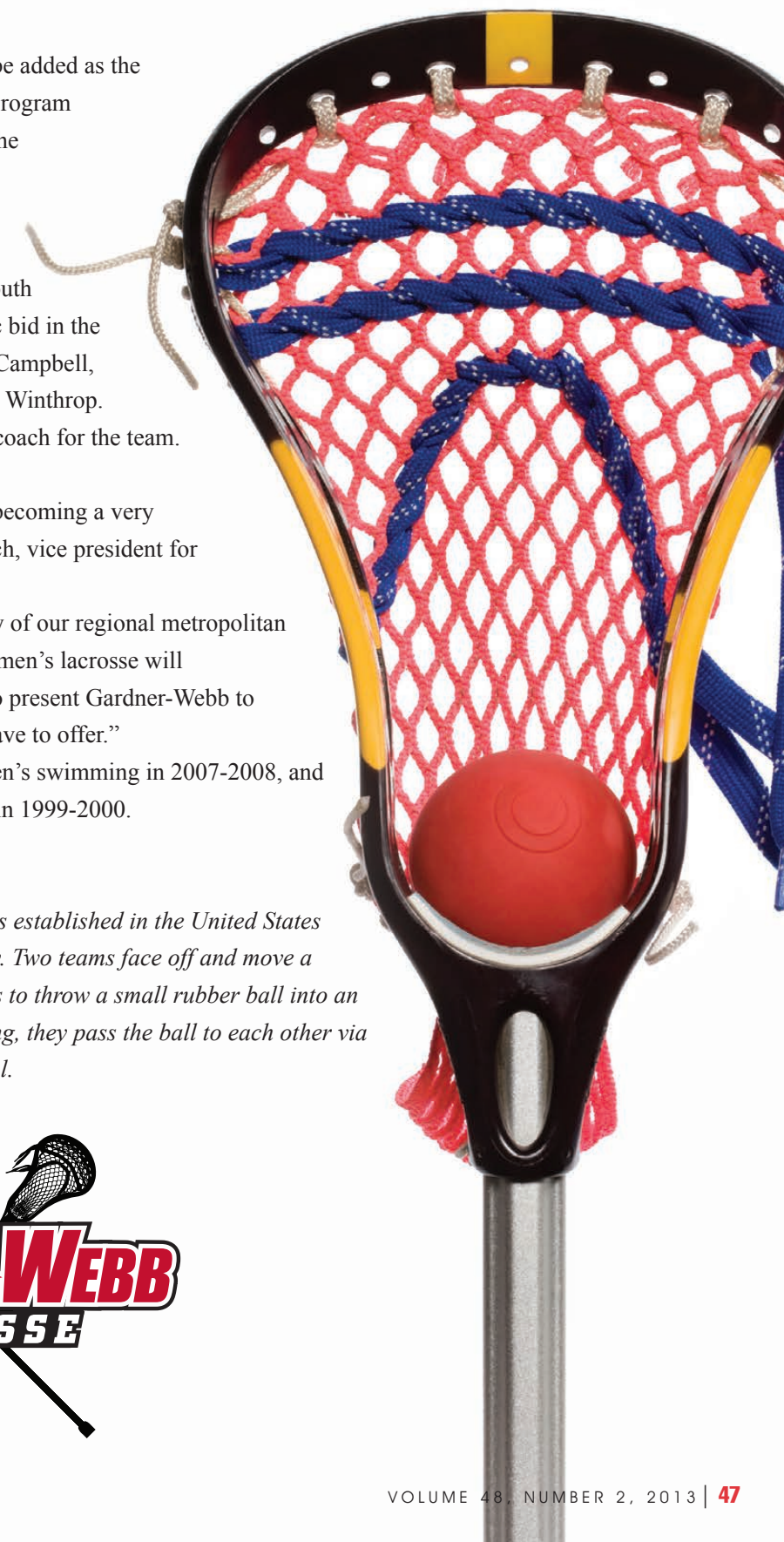
"We are excited to begin this process and look forward to becoming a very competitive program within the Big South," said Chuck Burch, vice president for athletics at Gardner-Webb.

"The sport of women's lacrosse is growing rapidly in many of our regional metropolitan areas," said Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner. "Women's lacrosse will immediately provide our university with a unique platform to present Gardner-Webb to potential students who might not be familiar with what we have to offer."

Lacrosse is the first sport added to GWU athletics since men's swimming in 2007-2008, and the first women's sports since swimming and track and field in 1999-2000.

What is Lacrosse?

Lacrosse is a high-energy, fast moving, contact sport that was established in the United States by Native Americans. It has similarities to soccer and hockey. Two teams face off and move a lacrosse ball up and down the field. The object of the game is to throw a small rubber ball into an opponent's goal with the use of a lacrosse stick. While running, they pass the ball to each other via the mesh net stick in hopes of setting up a shot to score a goal.





PRAYER + HARD WORK= SUCCESS

GWU ALUM '03 CHENA CAMP PUSHES STUDENTS TO POTENTIAL

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

What initially began as an extra-curricular activity for a shy girl in her ninth grade year of high school has become a career path that 31-year-old Chena Camp never envisioned. After spending four years cheering for the Burns High School Bulldogs in Lawndale, N.C., Camp traded in her blue and gold Burns High uniform for a red-and-black Gardner-Webb University version. And that is where her career as a competition cheerleading coach truly began—at least, indirectly.

“After my time at Gardner-Webb, I actually thought I would be done with cheerleading,” Camp recalled. “As soon as I graduated, I got a call from Starlite Gymnastics in Boiling Springs (N.C.) and they hired me as a competition cheer coach.”

Camp didn’t start tumbling (performing gymnastics such as somersaults, rolls, handsprings, tucks, and other flips which are executed without the use of specialized apparatus) until her freshman year at Gardner-Webb when she was challenged by other members of the cheerleading team, who had tumbling experience, and could offer instruction and assistance.

“I couldn’t do a back-handspring to save my life! My body just would not go back,” Camp reflected. “So instead, I actually started with a standing back tuck. They told me I had so much ‘up’ that I should try a tuck. So I mastered it first, and waited probably another two or three years before I even attempted another handspring.”

During her years as a GWU cheerleader, the team went to NCAA Division II National Cheerleading Competition three times, and finished with a team-best of seventh place at nationals during her junior year. As graduation approached and she began focusing on completing her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Camp never considered cheerleading or coaching as a possible career track. Yet, two years after earning her college diploma, a chance conversation with a friend led her to a decision that changed her future in a dramatic way.

“Somebody told me that the National Basketball Association’s (NBA) Charlotte Bobcats had real cheerleaders, not just dancers,” she shared. “So I looked it up online and just decided one morning that I was going to go to their tryout. It wasn’t planned at all, and in fact was probably not the smartest decision because I had just messed up my back.”

By that time, Camp had gained a considerable amount of tumbling skills, and could even land a full twisting layout on a spring floor (a move only attempted by advanced level gymnasts). But with her back injury, she wasn’t sure whether she would be able to display enough advanced skills to make the cut.

When she arrived at the tryout, there were around 90 other hopefuls, including several who had made the team the year before. Although everyone had to earn their spot each year, the experience was a bit overwhelming for a small-town girl from Cleveland County. “I got over that pretty quickly,” she

laughed. “At first, yes, it was intimidating because you don’t know anybody. So you’re going into tryouts not knowing any of the guys who will be serving as stunt bases for you. You definitely have to go in with a lot of trust.”

By the end of the day, Chena received the news she had hoped for. She had been selected as a member of the Charlotte Bobcats “Rally Cats” professional cheerleading team. She could not wait to get home and share the news with her family.

“I was so excited! Nobody knew I was trying out,” Camp explained. “My mom said, ‘Where’ve you been all day?’ and I held up my piece of paper that showed her I had made the team and she just went crazy! It was so fun to get to share the news in that way.”

She went on to serve four years as a Rally Cat, cheering, stunting, tumbling and dancing with other team members during the Bobcat’s home games. In 2009, she and the rest of the team received the difficult news that their squad would be discontinued. “The last year I cheered, they got new owners over the entertainment portion, and they decided to cut the cheerleading out totally and they just kept the dance team. That was tough, just giving up cheerleading.”

Such an unexpected decision ultimately became a blessing in disguise. In addition to her coaching position at Starlite, Camp had started coaching gymnastics at Dance Magic studio in Kings Mountain, N.C. The days she had games in Charlotte, she would have to leave early, or sometimes not coach at all.

“Not having to drive back and forth to Charlotte made it much more convenient for me to spend more time with the girls at Dance Magic,” she realized. “I didn’t have any regrets afterwards. I liked cheering when I was there, but once I was coaching and spending more time with the girls, I realized I was able to help them out more and provide a more consistent presence.”

She tells the girls that they will inevitably walk through seasons of disappointment, but it is how they handle those disappointments that reflect their true character. “I try to remind them to just keep praying about it and trust that when the timing is right, another opportunity will open up,” Camp encouraged.

The same year that the Rally Cats ended, a new endeavor was underway at Dance Magic. Camp was put in charge of a brand new competition cheerleading team in the ‘mini’ category. The girls involved were between the ages of five to eight years old. She said she often draws on the information she learned in her Gardner-Webb sociology classes in order to effectively teach and coach those young students.

“I never imagined that my sociology degree would be used in this way, but it really does fit,” she explained. “Being that the girls are so young, it takes a lot of patience. It can be difficult to get them to pay attention and follow what you are doing. I have to maintain constant organization in order to keep them on track.”











She stayed at Starlite until 2009, when her role at Dance Magic expanded. In just five years, the “Extreme Magic” cheer competition team has grown from one team with eight members to three teams with nearly 80 participants. Competitors range in age from four to 18 years. Camp has her work cut out for her as the program continues to grow. As she considers her Gardner-Webb degree and what she learned during her years at the University, she smiles.

“I learned this a long time ago and try to tell my girls this too. It’s mainly about working hard to get where you want to be,” she stated. “Even if you haven’t mastered the latest skill, you have to come in here, practice, work hard, pray about that thing, and trust that everything will come together. I don’t just tell them to pray—I tell them to pray about it and then work hard. Some people think if you pray about it, it’s there. No, you’ve got to work at it.”



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Our Paths Will Meet Again

A Gardner-Webb Love Story

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Alumnus Mic Morrow '59 stood by his wife's side as she fought for seven years before losing her battle with cancer. Having spent 46 years together, adjusting to life without Shirley was more than challenging. Blessed with a son and a daughter, their life together had been a happy one. Cancer took Shirley far too early. Yet somehow, Mic knew God had not forsaken him. He worked hard to embrace the challenges of this new season of life, trusting in a plan he couldn't quite comprehend.

Kay Meadows married the love of her life after attending Gardner-Webb in the late 1950s. She and Ed Sharpe had known each other since elementary school. They celebrated their Golden anniversary on August 30, 2008 with their two sons. Kay wasn't prepared to lose Ed to a heart attack the following year. She and Ed had lived and loved. There were no regrets. As she emerged from the grieving process, memories of someone special led her closer and closer to a new chapter.

In 1957, Mic Morrow and Kay Meadows met during freshmen orientation at Gardner-Webb College. Then just 18 years old, their chapel seats were assigned and Kay said they found themselves "conveniently close." Initially interested in a possible romantic relationship, Morrow quickly noticed a ring on her finger. "You're engaged," he said. "Just my luck." With similar backgrounds, beliefs, goals, aspirations, likes and dislikes, their friendship grew. "We both respected and understood the significance of the engagement commitment," Morrow reflected. "Our relationship at Gardner-Webb became a close friendship."



A common interest in acting drew Mic and Kay together quite frequently as they were cast opposite one another in the Tennessee Williams production “The Glass Menagerie.” Mic played the part of Jim O’Conner, while Kay played Laura Wingfield, a couple who discovers that timing is everything. “Kay was an excellent actress,” Mic recalled. “She was also an accomplished musician. I always felt closer to God after spending time with her.”

In addition to their time together at rehearsals, the two enjoyed working together in the college library. During quiet times, they engaged in philosophical discussions about God, life, purpose, and many other subjects. “As the months passed, our friendship flourished,” said Morrow. “I referred to her as my little sister. In many ways, she was. I had a little sister named Kay who died very young.”

The two spent hours in conversation about spirituality. They often prayed together. Both shared a keen sense that the Lord was central to their friendship. Their bond seemed to strengthen as the year progressed.

The end of the school year arrived far too quickly. The two friends had to say goodbye. Kay would not be returning to school. She and Ed would soon be married and she would begin a new life with him. “I was happy for her,” Mic recounted. “But I was also sad that our beautiful friendship would be ending.”

In their final minutes together, Kay grabbed a pen and composed a note in Mic’s yearbook. “I won’t say goodbye,” she

wrote. “But having you know full well that out there in the future, our paths will cross again.”

After graduating from Gardner-Webb, Mic attended Carson-Newman College, where he met and fell in love with Shirley Garrison. They were married a few months after graduation. “God blessed our marriage with great happiness,”

Mic shared. As he and Shirley raised their children, he worked as an editor and consultant for LifeWay Christian Resources. In 2000, Shirley was diagnosed with cancer. She died in 2007.

“For four years, I was content living life as a single,” Mic shared. Then on May 15, 2011 as he was returning from church, he received a telephone call that would change his life.

“Mic,” the voice said. “This is Kay.” He had thought of her often over the past 54 years, but he never thought he would speak to her again. Kay had been on the Internet when she saw his name and some articles he had written during his time at LifeWay. A brief biography on Mic was listed along with the article. The biography stated that he was a widower, and it also contained a contact number. She had never forgotten him, and was inspired to call. She told him that Ed had died two years previously.

Thrilled to reestablish the bonds of friendship, the two shared several conversations and began to anticipate seeing one another. As providence would ordain, Kay’s granddaughter was about to graduate from high school and she would be attending the ceremony, held in Nashville, Tenn., near Mic’s home. He offered to pick her up at the airport.

“The days prior to seeing her were filled with anxiety, questions, and anticipation,” he shared. He wondered what it would be like after 54 years? How much had she changed from the red-headed



Mic and Kay at Gardner-Webb in 1957



18-year-old of 1958? Was the deep and loving friendship still there? All anxiety was gone the second he saw her. “We embraced, kissed, and said the words that had been in our hearts for many years,” Mic shared. “I love you.”

For Kay, the reunion represented a myriad of emotions. As she waited for the moment of their first meeting in more than 53 years, she experienced excitement mingled with a little fear. “Reconnecting was a little scary at first because I knew that new avenues would open up,” she recalled. “But meeting Mic was an easy, casual, non-threatening event. It was like an old relationship revived. I felt that no matter what problem that might arise, he would be there for me.”

The months that followed gave them many opportunities to see one another. “Kay’s prophecy that ‘our paths would cross again’ had come true,” Mic said. But this time, he wasn’t going to let her go. Time and distance had not changed his feelings for her. He wanted her to be his wife.

On Sept. 10, 2011, just four months after reconnecting, Kay Meadows Sharpe and Mic Morrow were united in holy matrimony. “Circumstances brought us together the first time and God’s design for us was set in motion,” Mic reflected. The connection that was initially based on a beautiful friendship was finally allowed to blossom into a love of eternal commitment. As the Morrows look back upon their initial meeting at Gardner-

Webb, they believe they are living proof that “God works in mysterious ways.” God’s perfect timing and personal plan for this couple has increased their faith and serves as a wonderful reminder that, as always, He is totally in charge of their lives.



Mic and Kay Morrow now commute between homes in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and Whittier, N.C. Mic serves as a contract writer for LifeWay Christian Resources and he leads conferences on discipleship and senior adult ministries. Kay owns a Native American crafts store in Cherokee, N.C., serves as the choir director in her church and participates in theater productions for the Smoky Mountain Playhouse. The couple can be reached via email at mic.morrow@comcast.net or ksharpe777@aol.com.



Harmonious Arrangements

Roger Lowe '13 Premieres Original Symphony

Written by Paul Foster

**“Today’s accomplishments were
yesterday’s impossibilities.” -**

Robert H. Schuller

The School of Performing and Visual Arts presented the Gardner-Webb University Orchestra Concert this spring featuring ‘Symphony No. 1,’ a work written and arranged by established musician and recent GWU graduate Roger Lowe ('13). This original symphony was a long-time dream of Lowe's. He returned to academia in 2010 after an extended break from college. His desire was to finish a long awaited degree in music composition, which he started in 1979.

Lowe's arrangements draw from a lifetime of musical experience. He has early memories of listening to symphonic music and classical albums on a childhood record player. But his combination of formal music training and experience in classical, pop and rock, church, choral, and instrumental music has developed in him a love and appreciation for multiple genres. It is a love that influences his musical creations. Writing this symphony completed his desire to compose something musically challenging, yet pleasing to the ear.



“Writing a symphony is one of those things usually so far out of reach as to not even be considered,” said Lowe. “Standing at the podium that evening introducing my symphony was wonderful. Finally getting there and knowing I had written something to be proud of, and (to be there) with fellow students and faculty added a feeling of accomplishment.”

“It is truly a great symphony and the orchestra loved being a part of it,” remarked Dr. Patricia Sparti, music department chair and conductor of the symphony.

After Lowe completed one year of college at UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Greensboro, his talents offered him opportunities to tour the United States and Canada playing in Christian rock bands throughout the '80s. He spent the years afterward as a church organist and choir accompanist at a number of churches in North Carolina. During this time, Lowe also arranged hymns and wrote choir pieces.

Lowe's Gardner-Webb roots date back to the founding years of the institution. His grandmother, Aquilla Scruggs (aunt of the legendary Earl Scruggs), graduated from Boiling Springs High School (Gardner-Webb's predecessor) in 1911. Throughout the years, he has also had numerous family members earn degrees from GWU, and his wife, Dr. Linda Greene, his childhood sweetheart, works at the University as an associate professor in the School of Psychology and Counseling. He also has a great friendship and writing partnership with Dr. Doug Bryan, associate provost of academic development at GWU. The two collaborated on several music projects, including GWU's centennial anthem “Born From a Dream” (2005).

“I knew Gardner-Webb was the place to finish my degree. I can't say enough about the quality of music education at this University. I could not have written a symphony and scored it myself without the classes I've taken,” said Lowe.

Lowe currently serves as the organist for Boiling Springs Baptist Church, located across from the Gardner-Webb campus.

Lowe's premiere symphony concert is available online at the Gardner-Webb News Center at Gardner-Webb.edu/newscenter. Add “Roger Lowe Symphony” in the search bar.

ClassActs

The 1940s

ALUMNA PASSING

LEMUEL PHILLIPS BLANTON '40 A.A.

passed away on Feb. 1, 2013. She was a retired teacher from the Cherokee County School District and member of the Retired Teacher's Association. She was also a volunteer at Upstate Carolina Medical Center and member of Midway Baptist Church in Gaffney, S.C. She is survived by her son, two sisters, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

ALUMNA PASSING

HELEN CROCKER CURLE '44 A.A.

passed away on June 6, 2013. She was a retired teacher from Murfreesboro N.C. schools where she taught for 34 years. She was also a member of the Como Town Council for 20 years and a volunteer with the Murfreesboro Historical Society. She was an active member of Buckhorn Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband, David, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The 1950s

ALUMNUS PASSING

MAX PADGETT '50 A.A.

passed away June 1, 2012 in Hickory, N.C. He served for 34 years in the North Carolina public school system and retired in 1983 as the associate superintendent with Catawba County Schools. He worked at Gardner-

Webb from 1983-1988 as Director of Endowment Development. He was active in Baptist life serving several churches as Sunday school teacher, deacon, committee member and trustee. He was a volunteer and civic leader for numerous

organizations including the AARP, Mental Health Association and Rotary Club. He is survived by his wife, Mary, his son, Jeffrey, a grandson and several great-grandchildren.

1970s Golf Dynasty Loses Legend

Terry Florence Dies at 64

Terry Florence (class of '71), an All-American golfer at Gardner-Webb University and part of a national championship golf team, passed away earlier this year at the age of 64. Florence was instrumental in helping the program lay the foundation for successful years to follow and was a pioneer student-athlete of the championship program at Gardner-Webb.



Those who knew Florence, especially in the low country of South Carolina and his home of Charleston, described the successful golfer as "generous with his time," "always a friend," and "someone whose spirit made a positive impact on others."

In the 1970s, Florence, under the direction of coach Dr. Garland Allen (Doc), not only developed his skills on the golf course as one of the team's best players, but he also helped transform Gardner-Webb into a dominating program that won the NAIA National Championship his senior year. Gardner-Webb would capture more titles due in part to the recruiting efforts that followed the success of Florence and his teammates.

Florence continued to make an impact on the sport of golf even beyond his Gardner-Webb years. He was a two-time South Carolina Open Champion, a four-time South Carolina PGA Champion, a participant in four PGA Championships, three Senior PGA Championships, and was inducted into both the South Carolina and Carolinas PGA Halls of Fame.

Former NAIA All-American golfer and teammate Steve Sherman said Florence was an incredible influence and an encouraging mentor to many.

"I remember the positive way he conducted himself and his physical appearance. He was always well-dressed, well-mannered, and was a Christian role model and inspiration to me and other junior golfers," said Sherman.

Florence is survived by wife of 37 years, Hope, as well as a daughter and a son.

Written by Paul Foster

Q&A: A True Homecoming

Alum Dena Spangler Returns to GWU as Director of Alumni Relations

Boiling Springs native Dena Spangler never imagined that the University that was basically in her backyard growing up would become the place where she felt most at home. Although that might be a logical conclusion, her desire to spread her wings initially led her to the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. "It didn't take me long to realize that, all along, the place where I belonged was at Gardner-Webb," Spangler reflected.

Now, 15 years after donning her cap and gown, Spangler is back at Gardner-Webb as the new director of alumni relations. We recently sat down with Dena to find out more about her new role and the vision she has for better serving alumni of Gardner-Webb University.

GW: *What are the biggest challenges for the alumni relations office?*

Dena: The main challenge that I see relates to alumni engagement—how to increase that and make alumni feel they are still part of the Gardner-Webb family no matter where they've settled or landed in life.

It's so easy once you graduate—you move away, you get married, you have kids, you change jobs—to forget your alma mater. With physical distance, there can also be an emotional disconnect. We don't want people to feel disinterested in the University, so our biggest challenge is to increase engagement. Along the same lines, we need to figure out how to make our alums feel like they are a part of GWU, no matter where they are. Whether you are in Alaska or still in Boiling Springs, we want alumni to feel engaged with, connected to, and proud of their alma mater.

GW: *What activities or elements have helped other schools foster positive alumni relationships?*

Dena: When I look at other schools, I see such steep traditions. Their alumni feel very attached to that university because of those traditions. I'd love to see us generate some new traditions so that when people look back on their time here, they can land on those one or two big events, which helps generate loyalty and love for GWU.

In my research, I discovered that GWU is among just a few schools that offer alumni services to former students without receiving annual membership dues. You only have to be at GWU for one semester to qualify as an alumnus. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the North Carolina State University alumni center, and it is

a phenomenal place. It gave me a lot of ideas because eventually we would like to build an alumni center as well. So I think getting feedback from people in a survey format would be very helpful in determining which direction we need to go.

GW: *Do you see a difference in the needs of new alumni versus longtime alums?*

Dena: Absolutely. Another passion of mine is to establish a framework to take care of our young alums. When they first graduate, we want to be supportive and offer them “after care.” I don’t want their first correspondence with GWU after they graduate to be us asking them for a financial contribution. We are about our students; we want that same standard of care to continue once they become an alumni.

GW: *You recently hosted three “Welcome New Alumni” receptions on graduation day in May, with plans to continue those at future commencements. What was the feedback you received from those events?*

Dena: Our first receptions were held after the graduation ceremonies this spring, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Over 5,000 (graduates, family members, and friends) attended the receptions, which gave us an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates and officially welcome them ‘into the fold’ and really make them feel special. The graduates were very appreciative of the receptions and the senior gifts they received. (Seniors gifts included a one year membership to the Bulldog Club, Alumni t-shirt and Gardner-Webb University backpack.) With such success, I believe the receptions will become the one of the newest traditions at GWU.

GW: *When you think about GWU, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?*

Dena: Family. It feels like a family to me. It’s refreshing to come work at the place where I had the opportunity to get my education and see that a lot of my professors are not only still here, but have moved up at GWU. There are a lot of familiar faces, friendly faces. And it is really a family atmosphere.



Gardner-Webb does a great job in caring about each other and caring about the students and their needs. For instance, we get emails everyday asking us to pray for faculty, staff, or students who might be going through something difficult. I wonder how many other universities do that? That’s something that is very unique to us and I believe we do a good job caring for each other like a family should.

GW: *What is your long-term vision for the future of GWU alumni relations?*

Dena: Without question, I’m most looking forward to the day when we begin building a new alumni center. We really need a space where our alumni can come back and feel like they have a place to be. There are so many possibilities with events and activities that could be held in an alumni center and that vision goes right along with the progress we’ve already made with Tucker Student Center. We would love to establish a home for our alumni on campus.

I have no doubt that Gardner-Webb has an amazing product and offers a valuable service. We need to work with people, instill confidence and drive affinity. We will go the extra mile to make people feel special and inspire them to become a part of something bigger than they are.

I’m just trying to do this job as though I were on the receiving end... offering what I would want somebody to do for me. If I look at it that way, hopefully I can be successful in what we are trying to accomplish. I may not have all of the answers, but I’ll try and I’ll definitely do my best.

Gardner-Webb Mourns The Death of Its First Orchestra Conductor

Robert Decker Remembered For His Love of Christian Music

A former and respected faculty member of Gardner-Webb University, Dr. Robert (Bob) Decker, recently passed away at the age of 85. Decker served the GWU Fine Arts Department as associate professor of music and was named Professor Emeritus after 20 years of service.

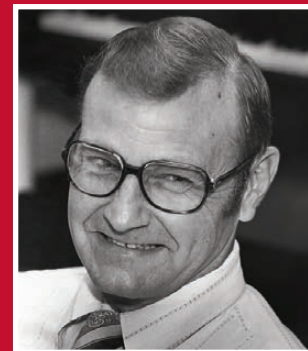
Decker, originally from Miami, Fla., graduated from the University of Miami with a BA in Music Education, where he served as a drum major in the marching band. He next received an MA in Christian Education from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, located in Louisville, Ky. Decker’s desire for learning also earned him additional degrees in music (later in his career) from Appalachian State and UNC Greensboro, both located in N.C.

Decker started his teaching career on the high school level as a music teacher and band instructor. More than anything else it was his love of church music that remained a main focus throughout his career. He served as minister of music for several churches in North Carolina and Georgia, including Elizabeth Baptist of Shelby, N.C. He eventually made his way to Gardner-Webb and was the founding conductor of the GWU Orchestra. His two decades at Gardner-Webb were filled with not only a love of performing music, but a joy in helping students gain an appreciation for the art so entrenched within him.

Decker also served as a member of the United States Navy, where he was a veteran of World War II, and was instrumental in the Cleveland County chapter of Habitat for Humanity, serving as board chairman in the late 1980s.

Memorials may be made by mail to Gardner-Webb University, 110 S. Main Street, Boiling Springs, N.C. 28017 or to the Solace House (Hospice care service for the Asheville area) at PO Box 5779, Asheville, N.C. 28813.

Written by Paul Foster



RONALD HAWKINS ’55 A.A.

and his wife, Martha were honored in April at the 13th Annual Baptist Heritage Awards. It is a time to recognize individuals and couples for long-standing Baptist service. The Hawkins family

was acknowledged for commitment to church, community and Gardner-Webb. Ronald has a long history of serving in the banking industry, and he and Martha are members of First Baptist Church of Statesville, N.C. where he serves as

a deacon. Ronald has also served as a trustee at Gardner-Webb and directed several community committees.

The 1960s

ALUMNA PASSING

MILDRED CATHERINE DAY ’60 A.A. Passed away on May 25, 2013 in Brevard, N.C. She was a native of Cherokee, N.C and was an educator in both North Carolina (Transylvania County School System) and Florida (Duval County School System) until her retirement. She is survived by her sisters and numerous nieces and nephews.

The 1970s

ALUMNA PASSING

JOYCE A. LYNCH ’71 A.A. died on Feb. 1, 2013. She was a registered nurse and the first African American nurse to be hired by Rutherford Hospital. Her career spanned 40 years. She was a member of Russell Tabernacle C.M.E Church. She is survived by her husband, daughter, son and several extended family members.

JANE WITHERS ’71 B.A., ’04 M.A.

retired as principal of Hasty Elementary School in Thomasville, N.C. in June, 2013. Jane has worked in education since 1971, serving in a variety of teaching and administration roles. She was voted Teacher of the Year in 1990 and earned her doctorate in theology from the N.C. College of Theology in 2006. In 2007 she published the book, “God’s Design for Women.” She now plans to spend more time teaching in higher education at the Spirit Training Center Bible College in Thomasville (where she’s been teaching as an adjunct for 12 years).



The 18th Green

Steve Sherman '79 Retires After 30 Years on the Golf Course

Written by Paul Foster



According to avid golfers, there is no better individual suited to supervise a golf course and transform a clubhouse into a second home than a successful player of the game himself. That was the case for the Royster Memorial Golf Course, located at the Shelby (N.C.) City Park under Director Steve Sherman. The former Gardner-Webb NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) All-American golfer and GWU Sports Hall of Famer (2001) retired this year after 28 years on the job.

A native of Shelby, Sherman graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1979 majoring in Social Sciences. It was in 1977 that Sherman joined the Runnin' Bulldogs golf team on a full-scholarship; the same year the team captured its second consecutive NAIA National Championship. It was a year to remember.

"We were competing for the title in Bay Valley, Mich.," said Sherman. "The pressure our team felt in that final round, having to make up 10 shots to win, was overwhelming, and we did it. Then came the anticipation of bringing it home to Gardner-Webb. I remember people waiting for us as we arrived at the Charlotte (N.C.) Airport to celebrate."

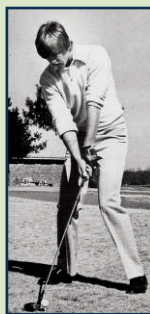
Other members of the team were Jimmy Franklin, Wayne Myers, Danny Phillips, and Zim Zimmerman.

"Our coach was Dr. Garland Allen. We called him Doc. He was, and still is, a positive role model and mentor. I have so many fond memories of that time period. A bond continues today with my former teammates as we stay in touch. We all appreciated the support the college provided," said Sherman.

His love for golf influenced Sherman's career choice. In the early '80s, he worked at Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, but soon returned to Shelby where he eventually received an opportunity to serve as director for Shelby City Park's course. Sherman took ownership of the course, the golf shop and anything else needing to be done. He took his duties and position seriously, and did so with the pride of a champion.

"Over the years, I had the good fortune of spending hours in good company with numerous retired gentlemen," said Sherman. "They added a great deal of wisdom, advice, and character to the golf shop." It was obvious that Sherman made an impact on their lives as well. Many of those gentlemen, those avid golfers, and other friends visited Sherman at the course on his final day before retirement. It was a time to reminisce, to thank him and celebrate his love of the game.

Since retirement, Sherman is finding more time to spend with his wife, Sarah, and their two sons. But don't expect his clubs to get dusty. He hopes in these retirement years to explore more ways to appreciate the sport that introduced him to some fabulous opportunities and life-long relationships.

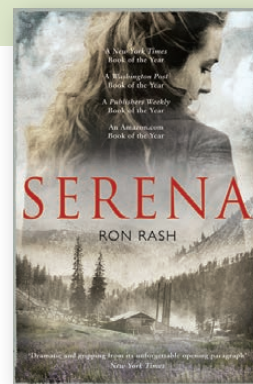


Steve Sherman
1977

RON RASH '76 B.A.

is continuing to receive accolades for his novels, short stories and poems. His book "Serena" has been adapted as a major motion picture and is scheduled to hit the silver screen in September starring Academy Award winner Jennifer

Lawrence and Academy Award nominee Bradley Cooper. The film is already getting early Oscar buzz, and friends of Rash and fans of his work are eagerly awaiting this screen adaptation. An interview with Rash is available online at gardner-webb.edu/newscenter.



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David Steeves '93 Scores Hall of Fame Honor

Written by Paul Foster



David Steeves was known as a Gardner-Webb soccer player who always asked questions while probing for a deeper understanding of the game. He was (and still is) a true student of the game and has developed a strategic knowledge he now instills into his own players. For nearly 20 years, Steeves has been building winning programs for both the Shelby High School girls and boys teams. His success as a soccer coach has been evident through championship appearances, titles, and his induction into the prestigious Cleveland County Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

“David’s coaching career is a joy to behold and I am so proud of him,” said GWU Men’s Soccer Coach Tony Setzer. Setzer was in the early stages of his own coaching career at GWU when Steeves (a Shelby High graduate) played for him. “As a player he wasn’t the most technical, but what he offered us was an unmatched work ethic that made him fit and determined. Those qualities have carried him to the success he has earned today and are ones that can be presented to my players still.”

For nearly two decades, Steeves has served as a teacher and coach at Shelby High, where he has accumulated over 500 victories on the field. He graduated from GWU in 1993 with a BS in Mathematics and a minor in Professional Education. While student teaching at Shelby, he received an unexpected

opportunity when he was asked to consider a vacant coaching position for the boy’s squad. Steeves embraced the occasion, and a few years later he helped launch the girls program (1997). Serving as the driving force for both teams meant that success took time. But success surely did arrive. Since then, Steeves has led the Golden Lions men to two state championships and the women to one state title appearance, while continuously competing for conference titles.

“Coach Setzer was a big influence,” said Steeves. “He gave me the chance to develop my talents. The knowledge I received from him took me to a new level. I was voted most improved player for our team two of my four years playing under him.”

When Steeves was informed he had been chosen for induction into his home county hall of fame, he was humbled and honored. “To be associated with such a group of individuals was beyond special,” said Steeves.

Previous Hall of Fame inductees include the legendary basketball star of college and the NBA David Thompson, NFL Hall of Famer Bobby Bell, and Gardner-Webb’s own Woody Fish, Tee Burton and Jim Corn.

The soccer program at Shelby High has continued to gain respect across the State of North Carolina. Steeves has built teams feared by competitors.

“I think back and say that we could have won more in those early days with more men like David Steeves,” said Setzer. Success has come full-circle as this award-winning student has become an award-winning coach. Steeves, the student, eventually became Steeves, the mentor, thanks to the cultivation and motivation of those like GWU Coach Tony Setzer.

Astellas Pharma US, Inc., the group behind Science WoRX, is a research-based pharmaceutical company committed to playing an active role in science education. They strongly believe that by doing so they can help drive medical innovation in the future. They are based in Japan with a U.S. headquarters located in Illinois.

The 1990s

ROBIN VASSEY EDWARDS '93 B.S.
graduated in May 2012 with an Educational Specialist degree from Appalachian State University.

NOEL T. MANNING II '94 B.A.
is a voting member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association and the Broadcast Television Journalist Association. In 2013, he interviewed numerous cast and crew members of film and TV for the WGWG.org radio show “Cinemascene.” Guests of the show this year have included director and producer, Judd Apatow, actor Elijah Wood (*Lord of the Rings*), Simon Helberg (*Big Bang Theory*) and Academy Award winning film editor and composer John Ottman (*Usual Suspects, X-Men: Days of Future Past*). Manning has been writing entertainment news and reviewing films since his freshmen year at Gardner-Webb in 1988. Cinemascene airs each week on WGWG.org at 6 p.m., and archived and on-demand shows are available online at soundcloud.com/wgwgdotorg. Just search for the movie review set list. Noel and his wife Beth (’89) celebrated 19 years of marriage on June 18. He can be reached at ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu.

JONATHAN WILSON '94 B.S.
earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in January. He is self-employed and the owner of a soccer store in Hendersonville, Tenn. He started TOPSoccer for persons with disabilities.

The 1980s

DAVID HUTCHINS '81 B.A.
has been called to serve as Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist Church in Salisbury, N.C. He has served as minister of music and worship leader at churches in Shelby, Lenoir and Hickory. He lives in Salisbury with his wife and son.

ALUMNA PASSING
MARY PROCTOR HENDRIX '83 B.S.
passed away on Feb. 1, 2013. She taught high school biology in Conover, N.C. She was a member of First United Methodist Church where she was involved in several ministries.

SYBIL FAULKNER-CARTER LANDRETH '86 M.A.
was one of only seven finalists across the nation featured in Science WoRX – Make My Lab WoRX Contest. Landreth’s eighth grade science class

presentation about her approach to teaching on ancient cures and modern medicine was selected as a finalist project. She teaches at Rockingham County (N.C.) Middle School, which was the only district in North Carolina to qualify for the competition. Since finishing at Gardner-Webb, Landreth has dedicated over 26 years to the teaching profession. According to her colleagues, Landreth’s approach to teaching is helping expose her students to new perspectives on health and science. “The kids call me the mad scientist,” chuckled Landreth.



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.*

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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.

GW-YOU

"Because I transferred here, I have seen other schools and different environments, and there's truly no other environment like Gardner-Webb's. It's a small campus, a small community, and everyone is like a big family. When you can't get in touch with your mom and dad, you can surely get in touch with faculty or staff members who are happy to step into their place for a moment and help you out, or talk to you, or give you advice."

Erica King '13 BA Communications Studies

Marketing Director, Champion Studios

Former Intern for the GWU Communications Office

Where Faith Can Take You

Pentagon Chaplain Lives a "Ministry of Presence"

Written by Matthew Renfer



Considering where a degree in religious studies can lead may be something of a mystery. For insight, one need only look to the trail blazed by Philip Kramer '98, who's served in the Army as Chaplain at Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Benning, Ga., and now, at the Pentagon's Chief of Chaplain's Office. His path to Washington D.C. started with a B.A. in religious studies at Gardner-Webb—a journey that has enriched the lives of countless people along the way.

A possible misconception of religious studies is that it's primarily a thinking degree—one that is high-minded and without everyday, practical value. But that is far from the truth. In fact such a degree could be an essential milestone for those looking to walk the way of faith that reaches out to others in compassion, aiding in the spiritual wellbeing to those in need.

Case in point: even while earning his religious studies degree at Gardner-Webb, Kramer took advantage of opportunities to preach across North Carolina. "Tracy Jessup had a huge part in arranging those opportunities,"



said Kramer, "and I would say that ME (Ministerial Education) Days were one of the big reasons why I chose to attend GWU and also one of the best things I remember about my time there."

Finishing his undergraduate degree in just two and a half years, Kramer later went on to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (M. Div), Duke University (Th. M), and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Ph. D).

"While completing my studies in Chicago, the war overseas began and I sensed a great need for chaplains in the Army," said Kramer. "I spent four years in the Marines (1991-1995) before coming to GWU, so I knew many of the

physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges that soldiers faced in the military. So in 2003, I applied for and was selected for active-duty service in the Army Chaplaincy."

Asked to elaborate on his duties as chaplain over the years, Kramer recounted the code that guides his ministry. "Nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the fallen." He emphasized the presence of the ministry among the people wherever they happen to go—even if that presence involves jumping out of airplanes with paratroopers or hiking 20 miles in the middle of the night.

Kramer clarified why a "ministry of presence" is important. "Building relationships of credibility with soldiers means sharing in and experiencing their hardships and letting them know that you're a real person just like them," he explained, "while at the same time understanding that you represent something much bigger than everyday life (spiritual integrity)."



Such a personally invested journey does not come without its trials, and for Kramer, his greatest challenge has been the time away from his family—his wife of 13 years and four children. "I feel very convicted by God that I must invest my life and faith in my family, and that time spent with them is the primary way that happens." He recalled a memory from Afghanistan on a cold 9,000-foot mountain, missing his family. Reading Luke 18:28-30—a passage concerning the blessings of those who leave their families for the sake of the kingdom—he found "an incredible sense of peace from the Word of God."

Looking back at his time at Gardner-Webb, Kramer shared fond memories that go beyond the scope of academics. "My best memories include friendships made and mentoring relationships with professors who took an interest in my life and ministry," he said. In other words, Kramer's chaplain role at the Pentagon has its foundational roots in his own spiritual growth and professional grooming—all fostered by his alma mater, Gardner-Webb University.

-Thanks to Erica King for her assistance in this story

Integrated Learning

GWU Alum Laurie Pinkert '04 Engages Students in Community Leadership

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll



To say that the last three years have been life changing for Gardner-Webb alum Laurie Pinkert would be a bit of an understatement. Since 2010, Pinkert '04 has gotten married, earned her doctorate from Purdue University (West Lafayette, Ind.), accepted a faculty position at Humboldt State University

(Arcata, Calif.), and received the 2013 K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award, a national distinction bestowed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).

“I can’t help but be a little amazed at where life’s led me because I’ve never been one of those people who always knew exactly where I wanted to be in five or 10 years,” Pinkert explained. “I just walked through each door as it opened.”

Pinkert earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from Gardner-Webb University in May of 2004. She served as an undergraduate admissions counselor at GWU before moving to Orono, Maine to achieve her Master of Arts in English with a concentration in composition studies at the University of Maine. This year, she completed the rhetoric and composition doctorate program at Purdue University and was among seven Cross Future Leaders Award recipients selected out of over 260 nominations from 135 institutions across the country. The honorees were recognized for showing exemplary promise as future leaders of higher education; for demonstrating a commitment to the development of academic and civic responsibility in themselves and in others; and for reflecting a strong emphasis on teaching and learning in their work.

The award is named in honor of K. Patricia Cross, professor of higher education, emerita, at the University of California-Berkeley. Recipients of the award are from a variety of notable institutions, including Columbia University, Duke University, and the University of California-Berkeley, among others.

“I was very honored to be recognized with a Cross award,” she reflected. “I knew that emphasizing students’ civic and

scholarly development in my courses was important to me and was having a significant impact on my students, so I was excited to see these qualities acknowledged by a national organization like AAC&U.”

As part of her new post at Humboldt State, Pinkert is joining the department of English as an assistant professor and will serve as the director of the writing program. “The University’s emphasis on applied learning and campus-community engagement resonated with me,” she stated. “The California state university system is known for offering accessible education, so I see HSU (Humboldt State University) as a place where I can work with students who, like my undergraduate self, might need a faculty mentor who believes in them and helps them to connect classroom learning to their lives beyond the classroom.”

Pinkert believes her time as an undergraduate student and admissions counselor at Gardner-Webb set the stage for the success she has experienced in her post-baccalaureate endeavors, and offered her both mentorship examples and direction for the future. “When I think back on my time as a student at Gardner-Webb, I’m struck by how many of the faculty members across disciplines had a lasting impact on me—Dr. Hobbs, Dr. Zehnder, Dr. Jones, Dr. Hassell, Dr. Eastman, Dr. Blevins, Dr. Parker, Dr. Williams—the list goes on,” she shared. “Each modeled for me in different ways the kind of mentor that I want to be to my own students.”

Connecting the academic and social elements of a student’s experience is important to Pinkert. “Gardner-Webb taught me how to integrate what I was learning in the classroom to what I was doing beyond the classroom, and that’s the kind of cohesive learning I try to promote for my own students,” she offered. “I’ve heard people say time and time again that it’s the ‘people’ that make Gardner-Webb unique, and I can’t think of a better way to say it. I met some of my closest friends and my dearest mentors during my time at GWU, and the everyday moments we shared in the hallways, the cafeteria, the quad, and the classroom—those moments are what I enjoyed most.”



Dr. Jonathan & Dr. Laurie Pinkert,

Signs for Hope

GWU Alum Helps Families Adopt Deaf Orphans

Written by Erica Nicole King



When she decided to attend Gardner-Webb in the fall of 2003 to obtain her bachelors degree in American Sign Language, Becky Lloyd knew she was committing to a 140-mile round trip commute from her home in Asheville, N.C. in order to attend class. It was during this lengthy commute in 2008 when a vision struck her. “I was driving to class and listening to a Christian radio program when God said to me, ‘I want you to coordinate the

adoption of deaf orphans in the world,’” she reflected.

After graduating from Gardner-Webb in the spring of 2008, Lloyd yearned to fulfill God’s calling. In 2009, she founded and became CEO of Signs for Hope, Inc., a non-profit ministry that strives to connect deaf and hard-of-hearing orphans around the world with sources of hope through adoption and sponsorship.

Assisting with successful adoptions in China, Russia and Bulgaria, Signs for Hope helps families by paying the expenses for a qualified interpreter. These interpreters facilitate communication for legal proceedings in the countries where the families are adopting deaf children. “We do not feel that the families should bear the added expense of securing an interpreter, in addition to the high costs of adoption, which are very challenging for most,” said Lloyd.

In addition to costly fees and travel expenses, there are many trials families must overcome when going through this process. “The adoption of deaf children brings with it specific needs that are different from other children who are adopted,” she said. “The communication gaps and cultural differences can create challenges in educational, emotional and social needs. Signs for Hope walks with these families through their adoption journey, which is lifelong.”

Signs for Hope also offers the program “Heart Adoption,” which is a monthly sponsorship of children at the Oscar & Viola Stewart School for the Deaf (OVSSD) just outside of Monrovia, Liberia. Sponsorships help cover the expenses for daily food, fuel to cook meals, medical supplies, etc. for all the children.

Having not been an orphan herself, in 2009 Lloyd began to pray for God to grant her the chance to see these orphanages

up close and personal. Lloyd reflected, “Be careful when you ask God for specifics, because it might just be in Liberia, West Africa!” Since the first trip in June of 2010, Lloyd and her Signs for Hope team has traveled to Liberia four times, most recently in February of this year.

Working with African Christian’s Fellowship International (ACFI), the team’s trips have served to develop relationships and observe the needed advancements for the deaf community and in education. “God is opening some amazing doors for our organization and others to make a great impact on this community through education, training deaf teachers, teaching of Liberian sign language, and sharing of the Gospel in their native language – sign,” said Lloyd.

Educating adoption agencies about the need for interpreters for families who are seeking to adopt deaf children is also a major goal for the Signs for Hope organization. “Matching that education with prayer has finally paid off,” said Lloyd. “We recently received word from an agency that they will partner with Signs for Hope and provide half of the funds necessary for an interpreter to travel to China with a deaf couple who will bring their 12-year-old daughter home.”

Having a strong deaf family heritage, Lloyd has formed a solid personal connection with the deaf community. After completing copious amounts of research, Lloyd recognized the many challenges and frustrations deaf children face on a day-to-day basis. “Granting these children the best environment whereby they can not only survive, but thrive – a sign language-rich environment- is my heart’s desire,” she said.

Answering God’s calling has allowed Lloyd to see His mighty hand at work and get involved with the deaf community. “Walking with families down this road of obedience to God brings with it benefits that I cannot express in words,” said Lloyd. “There is no greater privilege than growing closer to my God, along with those who are seeking to adopt deaf children and those who care for deaf children who may never experience adoption.”

For more information about Lloyd’s organization, Signs for Hope, go to www.signsforhope.org.



ALUMNUS PASSING

BRIAN TAYLOR DAVIS '95 passed away on May 1, 2013. He was a member of Broadmoor Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge, La. where he served as a church elder and member of the Sanctuary Choir. In 2003, Brian had also been a member of First United Methodist Church, where he served several terms on the Church Council. He is survived by his mother.

MICHELLE WEAVIL '95 M.A. was recently named Teacher of the Year at Union Cross Elementary School in Kernersville, N.C. She is a third-grade teacher.

DON ROPER '96 B.S. was recently named Chief of Police for the city of Mount Holly, N.C. He previously served as a patrol officer in the Investigations and Narcotics units, and most recently as Captain in Command of the West District. He also served as Commander of the Tactical Team and Field Force. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

VICKIE TRAYNUM '96 B.A. is Executive Director for the Mooresville Soup Kitchen.

MATTHEW LYNN REESE '98 B.S. married Ashley Lashay Fox on Nov.17, 2012 at Calvary Baptist Church in Taylorsville, N.C. He is employed by Alexander County Government and she is a registered nurse at Iredell Memorial Hospital.

The 2000s

BRIAN CARLTON '01 B.A. was recently named editor of The News Virginian. This 10-year journalist previously served in several North Carolina towns. He served as managing editor of the Reidsville Review where he managed news operations at three

papers — the Review and the Eden News and The Madison Messenger. Before that, he worked for the Carolina Weekly Newspaper Group, based in Pineville, N.C., where he served as editor of the Union County Weekly.

CHRISTY CORRELL-HUGHES '02 B.A. recently became the Children’s Ministry Director at Clemmons First Baptist Church. She previously served as Associate Pastor for Children’s Ministry at Milledge Baptist Church in Athens, Ga. She and her husband, Larry, have two children.

ROBERT MORGAN '02 and HEIDI MORGAN '11 have started a funeral and cremation service serving Cleveland, Rutherford and surrounding counties. They consider it a ministry to help families at one of the most difficult times of their lives. They believe that it is their Christian values, sustained and reinforced at GWU, that allow them to offer the hope of being reunited with loved ones through Jesus Christ.

CHARLES ANDREW “ANDY” POLK '02 B.A. recently graduated with honors from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) with a Master of Science degree in International Relations. The LSE’s International Relations program is one of the world’s oldest programs and was ranked as the 3rd best in the world in 2012 by QS World University Rankings. While studying at the LSE in London, Polk focused on China’s domestic politics and foreign policy and Middle East politics. He received the school’s highest honor, a distinction, for his dissertation on how China’s rise is changing the balance of power in the Persian Gulf. Previously, he served as U.S. Representative Sue Myrick’s National Security and Foreign Policy Advisor from 2008 - 2011 and her Director of Communications and Public Affairs from 2003 - 2008. Following

graduation, he was hired as Vice-President of the Footwear Distributors and Retailers Association (FDRA) based in Washington, D.C. FDRA is America’s oldest and largest footwear trade association, which represents and advocates for over 100 companies such as Nike and Foot Locker. He can be reached at apolk@fdra.org.

CHRISTOPHER “TATE” CAMPBELL '03 B.S. and his wife Natalie, welcomed their beautiful daughter, Madison Tate Campbell, who was born Jan. 27, 2013. She weighed 8lbs. 9oz. and joined big sisters, Neeley and Elizabeth.

MEGAN CAMPBELL '04 B.S. married Brian Pettigrew on Sept. 8, 2012. She is a Physical Therapist working with patients who have suffered from head injuries at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. Brian is a 7th and 8th grade math and science teacher at Dominion Classical Christian Academy. The couple resides in Duluth, Ga.

ROLAND B. KEMOKAI '04 B.A. has written his first book, “Sunuma.” It is a personal memoir capturing Roland’s story of surviving childhood abandonment, poverty, violence and the struggles of the Liberian Civil War in West Africa. This is Roland’s first installment of an anticipated trilogy. The book is available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and Books-a-Million. Roland is also a motivational speaker and life coach certified by the Board of American Union of NLP. More information on Roland is available online at sunuma.com.

JASON BRUNER '05 B.A. and his wife welcomed their first child, Julia Elise Bruner on May 28, 2013. Jason earned his PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary just ten days earlier. He and his family are now living in Tempe, Ariz. and Jason is on the faculty of the religious studies department at Arizona State University as assistant professor of Global Christianity.

Reaching the “Y” in the Road

Zach Fisher '12 Reaching his GOAL

Written by Paul Foster



Zach Fisher with some of his YMCA kids

Fisher, a native of Springfield, Ill., makes his home in Durham, N.C., while working for the Chatham County YMCA. His role with the Y covers a wide range of responsibilities and programs, including soccer, baseball and basketball. Fisher also manages afterschool programs and serves as a summer camp supervisor.

“I come from a family of educators,” said Fisher. “I always knew I wanted to work with youth in some capacity. Until I found the YMCA, I had always thought that would be through teaching.”

Fisher added, “When I started working at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA in 2004, I had accumulated many hours of credit at two schools I had attended, but I was nowhere near a degree. So, I threw myself into any opportunity I could find with the Y and worked as a school counselor. This gave me a chance to meet and network with as many people as possible.”

In March of 2010, Fisher attended the Association of YMCA Professionals (AYP) Conference in Black Mountain, N.C., an event centered on providing YMCA professionals an opportunity to explore new ideas, gain inspiration, network, and evaluate personal health priorities. While at the conference, Fisher was introduced to Cam Corder, the CEO of the Cleveland County Family YMCA, Inc.

“During one of the sessions, there was a presentation on the GOAL program. Cam asked for everyone in the room to stand up if they had completed or were currently enrolled in GOAL. About 10 people of all ages stood up. I didn’t feel insecure anymore. I felt empowered because I had finally found the path to complete my degree,” Fisher shared.

Determined to find a way to fit his educational ambitions into his busy work schedule, he made it a priority to learn more about how to become a full time student through GOAL online classes.

“For two and a half years, GOAL became my goal,” Fisher said. “GOAL became a source of pride through each semester, as my grades kept improving, as did my GPA. GOAL changed my perspective on school. It wasn’t easy, but it was worth it in every way.”

Fisher was proud to have his wife, Julia, and daughter Maia, provide extra support along his GOAL journey. They were also in attendance in December ‘12 when he graduated with a degree in health management. “I will always be grateful to Cam for introducing me to the GOAL program. I also thank Gardner-Webb for offering the program,” he reflected.

Like so many adults who return to college to complete a long awaited four-year degree through Gardner-Webb’s Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL) program, Zach Fisher was already working in a career-path position. However, in order to advance within the organization and meet personal goals, it would take a combination of motivation, extra time, and the introduction to a new friend before Fisher could achieve his dreams. Today, this YMCA youth director is ecstatic about where he is in life.

AARON KINDLEY '05 M.Div. was recently called to serve as Pastor of Ministry at Life Fellowship Church in Athens, Texas.

REBECCA O’BRYON '06 M.A. was named Teacher of the Year for Gaston County Schools. She is a fourth-grade teacher at Pinewood Elementary School in Gastonia, N.C.

DEREK DISTEFANO '07 M.A. was recently named principal of Morgan Elementary School in Clemmons, N.C. He previously served as Assistant Principal of Instruction at Cox Mill Elementary in Concord, N.C.

DONALD NORRIS, JR '07 B.S. recently had his book *The Issue of Bullying* published. An electronic version of the book is available through Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and Kobo Books. The book covers numerous aspects of bullying including consequences and academic studies related to it. Bullying is more prevalent than ever and isn’t confined only to the schoolyards. The workplace and online environments are also hotbeds for the issue. Norris is also an adjunct professor at Gardner-Webb University. A print version of the book is also available by contacting him at dnorris3@gardner-webb.edu or (704) 616-2538.

ROSALEE JOHNSON '08 B.M. sang “God Bless America” in front of thousands at a NASCAR Spring All-Star Race in Charlotte, N.C. She gained the opportunity through a singing competition besting 350 other contestants. Rosalee earned more than 2,600 online votes to win the honor. She makes her home in Belmont, N.C.

Where
are they
Now?

A Lamb Leading the Flock

Written by Gilda W. Pruitt

Many retirees would be happy to sit in a rocking chair and live out their golden years in quiet contemplation, but Dr.

Robert Lamb is not most people. A longtime GWU religious studies professor and Dean Emeritus of Gardner-Webb's School of Divinity, Lamb officially retired in 1999. But his retirement years have been filled with travels, teaching and inspiring a new generation of pastors around the world.

Lamb came to Gardner-Webb in 1962 when the college had just 600 students. He held academic credentials from Stephen F. Austin College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received his doctorate.

He and his wife, Rhea, moved to Boiling Springs from Grand Saline, Texas. Within four years, they had added a son and two daughters into the Lamb fold.

"All through my life, I have felt a call to missions, but Rhea and I were not able to go through the usual channels," said Lamb. "Coming to Gardner-Webb allowed me to teach young ministers along with many others who would lead our churches. God was very good to me, letting me do what I loved doing. I also enjoyed being involved in the growth of the college," he remembers.

Lamb's impact on Gardner-Webb included both the undergraduate and graduate programs. He was involved in building the Religious Studies Department as Gardner-Webb became a senior college, and was the founding dean of the School of Divinity as Gardner-Webb became a university.

"When I was in my 60's, Rhea and I went on my first sabbatical to teach in the Cape Town Baptist Seminary in South Africa for six months. We enjoyed it so much that,

once retired, we went back there to teach in their new graduate program," said Lamb.

Teaching Christian leaders is Lamb's joy. "Rhea and I spent six more productive months in another seminary in Baguio in the Philippines," added Lamb. "When I learned of a need for someone to teach the Old Testament in a school in Kenya, I volunteered, going there twice. A ministry in Belize came next," he said.

The Baptist Bible School in Belize has been a project Lamb began in 2006, recruiting volunteer teachers and raising support from the United States. "We were able to use the same format in Belize that I learned about in the school in Kenya," Lamb said. The school recognized its first graduates in 2008. Lamb retired as United States Director after six years, but he is happy that the school has continued.

Since 2005, Lamb has also been the Executive Director of the Fellowship of Baptist Educators (FBE), an organization of more than 800 members in 37 states, and serves as editor for their newspaper, Educomis. The group enlists educators to use their skills in missions at home or abroad. FBE also sponsors Book-Link, Incorporated, a program designed to send Bibles and other religious study materials to English-speaking schools and seminaries around the world. Lamb also serves as a deacon at Boiling Springs Baptist Church and is an accomplished artist.

In many ways, Lamb's call to serve others has only gotten stronger. "My feeling is if the Lord calls you to do something, it can be an enormous amount of fun, and as you face each new challenge, you learn things that prepare you to accomplish the next one," said Lamb.



REBEKAH WITHROW LONON '09 B.S.

was named 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year for Nathaniel Alexander Elementary School in Charlotte, N.C. This is her third year of teaching 2nd Grade for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

ANGELIA LOUALLEN JAMES '10 M.B.A.

welcomes the birth of her son, Londen Lamar James, who was born on July 28, 2012. Londen was welcomed by his big brother, Antonio James, who was born on May 9, 1995. She started Angelia's Accounting Services, Inc. in September 2010, and coaches varsity girls basketball

and middle school track at Union Academy Charter School in Monroe N.C.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN (CJ) BRYANT '11 B.S.

was married to Brittney A. McAbee on May 26 in Greer, S.C. He is working with Attractions Dining and Value Guide in Greenville, S.C. and his bride works with Early Head Start in Greer. The couple makes their home in Greer.

ELISA BEEKMAN '13 B.A.

has accepted a teaching position in Kings Mountain High School (N.C.), where she will serve as an art instructor. Beekman has been recognized on several

occasions for her outstanding artistic ability including honors from the Nolle Scholarship at the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

ERICA KING '13 B.A.

began work after graduation with Champion Studios in Shelby, N.C. as the marketing director for the company. Champion Studios is a national design, marketing and sales company specializing in manufacturing seasonal décor for Christmas, spring and special events. Their customer base includes shopping malls, lifestyle centers, theme parks, entertainment venues, office complexes and more.

I Can Do That?

How insurance can insure your estate and enable you to make a transformational difference

Frank and Sue have invested in IRAs throughout their working careers. Now that they are looking at retirement, they are discussing estate plans and the beneficiaries of these IRAs.

Frank read about making a charitable organization the beneficiary of an IRA but he and his wife wonder, "what about the children, we want them to receive the benefits of our policies."

Insurance can provide a way for Frank and Sue to ensure their children are taken care of as well as being able to make a transformational difference using their IRAs. Frank and Sue made GWU the beneficiary of their IRA and in turn, purchased a life insurance policy for an equal dollar amount, making their children beneficiaries of the life insurance.

Frank and Sue, as well as their children, win on both accounts. This allows the IRA, which is taxable income, to be transferred to the charity, tax-free, and the children to receive a tax-free gift from the estate through the life insurance policy.

If you are interested in how insurance can help you leverage your estate for your family and GWU, please contact Matt Walters in our Office of Gift Planning at GWU. His phone number is (704) 974-1704 and his email is mbwalters@gardner-webb.edu. He will be glad to schedule a confidential appointment to discuss the various insurance options.

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