

5-2013

Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2013, Spring (Volume 48 No. 1)

Noel T. Manning II
Gardner-Webb University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/gwmagazine>

Recommended Citation

Manning, Noel T. II, "Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2013, Spring (Volume 48 No. 1)" (2013). *Gardner-Webb, The Magazine*. 10.
<https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/gwmagazine/10>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Gardner-Webb Publications at Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gardner-Webb, The Magazine by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@gardner-webb.edu.

Gardner Webb

THE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 48, NUMBER 1

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE...**

OVER \$46 MILLION RAISED IN
HIGHER GROUND CAMPAIGN

GWU CELEBRATES
TWO DECADES OF SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

NATIONAL HONOR PRESENTED TO
HEAD BASEBALL COACH RUSTY STROUPE

TRUSTEE AND DIVINITY SCHOOL STUDENT
WORKING FOR THE GOVERNOR

RUNNIN' BULLDOGS MAKE HISTORY
BASKETBALL TEAM ACHIEVES REMARKABLE SEASON

GWU TRUSTEES
C. Neal Alexander, Jr., '84, Chair
Frank A. Stewart, Vice Chair
Ronald R. Beane, '57, Secretary
Thomas E. Philson, Treasurer
Fred A. Flowers, J.D., Attorney

2009 - 2013
Franklin V. Beam
Ronald R. Beane, '57
Adelaide A. Craver, J.D.
William M. Eubanks, M.D.
George R. Gilliam, '76
C. Lorance Henderson, L.H.D.
James E. Robbins
Wade R. Shepherd, Sr., L.H.D.
Dorothy A. Spangler, '47
Frank A. Stewart

2010 - 2014
C. Neal Alexander, Jr., '84
Candace J. "Candy" Arey
Ralph L. Bentley, M.D.
Billy C. Henry, Jr.
H.S. Keeter, Jr.
Randall "Randy" Marion
E. Harvey Rogers, Jr., '78, D.Min.
Bob D. Shepherd, '94, D.Div.
Carl M. Spangler, Jr., '52

2011 - 2015
Dennis R. Axelson
Hoyt Q. Bailey, L.H.D.
R. Alton Cadenhead, Jr.
Grady S. Duncan
Teresa H. Huggins
Steve M. Simpson, '71
Stanley W. Spence, '06, D.Min.
Lisa C. Tucker, '89
Maurice York

2012-2016
Wesley W. Barkley, '00
David C. Brinkley
Robert E. Cribb, 74
Max J. Hamrick
Carole Roberts-Carvajal, '93
Tony Tench
Philip E. Turner
Thomas L. Warren
H. Gene Washburn, '52, L.H.D., '02

TRUSTEE EMERITA
Bettye A. Moore

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
C. Lorance Henderson, L.H.D.

GARDNER-WEBB SENIOR STAFF

Chuck S. Burch – Vice President for Athletics
Glenda S. Crotts – Senior Assistant to the President
Mike W. Hardin – Vice President for Administration
Debra T. Hintz – Vice President for Enrollment Management
June Hobbs – Chair of the Faculty
Delores M. Hunt – Vice President and Dean of Student Development
Tracy C. Jessup – Vice President for Christian Life and Service
Benjamin C. Leslie – Provost and Executive Vice President
Jeffrey L. Tubbs – Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
Monte Walker – Vice President for Advancement

Gardner-Webb

THE MAGAZINE

Gardner-Webb–The Magazine
Volume 48, Number 1, 2013

President
Dr. A. Frank Bonner

The Gardner-Webb Magazine is the official magazine for Gardner-Webb University. The Office of University Communications and the Division of University Advancement publish this magazine.

Managing Editor
Noel T. Manning, II

Design Editor
Ryan Gunter

Photo Editor
Mark Houser

Editorial Assistance
Niki Bliss-Carroll, Rhea Lamb, Katie Lovelace, Matthew Renfer, Matt Walters



Cover Story: This issue of the Gardner-Webb Magazine is dedicated to the Gardner-Webb M. Christopher White School of Divinity. Celebrating 20 years of service to Christian higher education and ministry, the Divinity School has continued to influence leaders for Christ. For decades, Gardner-Webb enjoyed a strong religious studies department that provided extensive theological preparation on the baccalaureate level. But adding a divinity school to offer graduate studies was an enormous challenge. We will share that story with you in this issue. You will also meet School of Divinity students and alumni answering the call to God's service.

Contributing Writers
Niki Bliss-Carroll, Kevin Davis, Paul Foster, Jeanie Groh, Liz Van Halsema, Cheryl Huntley, Erica King, Katie Lovelace, Noel T. Manning II, Marc Rabb, Matthew Renfer, Saxon Simpson, Katie Spiro, Matt Walters

Contributing Photographers & Artists
Dave Barfield, Bob Carey, Robert Chestnut, Erin Cooke, Bryan Cooper, Tim Cowie, Jennifer Davis, Haley Doolittle, Ryan Gunter, Hannah Haggerty, Jessica Hibbard, Noel T. Manning II, Heather Pendergraft, Rebekah Rausch, Amanda Smith, GWU Photo Team

Submissions and Feedback
*By mail: The Gardner-Webb Magazine
Office of University Communications
P.O. Box 7315
Boiling Springs, NC 28017
Email: ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu*

Address and Name Change Submissions
*Contact: Becky Robbins
by phone: 704-406-4251
By email: rrobbins@gardner-webb.edu*

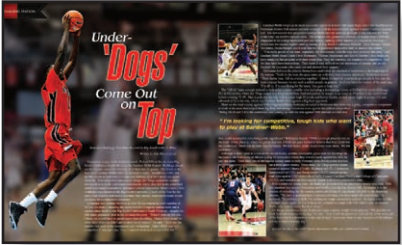
Contents



10
GARDNER-WEBB REACHES HIGHER GROUND
University Raises over \$46 Million



12
20 YEARS OF ADVANCED CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
School of Divinity Celebrates 20 Years of Service



20
ALL IN
GWU Basketball Defies Odds for Historic Campaign



36
CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE
Jamie Johnson '86 Combines Athletics and Missions



38
BUILT ON HOPE
Lamont Littlejohn '07 Following the Call

2
PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES

• *Liberal Arts Alive and Well*

3
NEWS & NOTES

• *Former Lt. Governor Joins GWU*
• *GWU Honored for Core Curriculum*
• *Student Takes Center Stage at National Convention*
• *Baseball Team Takes on Cancer*
• *GWU Student Published in National Journal*
• *Dena Spangler Named Alumni Director*
• *Communications Studies Students Provide Community Service*

14
BULLDOG NATION

• *Baseball Coach Rusty Stroupe Receives National Award*
• *Carroll McCray Named New Head Football Coach*

19
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

• *GWU Student Chandler Durham Serves as Judge for the Court*

26
STUDENT FEATURE

• *Divinity School Student Named as NC Secretary of Commerce*

28
ALUMNI IN ACTION & CLASS ACTS

• *Distinguished Alumni and Athletics Hall of Fame Members Announced*

• *Lansford Jolley '47 Pens New Book*

• *Gerry Vaillancourt '73 Anchors Fox 8 in New Orleans*

• *Goal Alumnus Neal Alexander '84 Takes Post in N.C. Governor's Office*

• *Lani Shaffer '04 Named Head Softball Coach for Wingate*

• *Matthew Tessnear '07 Leading Efforts with Daily Newspaper*

• *Donna Seay '11 Changes Careers After 22 Years*

Your Connections to GWU Classmates

• *Weddings*
• *Birth Announcements*
• *New Jobs*
• *Alumni News*

LIBERAL ARTS ALIVE AND WELL

We are all familiar with the ongoing public and political debates about the purpose and value of higher education. The often-misguided debate about jobs preparation vs. the liberal arts actually provides a significant opportunity for Gardner-Webb. The debate is often argued from extremes—as though there is a dichotomy, and liberal arts and career preparation must be at odds.

Speaking to prospective students at our Fellows Scholarship Competition, Dr. Earl Leininger, associate provost for Arts and Sciences, has eloquently dispelled this notion. “There is no inherent contradiction between the values of a liberal arts education and preparation for a career,” he stresses. Dr. Leininger then articulates the benefits of liberal arts education and how they interact wonderfully with career preparation.

Indeed, both the liberal arts and career preparation are critical and must be coordinated, with the combined competencies and personal qualities demonstrated as outcomes. Here is where liberal arts colleges and universities have failed and where there is opportunity for Gardner-Webb. We have been quick to claim—and I believe rightly so—that a liberal arts education is the best means of developing the skills, attributes, and modes of thinking that propel graduates on to professional success and personal fulfillment. However, we have not been as successful in demonstrating what those specific skills and attributes are, how they are cultivated, and how graduates may demonstrate or market them to potential employers.

At Gardner-Webb, the finest attributes of a liberal arts education together with a high level of professional competence can be combined with a third and absolutely critical trait, the “character piece”—a strong foundation in character, integrity, leadership, and a life-long commitment to service in the broadest and finest sense of the word. These three elements—liberal arts development, professional competence, and strong character—are what can and will make Gardner-Webb University genuinely distinctive.

Let the debate about career and life preparation continue. Gardner-Webb is ready!

Yours in Faith, Service, and Leadership,



Frank Bonner, President

Follow Dr. Bonner on Twitter @GardnerWebbpres

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WALTER DALTON JOINS GWU

Former North Carolina Lt. Governor Walter Dalton has joined the University in a full time role for the spring semester serving as assistant to the president and distinguished visiting professor of political science for this semester. Dalton is teaching courses and serving as special counsel to GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner.

As part of his new responsibilities, Dalton is teaching two courses during (Southern Politics and American Government); conducting speaking engagements for a variety of groups and classes on campus; assisting in setting up student internships in state or federal government agencies and businesses; representing the University in a wide range of areas related to University Advancement; and providing legal counsel to the University as needed.

“Having the former lieutenant governor on staff gives the University new insight into politics and government administration,” said GWU Provost and Senior Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie. “With his rich history of public service experience, we’re proud and honored.”

Upon completing his assignments at Gardner-Webb, Dalton will take on the role of president at Isothermal Community College in Rutherford County.



Walter Dalton

GWU'S DECKER & ALEXANDER TO SERVE IN N.C. CABINET POSTS



Sharon Decker

Governor Pat McCrory named two people with Gardner-Webb connections to his cabinet earlier this year.

McCrory appointed Sharon Allred Decker, a former Duke Energy vice president and a student of the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, as Secretary of the Department of Commerce. He also tapped current Gardner-Webb University Board of Trustees Chairman Neal Alexander, who retired from Duke Energy after 43 years of service, to serve as the Director of the State Office of Personnel.

According to a release from the Governor’s office, McCrory is incredibly proud of the team he has assembled. “These individuals are pragmatic problem solvers and leaders that will help me run the government in the most effective way possible while seeking long-term solutions for our state,” he stated.

Decker (Rutherfordton, N.C.) joins the McCrory Administration with extensive private sector and non-profit experience. She previously served as the CEO of the Tanner Company, a large textile company based in Rutherfordton, N.C. In 2004, Decker established a not-for-profit organization known as the Tapestry Group, which helps individuals lead healthier lives in mind, body, and spirit. In addition, she has served on the boards of three Fortune 500 companies

including Coca-Cola and Family Dollar. Her more than 17 years of experience with Duke Power Company, now Duke Energy, eventually led her through the ranks to become the youngest and first female vice president in Duke Power’s history. Her contributions at Duke Power led to the creation of the company’s first 24-hour customer service center, which still serves as a model for the industry. In 2009, Decker enrolled in the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, where she has been working on her Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in Spiritual Formation.

Alexander (Denver, N.C.) joins Governor McCrory’s leadership team with more than 40 years of experience at Duke Energy in a variety of human resources roles. Most recently, he served as Vice President for Human Resources for Duke Energy’s U.S. Franchised Electric and Gas Service. He is the recipient of several awards and accolades for excellence in human resources including the Duke Power William S. Lee Leadership Award and The Employers Association Babcock Award. He currently serves as chairman of the Gardner-Webb University Board of Trustees and has served as a member of the board since 1990. He first attended Gardner-Webb as an undergraduate student during the 1965-66 school year, but left before graduation when he was called into active duty. In 1984, he successfully completed the GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) program and graduated from Gardner-Webb University with a Bachelor of Science in Management.

**See feature stories in this edition of The Gardner-Webb Magazine on Decker and Alexander on Page 26 and Page 32.*



Neal Alexander

GWU AT “HEAD OF THE CLASS” FOR CORE CURRICULUM

An annual study on core curriculum requirements at over 1,000 colleges and universities from all over the United States has placed Gardner-Webb University at the head of the class for the second year in a row. The University was among only 21 colleges—and the only school in the Carolinas—to earn an “A.”

The 2012-2013 What Will They Learn? study, conducted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), ranks the core curriculum of all the major public and private colleges and universities in all 50 states. The ranking places GWU in the top two percent in the nation, included with schools such as Pepperdine University (Malibu, Calif.), Baylor University (Waco, Texas), Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.), and the United States Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs, Colo.).

Continued on next page

gardner-webb.edu

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

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

Dr. Ben Leslie, provost and executive vice president for Gardner-Webb, believes the distinction is proof of the University’s commitment to providing an excellent academic foundation for its students. “This national recognition of our curriculum, something we neither sought nor applied for, stands as a significant affirmation of our academic program,” Leslie shared. “More than anything else, it is a tribute to the Gardner-Webb faculty, who along with their predecessors, have expressed a deep commitment to a broad-based general education in the liberal arts for many years.”

GWU STUDENT SERVES AS DELEGATE FOR 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AT DNC



Nick Carpenter

Gardner-Webb University’s student body is made up of many versatile and unique students; freshman Nick Carpenter is no exception. Along with the duties of an average college student, Carpenter also served as a North Carolina delegate for the Democratic National Convention, held in Charlotte, N. C. last September.

Carpenter was elected by North Carolina’s 10th Congressional District, which includes Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln and Mitchell counties. He was one of the youngest delegates in North Carolina.

“I missed out on the ‘youngest delegate’ title by eight months, but I can remember having an interest during the 2000 Bush v. Gore election while in elementary school. Then along came Obama in 2008. I signed up to volunteer on his campaign,” said Carpenter.

Serving as President of the Cleveland County Young Democrats, Carpenter is also Chairman of the 10th Congressional District of Young Democrats and one of three Vice Chairs of the Cleveland County Democratic Party.

At the Democratic National Convention, Carpenter’s mornings were filled with committee meetings working to complete the 100-page Democratic Party platform. His afternoons were spent on the convention floor, listening to speakers such as First Lady Michelle Obama, actress Scarlett Johansson and Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords.

“Being on the convention floor was truly an amazing experience,” added Carpenter. “The energy level was very high the whole time –it did not matter who was speaking. That in itself was very inspiring and motivational!”

GWU AWARDS MORE THAN 300 DEGREES DURING FALL COMMENCEMENT

Hundreds of supporters gathered at the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center on Dec. 17 to celebrate the accomplishments of over 300 students as part of the fall commencement ceremony. The University also awarded honorary doctorates to Randy Marion, Harvey Rogers, and Jack Hunt (*see next page*).

The ceremony for 311 graduates featured commencement speeches by Elisabeth Ann Edmonson of Mooresboro, N.C. (Master of Divinity in Christian Education) and Gary Hudson Smith IV of Aiken, S.C. (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration). Melinda Lauren McNeely of Charlotte, N.C. (Bachelor of Arts in Missiology) offered the traditional scripture reading.

Two students were honored for academic excellence during the ceremony. Crystal Dawn Miller Anderson of Millers Creek, N.C. (Bachelor of Science in Human Services) received the GOAL Senior Scholastic Award. Miriam Elaina Downing of Zachary, La. (Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and American Sign Language) was honored with the Senior Scholastic Award.

The Most Outstanding Male Graduate Award was given to James Martin Withrow of Ellenboro, N.C. (Bachelor of Arts in Music and Biology). Jessica Marie Greer of Boiling Springs, N.C. (Bachelor of Science in Marketing) was honored with the Most Outstanding Female Graduate Award.

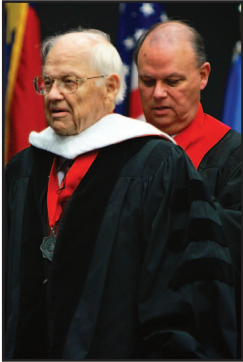


HUNT, MARION, AND ROGERS RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES AT FALL COMMENCEMENT

Three honorary doctorates were awarded to individuals who embody the ideals of Gardner-Webb University, including caring and Christian service, during the University’s Fall Commencement Ceremony on Dec. 17.

Receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters was John Jackson “Jack” Hunt of Lattimore, N.C. and Randall “Randy” L. Marion of Mooresville, N.C. Emmett Harvey Rogers of Mooresville, N.C. received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity.

Hunt excelled as a dentist, a farmer, an entrepreneur and a statesman of Cleveland County, N.C., always considering service to others as his life’s highest calling. He is a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, having earned the rank of Major in the United States Army. For 22 years, Hunt served as an elected representative in the North Carolina General Assembly, including several terms as Chairman of the House Rules Committee and eventually Speaker Pro-Tempore. With decades of community service and a reputation as a champion of Cleveland County, Hunt has been described as a servant-leader in the truest sense of the word. As his five daughters and their families will attest, he is a family man, a devoted Christian, a proponent of education, and a true advocate for the community in which he lives.

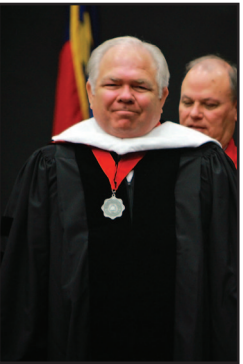


Jack Hunt



Harvey Rogers

Marion embodies the type of entrepreneurial spirit and professional integrity that Gardner-Webb aspires to instill in its students. With one of the largest retail and fleet sales General Motors dealerships in the nation, Marion has enjoyed many professional accomplishments throughout a lifetime of civic and philanthropic leadership. A friend recently described him as “a man of great vision, with the passion and drive to see those visions through to fruition.” He serves Gardner-Webb as a Trustee and is currently Chairman of the Board for Lake Norman Regional Medical Center, among many other impressive leadership positions at a variety of community agencies. The grandson of a West Virginia Baptist pastor, Marion is also a man of deep spiritual conviction. His wife Betty, his children Randy Jr. and Jennifer Marion Mills and their spouses, and his six grandchildren are the pride and joy of his life.



Randy Marion

Rogers was born into the automobile industry and had begun a very promising career as an auto salesman when he sensed a call to ministry. Beyond the traditional age of attending college, Rogers earned his baccalaureate degree at Gardner-Webb and earned both the Master of Divinity and the Doctor of Ministry from Southeastern Theological Seminary. He has pastored three Baptist churches in North Carolina including Forestville, Fallston, and Mooresville, always demonstrating what one friend called “a caring concern for others.” He has served as a board member for Lake Norman Regional Medical Center, North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Mooresville Chamber of Commerce and more. He has held significant leadership positions within the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He has also shown outstanding devotion to his alma mater, teaching as an adjunct professor for Gardner-Webb and serving on the University’s Board of Ministers and on the Board of Trustees.

GWU STUDENT REACHES OUT TO SANDY HOOK COMMUNITY



Jesse Roberts

In response to the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Gardner-Webb graduate student Jesse Roberts, who experienced loss as a child himself, felt led to reach out to those schoolchildren by providing free copies of a book he wrote about dealing with grief. Roberts recently accepted donations to help send “Katie the Ladybug: Explaining Emotions of Grief to a Child” to as many children and parents in Newtown as possible.

“My heart has been breaking for these children and families,” said Roberts. “I believe it’s human nature to want to do something to fix the hurt. The harsh reality is that there is nothing we can do to take away the pain these families are feeling. Sending these books is a small way we can come together to make a difference during such a terrible time.”

Roberts was inspired to write the book as a senior in high school after dealing with the loss of his mother at age four and his dad at 16. It wasn’t until 2007 during his senior year of college, as a psychology major at Gardner-Webb, that he submitted the manuscript for publication. “Those personal losses led me to where I am today,” said Roberts. The book was published in 2012 by A Pair of Docs Publishing, a Christian publishing company managed by Dr. Bob and Dr. Sheri Adams.

Continued on next page

According to Amazon, who offers the book, “Katie the Ladybug,” is intended for young children who have difficulty understanding the concepts of loss, grief, and the emotions that accompany these experiences. With the help of Katie and her family, adults can creatively explain these complex ideas to children. In the story, each of Katie’s brothers and sisters experiences a different emotion as a result of her death. The story covers seven different emotions that may be experienced as a result of loss. Each character has a different color scheme and facial expression that parallels with his or her emotion. For instance, Molly is sad because of Katie’s death; therefore, she has blue dots, she is crying, and her facial expression illustrates her sadness. The book also includes a questions page that could stimulate meaningful conversation about the story for a parent and child.

Roberts is currently a second year graduate student at Gardner-Webb University in the mental health and counseling program. He also works part time with Hospice of Rutherford County, N.C., as a community grief and bereavement counselor. In that role, he assists children in the local school system. He is currently partnering with Regional Hospice of Western Connecticut and the Healing Hearts Center for Grieving Children and Families with other projects.



GWU BASEBALL TEAM SHAVES HEADS TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

The Gardner-Webb baseball program teamed up with a pair of special charities for a BaseBald event, held Saturday, Oct. 13, to promote research for childhood cancer. Members of the Runnin’ Bulldogs 2013 team and coaching staff gathered at John Henry Moss Stadium prior to the annual alumni game to shave their heads in an effort to help raise money and awareness for childhood cancer research.

“The St. Baldrick’s organization has been a major force in the fight against childhood cancer and we are honored to partner with them in that battle,” said GWU head coach Rusty Stroupe, who was among the group to surrender his hair during the event. “Our hair will grow back,” he said, “but for many children with cancer, they don’t know if and when their hair will return. So it’s the least we can do to show our support for these kids. Plus, I enjoyed seeing all the weird-shaped heads on our team. I just hope nobody noticed mine.” BaseBald is an organization that works through the St. Baldrick’s Foundation to help raise money for childhood cancer research through head shaving events. St. Baldrick’s Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives. The fundraiser generated nearly \$7,000 for the organization.

GWU COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES STUDENTS PROVIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGH A CAMERA

Children at the Cleveland County Boys & Girls Club and their families were recently given an opportunity to participate in a free photography session called Help-Portrait, due to the efforts of several Gardner-Webb University Communication Studies students.

Founded by celebrity photographer Jeremy Cowart, Help-Portrait (based in Nashville, Tenn.) is a community of photographers coming together across the world to use their photography skills to give back to their local community. The group’s mission is to equip and mobilize individuals and photographers who will go out and find someone in need, or less fortunate, and take their portrait.

The idea for GWU to get involved emerged from the Southern Baptist Convention when another student mentioned the idea to Gardner-Webb students. Dr. Bob Carey, chair of the Dept. of Communication Studies, was familiar with the program because Cowart is a personal friend.

“It was (students) Rebekah Rausch, Amanda Smith, and Brigitte Allen who approached me about doing a Help-Portrait session in Shelby. They told me they wanted to do it themselves and wanted to receive no pre-event attention or possible sponsorship. I wanted this to be their own heartfelt thing and it was,” said Carey.

Rausch, Smith, and Allen put together a group of about 12 students to help plan the event that was held in conjunction with Help-Portrait’s worldwide event day. GWU’s was held at the Boys and Girls Club in Shelby, N.C. The group even put together clothing and makeup for the photo shoot, where memories were made for both the participants and providers.

“I love people’s stories, which is the reason I enjoy photography,” said Smith. The Marietta, Ga., native, currently in her junior year as a communications and photojournalism major with a minor in film, was touched by what transpired that day. “One woman had not seen a picture of herself in 11 years. There was a girl recovering from cancer, who took a portrait with her mother, as well as a family that had never taken a portrait together before. We saw people leaving with smiles and happy feelings. For us it was about doing something selfless.”



SCHOOL OF NURSING AND THEATRE ARTS TEAM UP FOR SIX-WEEK PROJECT



Abby Garlock knows the value of collaboration. As a nurse in several wards at Cleveland Regional Medical Center for nearly a decade, she also understands the value of critical thinking skills and a nurse’s ability to respond quickly and appropriately in any situation.

Garlock now serves as the lab coordinator for the Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing. She and her team recently established a brand new training curriculum to give nursing students a chance for some hands-on experience with children and caregivers in an emergent care setting. As the idea for a pediatric simulation was being discussed, it was an offhand comment that set the wheels in motion for collaboration with the GWU Theatre Department.

“Someone mentioned that we could get actors to play the role of the parents in the simulation,” Garlock said. “As I tossed around that idea, it seemed to just line

up exactly with what our goal was.” She reached out to the Theatre Department and within days, she had a volunteer who could commit to the six-week project.

Actress and volunteer Courtney Butler, a GWU graduate student, was excited about an unscripted performance opportunity, but she was initially hesitant because she didn’t know much nursing terminology. Garlock wasn’t fazed. “I told her that was perfect, because a parent isn’t going to know medical terminology,” she said. “The students need to learn that when they talk to parents or patients, they need to speak on their level. So that worked out great.”

Leigh Ann Hayes is a second year nursing student, and she said the exercise was extremely realistic. “I felt very agitated at one point,” Hayes recalled. “But after I was able to look at the protocol orders and see what I needed to be doing, that helped me to get my focus back where it needed to be.”

Hayes said simulations like this one are giving her confidence in what she has learned at Gardner-Webb. “This showed me that we really are being prepared for every situation that we could face,” she revealed. “This really helped us stay on our game, because if you let your defenses down, you can’t offer the best care. This is one of the best clinical experiences we’ve had. We got hands on experience and actually treated the patients ourselves.”

GWU ALUMS CARL AND HEATHER CARTEE RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR CELEBRATION WEEK

Dove-Award winning singer-songwriter Carl Cartee knows the importance of being intentional. Cartee and his wife, Heather, are both Gardner-Webb alums who decided it was more important for them to live big for God rather than to live small for themselves.

Although they now call Nashville, Tenn. home, they recently journeyed back to Boiling Springs—back to the campus where they first met and fell in love—to serve as speakers and worship leaders for the University’s annual Celebration Week. Sponsored each year by the Office of Christian Life & Service, Celebration Week is led by students and includes testimonies, scripture reading, prayer, worship, and Biblical teachings. Carl believes setting aside time to glorify God is one of the most important priorities students can establish.

“We’re talking about worship during Celebration Week, and really, a plain and simple definition of worship is your mind’s attention and your heart’s affection expressed,” Carl said. “Now, it could be towards anything; your car, your school, your girlfriend, whatever. But when we place the attention of our mind and the affection of our heart on a person or a thing, that’s worship.”

As worship leader for several services during the week, Carl shared his heart and his music with students and did his best to remind them of the importance of the decisions they are making right now. With four young sons, Carl and Heather may not know exactly what their future holds, but they know it is God who holds their future. For Heather, knowing how to walk in the plan that God has for her family is not necessarily easy, but it is simple.

“My husband is definitely the heart person, and I’m the head person. I’m the science major—it needs to be practical, it needs to have a plan, a step-by-step process—so I always go back to hearing from the Lord through His Word,” she explained. “So for somebody who is a brand new believer, for somebody who is not a believer, and for somebody who is walking strong with the Lord, I would tell all three the same thing. You will find truth in His Word. What you believe may change, but truth never changes.”



Carl Cartee

GWU STUDENT INTERPRETS FOR THE STARS DURING OHIO STATE FAIR

Gardner-Webb University student Kristen Larimer, an interpreter for the hearing-impaired, discovered a home state Ohio connection that gave her an opportunity to use her gifts in front of thousands of people at the Ohio State Fair.

Held in Columbus, the fair features some of the biggest names in the music industry. Larimer’s ultimate goal is to become a sign language interpreter of music. Her state fair opportunity allowed her to take the stage with the likes of country artist Jason Aldean, one of her personal favorites. Other artists performing at the fair were Boston, Kansas, Chicago, Gavin DeGraw with Colbie Caillat, The Band Perry, Merle Haggard, and Casting Crowns.

“I know this was a ‘meant-to-be’ thing,” said Larimer, the ASL (American Sign Language) interpreting major who entered her senior year at GWU last fall. The dream was first planted in her heart after her parents bought tickets to a Rascal Flatts concert as part of a birthday surprise for her. “At that time, I had taken part in an ASL program at my high school. There was an interpreter for Rascal Flatts that night and it struck my heart. I told my Dad this would really be cool if I could do this one day,” said Larimer. She later learned that the Ohio State Fair liked to make sure sign language is provided at their concerts—in part because there is a deaf school in Columbus.

Little did Larimer realize after starting college in Boiling Springs, N.C., that an Ohio State Fair connection to do the very thing she desired awaited her. After some research, she eventually contacted the director of the fair, who responded and let her know that a group called “Stagehands” had provided their interpreters. It just so happens that the group operates out of the nearby city of Charlotte, N.C., and for over 20 years, have ensured that the hearing impaired get to enjoy music and theatre. Larimer contacted the group and was lined up with an internship opportunity to work at the fair and its concerts.

“I’m really thankful to the Lord for giving me this opportunity,” added Larimer.

GARDNER-WEBB STUDENTS’ FILM WINS PRIZE IN STATEWIDE COMPETITION

Two Gardner-Webb University seniors were recently honored with a prestigious award at a statewide documentary film competition. Jessica Hibbard and Rebekah Rausch won the People’s Pick award at the Citizenship, Service, Networking and Partnership’s (CSNAP) conference for their submission “Growth: A Story of Community and Gardening.”

The competition is sponsored each year by North Carolina Campus Compact. The People’s Pick award was chosen by students attending the conference at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

The film tells the story of Gardner-Webb softball player Pressley Wesson. Wesson suffered an injury that led her to spend time on a community gardening project. “We felt that Pressley’s story was a true representation of our campus and the way that people are developing at GWU,” Hibbard said.

Hibbard and Rausch were surprised when they learned they had won the People’s Pick award. “For both of us, it was our first time creating a project of that length,” Rausch said. “We had to film and edit all in one week.” In the end, it came down to spending long hours in the editing lab together in order to make the deadline.

Hibbard and Rausch both believe the win will give their resumes a competitive edge. “Winning this award shows the value of our work, our ability to work as team, and also expands the marketability of the type of work we can do,” Hibbard said.



Rebekah Rausch (second from left)

GWU ALUM DOLLY WILSON SERVES AS BREAST CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATOR



The term “true colors” is used to describe one’s authentic self, a person’s real character. Career nurse Dolly Wilson bleeds one color: pink. Known as the “Pink Nurse,” this Gardner-Webb University alum is making a difference for women diagnosed with breast cancer. Armed with knowledge, her pink scrubs, and even a pink car, Wilson helps Blue Ridge HealthCare patients navigate the frightening valley of breast cancer, from diagnosis to treatment and beyond.

“I had been a nurse for 28 years, but had not focused on breast cancer,” Wilson shared. “I was given an opportunity five years ago to launch a new program in which I would serve as a patient navigator for breast cancer. Four days later, my sister Molly was diagnosed with breast cancer. That was confirmation that I had stepped into the right position at exactly the right time.”

Last summer, Wilson earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Gardner-Webb. A few days after graduation, she went to the body shop to pick up her car, which she’d had painted pink. Her goal was simple: the more attention she could draw to the importance of mammogram screenings, the more lives that could be saved.

Her pink scrubs and pink car are external manifestations of her internal desire to offer a lifeline of support to women facing their biggest fear turned reality. “I try to help her accept—not yield to—the illness that has become a part of her life,” Wilson shared. “We are not here to promote our way, but to help her find her way.”

GARDNER-WEBB STUDENT’S RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL JOURNAL

Like all undergraduate students, Savanna Yount had her fair share of class projects, homework, and research papers. But while most students are happy to say goodbye to a project once it is complete, Yount was more than willing to take hers to the next level. *The Clinical Advisor*, a widely read magazine for nurse practitioners and physician assistants, selected Yount’s student article on postpartum depression (PPD) to be featured in its December issue.

“Publishing a scholarly paper as an undergraduate is a big deal at this or any university,” said Dr. James Morgan, associate professor of Psychology and Counseling at Gardner-Webb, who originally gave Yount the assignment in his psychopathology class. Morgan, along with fellow professors Dr. June Hobbs, Dr. Gregory Davenport, and Dr. David Carscaddon, supported and guided Yount in the publication of her essay.

“I chose a topic that not a lot of people want to think or talk about,” said Yount. The article, which focuses on how PPD is diagnosed and handled between mothers and primary care physicians, highlights the lack of efficiency in PPD’s diagnosis as well as possible solutions for remedying both the condition and its oversight in primary care settings.

Yount graduated from Gardner-Webb in May 2012, but is looking to attend the University’s new Physician Assistant (PA) graduate program starting in 2014. Working in that field, Yount will likely be able apply her research throughout her career, making a difference where it is needed.

The Clinical Advisor is a monthly journal read by 41,000 physician assistants and over 88,000 nurse practitioners. Articles like Yount’s help practitioners stay up to date on diagnoses, treatments, and preventions in primary care settings.



Savanna Yount

GWU ALUMNA DENA SPANGLER IS NEW DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



Boiling Springs native Dena Spangler never imagined that the University that was basically in her backyard 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. As mom to five-year-old Brayden, Spangler knows the value of coming home and raising her son in the community where she first established her roots. She is looking forward to reconnecting with familiar faces and forming bonds with new ones. Most of all, she hopes to improve and increase communication between GWU and its alumni. “More than anything, I look forward to engaging people to support Gardner-Webb not just financially, but also with their time and talents,” Spangler shared. “There’s so much we can offer one another. As an alumna myself, I can’t wait to get started.”

Alumni can contact Spangler by email at dspangler@gardner-webb.edu or by phone at 704.406.2251

**The Gardner-Webb Magazine will take a closer look at Spangler and her vision for Alumni Relations in the Summer issue.*



THE VIEW FROM HIGHER GROUND

Gardner-Webb Crosses \$45 Million Goal in School's Largest Ever Capital Campaign

Written by Matt Walters

The Times Square Ball that dropped on 2013 signaled the official conclusion of Gardner-Webb University's Higher Ground Campaign, whose \$45 million goal made it the most ambitious capital campaign in Gardner-Webb's 108-year history. Thanks to the immense generosity of the University's friends and supporters, the campaign can now be listed as Gardner-Webb's most successful.

Officially launched in July 2006, one year after the inauguration of Dr. Frank Bonner as president, the campaign to achieve higher ground in Christian higher education proceeded through a silent "leadership" phase during which an astounding \$33 million was raised, matching the largest amount ever amassed by a single campaign at Gardner-Webb. Then after the campaign went public in 2010, new friends joined in with fervor and seasoned supporters redoubled their efforts to catapult the University to unprecedented heights. In total, \$46,052,250 was contributed to the Higher Ground Campaign.

Looking back on the campaign and all it accomplished, Bonner emphasized friendships more than funding as the most significant aspect of the Higher Ground experience. "Even beyond the funding itself," he said, "the campaign enabled us to establish and strengthen relationships with people who choose to support us because they understand and identify with the mission of Gardner-Webb. That's been very gratifying - to see the way the University's core values emanate from everything our donors say and do in support of Christian higher education. Words cannot express our vast appreciation for them."

“I think of a campaign not as a ‘start and stop’ initiative but as a focused effort during a period of time, an effort that will continue in earnest as we move forward from Higher Ground.”

Bonner said it has also been a joy to watch the various campaign projects come to fruition. The campaign's flagship project was the Tucker Student Center, the 110,000 square-foot student development facility that symbolizes the University's enduring commitment to its students.

When it opened in the fall of 2012, the Tucker Student Center was hailed as the single most impressive and transformational building ever built at Gardner-Webb. Featuring glass walls and an architectural design to mirror the personality of the University community—open, relational, and unique—the Student Center bears the name of Robert and Carolyn Tucker, GWU trustees and owners of Shoe Show, Inc., whose \$5 million naming gift constitutes the largest grant in Gardner-Webb's history. The family of Frank Stewart, president and founder of Ultra Machine and Fabrication, Inc., and trustee to the University, also contributed an outstanding \$2 million to name Stewart Hall, the Tucker Student Center's "crown jewel" first-floor main hall.

En route to higher ground, Gardner-Webb also opened the long-anticipated Science Laboratory Center, more than doubling the laboratory, classroom and office space and greatly expanding the technological capacity of the University's burgeoning natural science programs. New classroom facilities were built, like Frank Nanney Hall, home to the Department of Social Sciences and the Noel Program for Students with Disabilities.

The Campaign fueled construction of the new championship-class athletics facility John Henry Moss Baseball Stadium. The Dover Theatre is being renovated and expanded to include the new Loy Scene Shop, which is currently under construction. Plus, dozens of aesthetic and functional enhancements—including the new Bridges Gate at the Stadium Drive entrance, expanded parking, and new landscape design—have enriched the campus experience for students and visitors alike.

Other campaign achievements are less visible but certainly no less significant. Millions of dollars have been raised since 2006 to bolster student financial aid and endow dozens of new scholarships. Donors also gave in support of undergraduate research, faculty development, service-learning initiatives, international study opportunities, and to strengthen the University's Christian foundation.

"The Higher Ground Campaign was significantly different from any previous campaign at Gardner-Webb, both in its scope and in its purpose," said Scoot Dixon, senior vice president for University Relations. "I think the previous campaigns in our history were designed to help address critical basic needs for the school to succeed. This campaign, however, was launched during a time when, under Dr. Bonner's leadership, we were already thriving. So the Higher Ground Campaign was about realizing a dream, a vision for how to make an already thriving institution even stronger. Thanks to our wonderful donors, we are making great strides."

While pleased with the campaign's outstanding success, University officials insist that the close of the campaign shouldn't be considered an "ending," but rather an opportunity to transition toward new and exciting projects to strengthen Gardner-Webb.

"I think of a campaign not as a 'start and stop' initiative but as a focused effort during a period of time, an effort that will continue in earnest as we move forward from Higher Ground," added Monte Walker, vice president for University Advancement. "There is still more work to be done to propel the University forward." Noel T. Manning, II, the University's chief communications officer, added, "We're always interested in finding new and better ways to serve our students."

Looking ahead, Bonner says the top priorities include a continued effort to bolster faculty resources, a Fine Arts Center, a College of Health Sciences, and an enhanced Softball Complex. He also plans to explore several new undergraduate and graduate academic programs, a new residential hall built to house a learning community, new classroom space, and other aesthetic campus enhancements.

"I have never been more proud of Gardner-Webb, more hopeful for our students, more confident in our mission, and more grateful for those friends who have endorsed that mission through their prayers and generous support," Bonner said. "The view forward from Higher Ground is exciting, indeed."



EQUIPPING *the* CALLED

Divinity School Celebrates 20 Years

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

“God doesn’t call the equipped, but rather, He equips those He calls.” This familiar saying has become a favorite phrase of believers in all walks of life. At the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, the statement also offers an accurate description of the ultimate goals of the University’s Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree programs.

“As a professional school, we are primarily concerned with preparing people specifically for a role in a ministry profession,” said Dr. Robert Canoy, dean of the M. Christopher White School of Divinity. “We want to make sure that our graduates are prepared both academically and spiritually for successful ministry.”

From 1980 to 1992, Southern Baptist seminary programs across the country experienced a dramatic decline in enrollment. The trend was attributed to a shift within the Southern Baptist

Convention in which the denomination as a whole began to move in a different direction. Some believed the resulting changes narrowed interest in traditional Southern Baptist seminary programs. The result was a 46 percent decline in enrollment at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., where the majority of Gardner-Webb religion majors had traditionally earned their professional level education.

Officials at Gardner-Webb were understandably concerned about this significant shift in professional-level ministry education opportunities. According to the GWU School of Divinity Self-Study, discussion “centered on the need for students to have a professional education for ministry which remained true to the basic tenets of the faith, examined a wide spectrum of theological positions, and invited serious study rather than rigid conformity.”

For decades, Gardner-Webb had enjoyed a strong religious studies department that provided extensive theological preparation on the baccalaureate level. But adding a seminary or divinity school to offer graduate studies was an enormous challenge. Dr. Robert Lamb is now retired, but served for many years as a religious studies professor at Gardner-Webb. He was appointed as the inaugural dean of the Divinity School in 1992, and remembers the challenges associated with establishing a School of Divinity to offer a Master of Divinity degree at the University.

“Southern Baptists had not had schools of divinity associated with universities. Instead, they sponsored six free-standing seminaries,” Lamb shared. “In order to launch an accredited professional divinity program on a university level, we had to locate classroom and office space, establish student services, admissions, curriculum, everything. We had to expand the library rapidly. And we had to locate a separate master’s program faculty.”

The first divinity school catalog explained that the University had already committed to offering the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM). In addition, the catalog stated that “given the needs of the denomination, the strength of the University’s commitment, and the interest expressed by the University’s supporters, the trustees, administration, and faculty felt strongly that offering the traditional Master of Divinity degree along with the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry in a School of Divinity was an appropriate response for Gardner-Webb University.”

Lamb said those few sentences may have seemed simple, but they represented what had been discussed among Gardner-Webb administration and faculty for quite some time. “That statement puts together what took us months to agonize over and work out,” he recalled. “Everyone in the religion department assisted in developing the curriculum for the new school. That fall, we had extremely intensive meetings to hash it all out.”

They enrolled the first class in the fall of 1992 and began teaching classes for both program options in the spring of 1993. The decision was made early on to allow those who initially enrolled in the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry—and wished to continue—to complete that program, but then to phase out the MACM. “We didn’t want to advertise the MACM to people and then pull the rug out from under them,” Lamb explained. “About half of the students

who initially enrolled in the MACM switched over to the M.Div., because that was what they wanted to begin with.” Once those first students completed the program, the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry was no longer offered.

When Lamb retired as dean, the reins of leadership at the school passed to Dr. Wayne Stacy in 1996, then to Dr. Chuck Bugg in 2004, and later to Dr. Robert Canoy in 2006. Over the years, focus areas were established. Within the school, a 60-hour core was developed, and beyond that, students were to complete an additional 30 hours of required courses within one of six areas of concentration: Biblical Studies, Spiritual Formation, Missiology, Intercultural Studies, Pastoral Care & Counseling, and Pastoral Studies. The purpose of these concentrations is to effectively prepare people for the specific area of ministry in which they have been called. According to Canoy, the school embraces a model of theological education that believes all ministers on a church staff are better colleagues when they have similar Biblical, theological,

and Biblical language preparations. At that time, he said, the school also tied a “Be, Know, and Do” statement to the curriculum. “Every course that is taught in the School of Divinity has a direct connection to what a graduate/minister ought to ‘Be,’ ‘Know,’ or be able to ‘Do,’” Canoy shared.

“You need to be doing ministry because God has called you,” he continued. “With God’s calling of you, that involves serious preparation. We take the Bible with the utmost seriousness. When new faculty members join the school, their names are inscribed on a big family Bible. We do this as a reminder that our ultimate authority is the Word of God.”

As part of this commitment, Canoy said, when students come into the M.Div. program, they are introduced to the Bible in ways they may not have understood in times past. “They are introduced to how the Bible intersects appropriately with life,” he explained. “They take these two streams and merge them together so when they are doing ministry, in the various ways they do it, they are—in every moment of their life—God’s representative. That’s how we understand what the gospel is; it’s to be God’s presence in any and every and all moments of life.”

Since its establishment in 1993, hundreds of people have achieved their post-baccalaureate educational goals through the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, which began offering the Doctor of Ministry degree in 2002. By the spring of 2013, as the school quietly passes its 20th anniversary, more than 500 people will have graduated with either an MACM, Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry, or a dual-degree combination.

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

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



Additional resource information provided by Southern Baptist Convention Annuals, 1980-1992

IT'S ALL ABOUT Character

BASEBALL COACH RUSTY STROUPE RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

WRITTEN BY PAUL FOSTER

Gardner-Webb University head baseball coach Rusty Stroupe is the recipient of a national coaching award given annually by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Stroupe was named the 2012 recipient of the Jerry Kindall Character in Coaching Award, a national honor that includes all divisions of college and high school baseball coaching. Presented each year by the FCA, Stroupe was one of four finalists considered for the distinguished award.

The award's namesake is Jerry Kindall, a major league baseball player during the 1950s and 60s who played for teams such as the Chicago Cubs and the Cleveland Indians before transitioning into a career of coaching. He later retired as head coach of the baseball program at the University of Arizona in Tuscon.

For the past nine years, the award has been presented annually to a coach who best exemplifies the Christian principles of character, integrity, excellence, teamwork and service both on and off the baseball field. The FCA national committee reviewed award candidates during their annual meeting and unanimously voted to honor Stroupe with the distinction.

"We are honored to select a man like Rusty," said David Daly, national director of FCA baseball. "This is the highest award we present. Rusty is a coach who lives out his faith in front of his players, colleagues, at his church, and in his community."

Stroupe, a native of Cherryville, N.C., has an overall record of 612-483-1 after 10 seasons as the Diamond Dogs head coach. In addition to his role as coach, he has written two books and penned a syndicated column on spiritual and humorous issues. He is also frequently called upon to serve as a guest speaker at men's conferences and church events. Another one of his passions is providing volunteer relief to various groups at home and abroad, including leading a team of GWU students on mission trips each year. He is also a husband and father and attends Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C., where he is a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

Stroupe was humbled by the news. "This is one of the greatest honors in my life," said Stroupe. "The first feeling I had after hearing the news was that there are a hundred other people that should have received this award. I'm just being me. This is something I would have never strived for, so I appreciate that they thought so highly of me."

The award was presented to Stroupe in January during the American Baseball Coaches Association Convention in Chicago, Ill. "This is a very unique award in coaching, Stroupe shared. "It's not so much about what you've done, but who you strive to be."

Headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., FCA is an interdenominational Christian sports ministry that aims to see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches. More information is available at www.fca.org.



SAT., AUG. 31 FURMAN

SAT., SEPT. 7 @ MARSHALL

SAT., SEPT. 14 RICHMOND

SAT., SEPT. 21 @ WOFFORD

SAT., SEPT. 28 POINT UNIVERSITY

SAT., OCT. 5 @ CHARLOTTE

SAT., OCT. 12 @ COASTAL CAROLINA

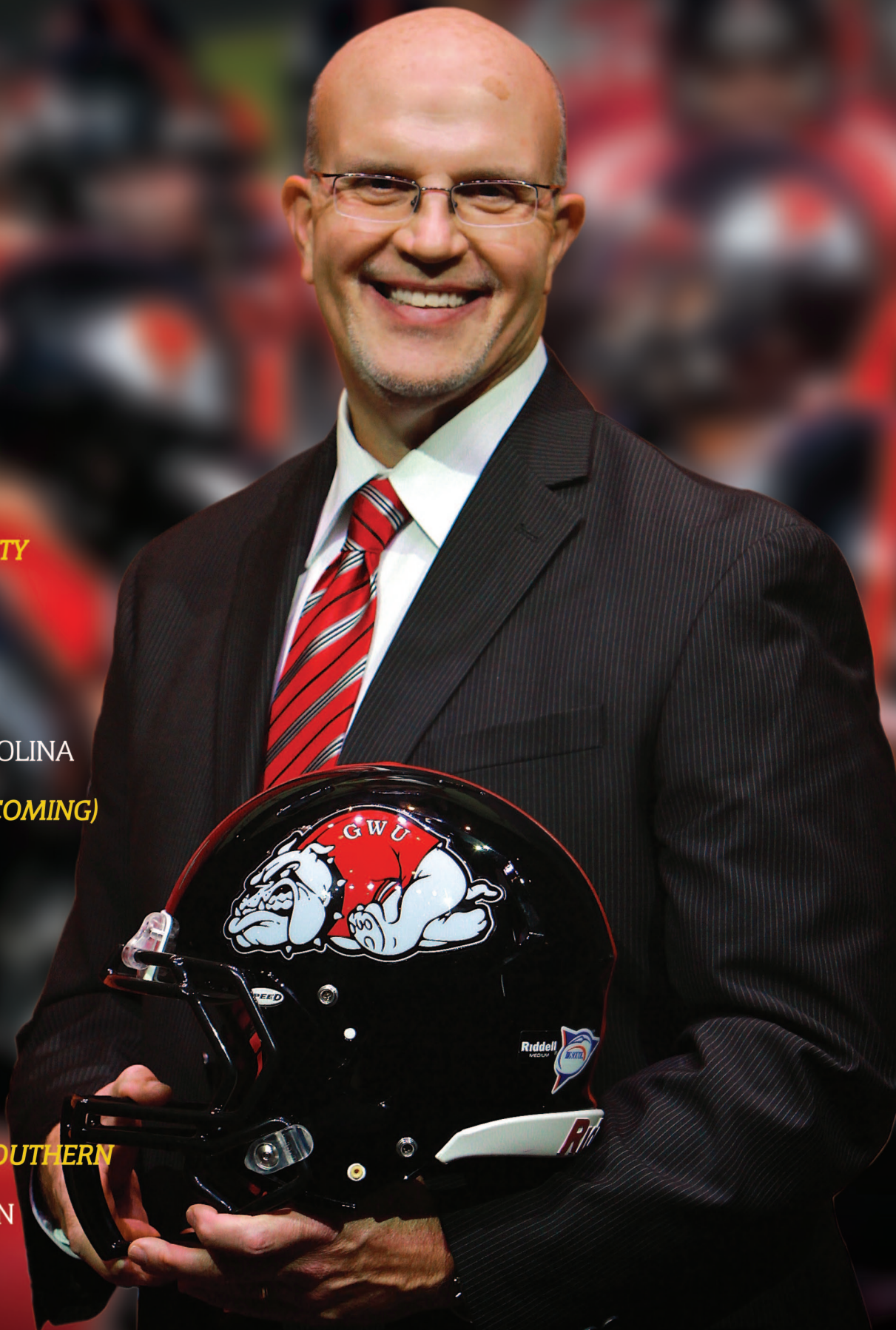
SAT., OCT. 26 LIBERTY (HOMECOMING)

SAT., NOV. 2 WARNER

SAT., NOV. 9 @ VMI

SAT., NOV. 16 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

SAT., NOV. 23 @ PRESBYTERIAN



BUILDING A CULTURE OF RESPECT

Carroll McCray '83 Named as Head Football Coach

Gardner-Webb University announced in January that 1983 graduate Carroll McCray has been hired as head football coach. He is taking over a post left vacant by Ron Dickerson, Jr. who stepped down earlier this year.

McCray spent last season as the head coach at North Greenville University. He has previous stops as associate head coach at Mercer and as head coach at Austin Peay. As an assistant, McCray has an outstanding track record with stops at Furman, Mississippi State, Samford, South Carolina and Appalachian State.

"Our focus with this search was to quickly identify and target an experienced coach who has an understanding of this university and its football program," said Gardner-Webb Vice President for Athletics Chuck Burch. "We have found that coach in Carroll McCray. He is a man of impeccable character and a person we are confident is an outstanding fit here at Gardner-Webb."

"I am humbled and overjoyed with the opportunity to return to Gardner-Webb University as head football coach," said McCray. "It's home. I am excited to reconnect with the Runnin' Bulldog family and look forward to the challenge of getting Gardner-Webb football on track."

"Our teams will play aggressively and with purpose on the field. They will also respect the educational opportunity they are blessed with and pursue a degree with the same purpose. Fielding a good team isn't the only part of the equation. Building a program this university can take pride in, a highly-respected program, is the ultimate goal. The wins will come."

McCray is the ninth head coach in Gardner-Webb's senior college history. He is the first alumnus to serve as head coach since Woody Fish did so from 1984-1996.

"I am delighted that we have secured a coach who meets three very important criteria," said Gardner-Webb president Dr. Frank Bonner. "He is a strong Christian who will provide character-based leadership for our football program. As an alumnus and former Gardner-Webb football player, he knows and believes in the values, principles and culture of our university. And further, Carroll McCray has extensive coaching experience, including time with several major programs and experience as a head coach."

McCray returns to his alma mater after one season as the head coach at NCAA Division II North Greenville University. Despite inheriting a team that returned just 11 starters, McCray molded the Crusaders into a competitive program by season's end. North Greenville won five of its final six games in 2012, including victories over South Atlantic Conference members Newberry, Brevard, Catawba and Wingate.

The Monroe, N.C., native was a three-year letterwinner on the offensive line at Gardner-Webb under Coach Tom Moore, teaming with future Hall of Famers Cameron Brooks, Charlie Harbison, Chip Stuart and Ralph Warthen in the early 1980s. As a senior in 1982, McCray and the Runnin' Bulldogs stormed their way to a 7-3 record – tying the program record to that point for senior college wins and posting the team's first winning ledger since 1977.

McCray graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1983 with a degree in social science. He and his wife Angel, also a graduate of Gardner-Webb, have two children – Trey and Meredith. McCray is also an ordained Baptist deacon and member of Taylors First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C.

Gardner-Webb opens the 2013 season at home on Saturday, Aug. 31, against Furman in Ernest W. Spangler Stadium.

*Additional information on Carroll McCray is available online at gwusports.com

MAKING THE RIGHT CALL

GWU Student Chandler Durham Serves as the Judge for His Court

Written By Paul Foster

The sport of basketball is fast-paced and thrilling for fans and players alike, and who hasn't dreamed of being the player making a game-winning shot as time runs out? While the spotlight is generally on an entire team or individual players, sometimes it's the guys in stripes who take center-stage. Although they often inspire a love-hate relationship with basketball enthusiasts, the sport would not be the same without the skills of the referees. Chandler Durham, a student at Gardner-Webb, is an up-and-coming basketball official who is used to both cheers and jeers from the crowd.

The son of a pastor, Durham calls Lyman, S.C. home and plans to graduate this summer with a degree in Religious Studies and a minor in History. Working in the South Carolina region, Durham officiated his first games at the age of 18 on the boys and girls middle and high school levels before moving into the junior college ranks. This season, he worked a full high school schedule, along with games on the junior college and NAIA level.

"The most challenging part is being a young official," said Durham, "Having to be an authority figure when some of the players are older than me is tough."

Durham says his interest in officiating began with his dad. "My father once officiated in church and recreation leagues, as well as some junior varsity (high school) games in South Carolina." The Reverend Steve Durham, a 1969 GWU grad, is one of the reasons Chandler chose Gardner-Webb. The Durhams lived in the Boiling Springs area when Rev. Durham served as pastor of Camps Creek Baptist Church. "Attending Gardner-Webb was like coming back home for me. The University offers a sense of community and closeness," said Durham.

Durham's commitment to officiating has already been noticed by his peers. The Piedmont Officials Association named him recipient of the 2012 Frank Pullen Memorial Award for outstanding service and dedication to their craft.

While he understands that officials are often not the most beloved person on the court, Durham said he is willing and able to make the difficult calls. "In my opinion, officials are like psychiatrists," he reflected. "We are there to help control the coach and the players. Every call is going to be 50/50, with the team you make the call against unhappy with you."

He attributes his success as a referee to those who helped him along the way. "I try to always remember to stay humble and thankful," Durham shared. "No matter what kind of work you are doing, you need to find a good mentor."

Durham's future plans involve taking some time off from school to focus more on his officiating. He hopes to return to the classroom for graduate school or law school.



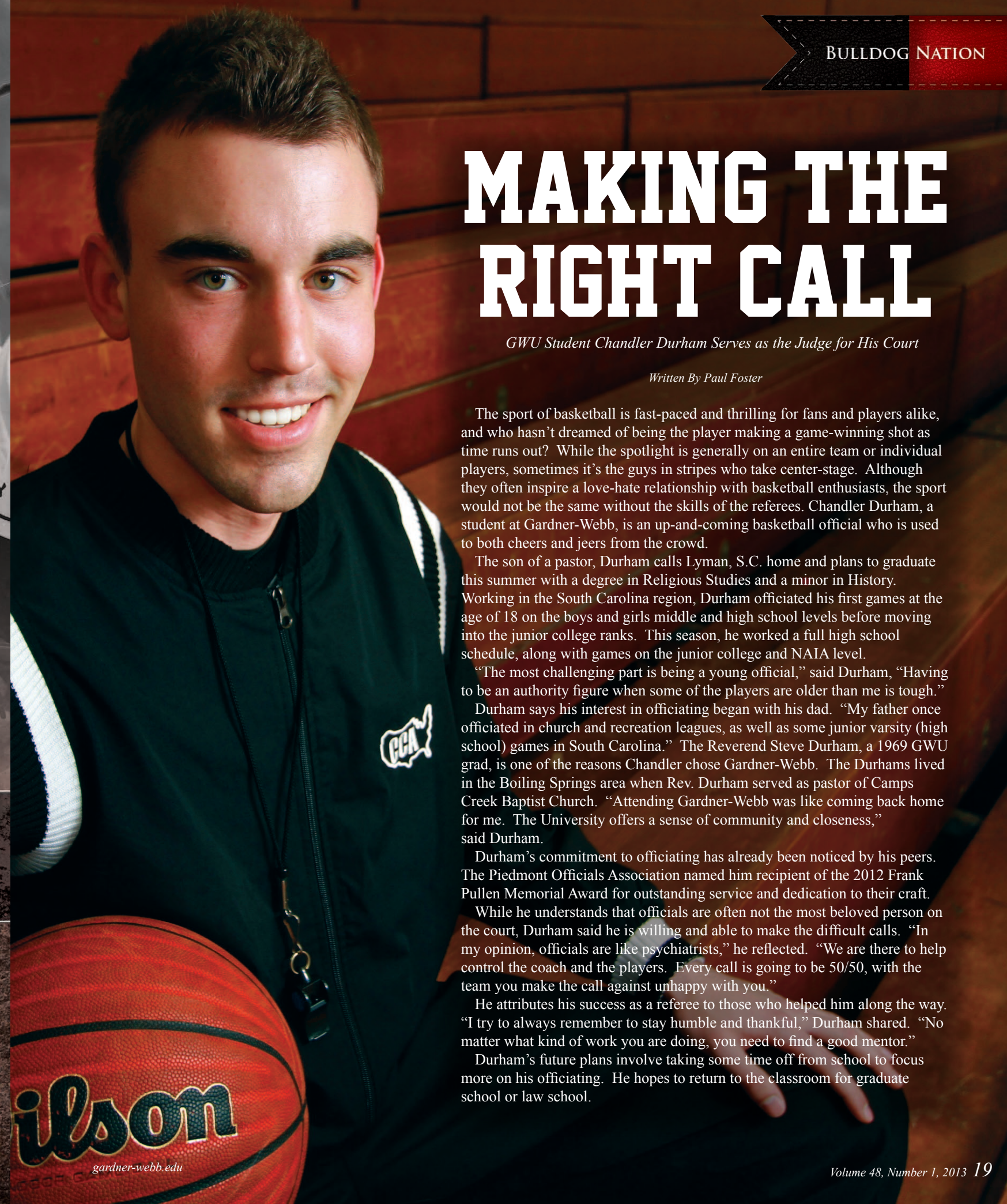
CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH SCHOLARSHIPS



JOIN THE BULLDOG CLUB AND HELP
PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO GARDNER-WEBB
STUDENT ATHLETES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL 704-406-4630

WWW.GARDNER-WEBB.EDU/BULLDOGCLUB





Under- 'Dogs' Come Out on Top

Runnin's Bulldogs Post Best Record in Big South with 20 Wins

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Sometimes it pays to be underestimated. Picked fifth in the six-team Big South Conference South Division, the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs closed out the regular season by winning 10 of their last 11 games. The finish is the best since Gardner-Webb achieved Division I status. In addition, GWU led the Big South in total regular season wins (20) and total defense (just 60.5 points per game allowed). Following their late-season charge, the 'Dogs earned the number two South seed in the conference tournament, where they fell in the semi-final round to eventual tournament champion Liberty University. Head Coach Chris Holtmann was chosen as the Big South Conference Coach of the Year by the same head coaches and media members who initially believed his team would not likely be a conference contender.

Holtmann led Gardner-Webb to its first 20-win season as a full member of NCAA Division I, directing his squad to a 20-11 regular season mark and a second-place finish in the Big South Conference's South Division – despite the fifth place preseason pick in the six-team division. “When I took on this job, I knew we would have to spend some time rebuilding. I knew there would be some days when we didn't get a whole lot of respect,” he said. “So to get the number two seed in the tournament was vindicating. I don't think you're a competitor if you can't say, ‘Hey, I enjoyed sticking it to you a little bit.’”



The “All-In” team concept seemed to help achieve many notable wins including a dominating victory at DePaul University (Chicago, Ill.) in November, where the 'Dogs surged to a 10-point halftime lead and pushed its margin to as many as 19 points in the second half before winning 71-59. Max Landis led the way with a career-high 20 points and Kevin Hartley posted career highs in points (16) and rebounds (12) in the win, which was Gardner-Webb's first against a Big East opponent.

Their on-the-road victory against VMI (Virginia Military Institute) revealed to Holtmann that there was a gritty, competitive component at work in his team that helped them dig deep and emerge victorious even against the stiffest competition.

“I'm looking for competitive, tough kids who want to play at Gardner-Webb.”

“Being 10-10 and 2-4 in the conference and coming up with the win against VMI showed our kids that they could accomplish something pretty significant,” Holtmann shared. “VMI is a tough place to win on the road. Every place is. Once we got on that roll, I think our guys started to believe that they could win the conference. There was no team that we feared. We had beaten pretty much every team there. We felt confident.”

Although it didn't post as a win on the record books, another memorable game took the Bulldogs on the road to the University of Illinois (a Big 10 contender) where they lost the battle against the Illinois by just one point. Their final loss of the regular season came in early February when Presbyterian notched out a three-point victory. From there, the 'Dogs grabbed home victories against Liberty (71-68), Winthrop (65-52), Charleston Southern (67-62 OT), and Presbyterian (76-57); posted on-the-road wins against UNC-Asheville (67-65), Coastal Carolina (70-63), and College of Charleston (55-52); and rounded out their regular season with seven consecutive wins.



With a relatively young team, the Bulldogs are poised for an impressive season next year. With two standout two seniors (Newsome and Hartley) leaving big shoes to fill, Holtmann is in the process of recruiting for the coming season and filling the significant void left by the departing players. “We have a good nucleus of players returning who have achieved some things,” he offered. “In addition to skill, I'm looking for tough, competitive players. In league play, it's like a fistfight every night. So I'm looking for competitive, tough kids who want to play at Gardner-Webb, who want to make this their home.”

All things considered, Coach Holtmann keeps it pretty simple for his players. “We just have to work hard and improve every day,” he said. “I try to tell the players to tune out the white noise, all of the buzz that is a distraction to the task at hand. I just want them to stay focused and disciplined and try to improve every day.”

At the time of this publication's printing, the GWU Men's Basketball team was one of 32 teams competing on the CIT (CollegeInsider.com Tournament). More information on the tournament results and the season is available online at gwusports.com. Special thanks to the GWU Sports Information Office for additional content.





GARDNER-Webb BASKETBALL

"ALL IN, EVERYONE TOGETHER"

2012

2013

11/09 GWU 59 North Carolina 76
11/10 GWU 77 COVENANT 39
11/14 GWU 62 Lipscomb 66
11/15 GWU 71 DEPAUL 59
11/17 GWU 56 Iowa 65
11/20 GWU 55 HOWARD 43
11/21 GWU 72 AUSTIN PEAY 62
11/25 GWU 62 Illinois 63
12/03 GWU 77 UVA-WISE 58

12/05 GWU 42 Wofford 54
12/08 GWU 61 TENNESSEE TECH 41
12/15 GWU 71 THE CITADEL 58
12/18 GWU 60 East Carolina 62
12/22 GWU 83 SPALDING 54

1/05 GWU 81 Campbell 93
1/09 GWU 78 UNC ASHEVILLE 71
1/12 GWU 64 High Point 70
1/16 GWU 66 COASTAL CAROLINA 65

1/19 GWU 51 Radford 52
1/23 GWU 55 Winthrop 61
1/26 GWU 63 VMI 49
1/30 GWU 74 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 73
2/02 GWU 76 LONGWOOD 65

2/06 GWU 54 Presbyterian 57
2/09 GWU 71 LIBERTY 68
2/13 GWU 67 UNC ASHEVILLE 65
2/16 GWU 70 COASTAL CAROLINA 63
2/19 GWU 65 WINTHROP 52
2/23 GWU 55 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON 52
2/27 GWU 67 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 62
3/02 GWU 76 PRESBYTERIAN 57



Hoops & Dreams

GWU's Chris Holtmann Named Big South Conference Coach of the Year

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

As the seconds slipped off the game clock during the final contest of the season, Runnin' Bulldogs Head Coach Chris Holtmann was thinking one thing. "The finality of the season is hard on every coach. You're never ready for the season to be over," he reflected. "After such a close game, it took some time to realize that we really had come up short."

Named the Big South Coach of the Year just a week before the conference tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Holtmann knew he was taking the Gardner-Webb Men's Basketball Program into brand new territory. After posting the first 20-win season since the 'Dogs became a full member of NCAA Division I, the 41-year-old was well aware of the opportunity that awaited his team if they won the Big South Conference Tournament: an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament and a chance to become a contender against some of the biggest and most well-known programs in the nation. "The NCAA tournament is certainly the unspoken goal for every team," he shared. "Every player, every team who competes at this level wants to play in the NCAA tournament. We didn't discuss it as our 'end-in-sight' but it was definitely on everyone's mind."

As the team fell short by just three points against Liberty, Holtmann is keeping his eyes on the future and is focusing his thoughts not on what could have been, but on the successes and achievements of Gardner-Webb's most competitive men's basketball team in the University's Division I history. In addition, the Bulldogs accepted an invitation to compete in the College Insider Tournament (CIT), a post-season tournament open to just 32 Division I college teams. "There is a contagious optimism and hope about what our program could become," he reflected. "It's a collective pride. We are a small part of many great things that help define Gardner-Webb University."

With the Big South Tournament behind him and a few hopes and dreams put on hold until next season, Holtmann was announced as a contender for a national coaching honor among mid-major schools. Named a finalist for the 2013 Hugh Durham Award, he joined just three coaches in North Carolina who were nominated for the honor and was one of only 21 finalists across the country, yet another achievement that boosts the competitive reputation of the Gardner-Webb men's basketball program.

"It's flattering for sure, but in many ways, I really just want it to be about my players and my staffing team," Holtmann shared. "This certainly is not a one-man show and our successes are shared equally. Obviously, I was blessed, but it is really as much a credit to my staff and my players as it is a personal honor. Those guys clearly deserve as much credit as I do. I don't take it for granted, because those things are hard."

Holtmann has quickly established himself as the right choice to lead the Runnin' Bulldogs, following his third season at the helm. A strong tactician and recruiter, his tremendous leadership and enthusiasm has injected energy and toughness into a tradition-rich program. "The most important things in recruiting are relationships and the product you have to sell," he shared. "We can discuss playing time and winning records, but ultimately a player is going to look at the facilities, the campus, and the overall experience at the University."



Traditionally, Gardner-Webb plays one of the toughest non-conference slates in the nation among mid-majors, and battles hard in each of those contests. Known for playing tough against a brutal stretch of opponents, Holtmann's squad is most sturdy at home and forged an 11-2 record in Paul Porter Arena during their historic 20-game winning regular season.

Student support is an element that Holtmann felt firsthand during his inaugural season as head coach when the term "Holtmann-iacs" was birthed. "Holtmann-iacs" are a group of wildly supportive and often rowdy undergrads who consider themselves the "Sixth Man" on the court. "First of all, it is not about me. When our students are involved in the game and participate as fans, it makes a tangible difference between winning and losing," he said. "Having the community support is great, but the student involvement is critical."

A native of Nicholasville, Ky., Holtmann was an NAIA All-America selection at guard in 1994, leading Taylor University to a 29-5 record, a number one national ranking and a spot in the NAIA National Tournament. He earned a degree in psychology from Taylor in 1994 and a master's in athletic administration from Ball State in 2000.

A family man at heart, he credits wife Lori and daughter Nora Jane with helping him balance his competitive drive with the personal priorities that keep him centered. "There is no question that between the two of us, she has the harder job," he boasted of Lori, who is a full-time stay-at-home mom. "She handles the mental and physical challenges of that position incredibly well. I wouldn't be able to travel and handle this position without her support."

With a background in psychology, Holtmann practices different techniques to motivate his players. "My interest in the dynamics of how people work and how they are motivated definitely helps me," he reflected. "There's no question that learning how to manage and help lead kids in the right way is a constant challenge. The biggest mistake coaches can make is more on the relational side. If you damage relationships with your players, they aren't going to want to play for you."

More than anything, he wants to generate camaraderie both inside and outside of the program. "I love it when people feel proud to be a part of what we are doing," he said. "When I get emails, letters, texts, and messages that say, 'I'm proud to be a part of the program. I'm proud to represent Gardner-Webb,' that is just the best feeling. Hopefully we can continue to build on that feeling of pride and even more so. This program is about everyone being 'all-in' and doing this as a team."

Special thanks to the GWU Sports Information Office for additional content



A Matter of TIMING

School of Divinity Student Sharon Decker is New N.C. Commerce Secretary

Written by Niki Bliss Carroll

“Whether I go back into corporate life or whether I continue doing what I’m doing, I just want to be open to His call, because I know God has a sense of humor, and I also know He has a perfect, beautiful plan.”

With the perfect vision of hindsight, Sharon Allred Decker can easily see the prophetic nature of her own words, spoken just two years ago. In early 2011, Decker was featured in the Gardner-Webb Magazine as a corporate executive turned divinity school student. After much success climbing the corporate ladder with Duke Energy (she became the company’s youngest and first female vice president), she surprised everyone—even herself—by laying it all down in order to learn how to better hear the still, small voice of God. In January, Governor Pat McCrory announced that Decker would be spending the next four years serving the State of North Carolina as Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

“We can make our plans, but this is a reminder that God is always at work in this world and what he is preparing for us is more amazing than we could ever imagine,” Decker declared just one day after the announcement. “I come to this with a deeper and abiding faith. I come to this after walking in the desert for a number of years. And this has come to me as a result of learning to trust God more deeply.”

Decker was just over a semester away from completing her Master of Divinity degree, and had plans to pursue a Doctor of Ministry as well. The daughter of a minister, she values spirituality as a foundation for other facets of life. In 2004, she founded The Tapestry Group, a ministry of encouragement and inspiration for women.

“The hardest thing I’ve ever done was to step away from the corporate world,” she shared. “I’m a woman of action, and to be asked by the Lord to be still was more than challenging. But I sensed I needed to establish a deeper relationship with my God, my husband, and my four children.”

With strong ties to Gardner-Webb (her father-in-law is retired professor of music Bob Decker and her husband, Bob, graduated from GWU in 1975), Decker said a difficult aspect of the state appointment was that she would have to put her graduate work at GWU on hold. “I was going to be finished after summer school,” she shared. “I was going to take nine hours this spring, and three hours this summer and I would have been done. I’m going to have to take a break for a while; this is a four-year assignment. But I will finish.”

As Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Decker will oversee the state’s existing business and industry expansion projects, including providing international trade assistance; recruiting new jobs and domestic and foreign investment; encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation; marketing North Carolina and its brand; supporting workforce development; strengthening communities; and promoting tourism, film and sports development.

“Job creation is the essential piece,” Decker shared. “We have to look at that from a new business recruitment standpoint, existing business expansion, small business growth and workforce development. We need to take a look at what is in place and find out if we are optimizing what we have.”

As Decker dives headfirst into the fast-paced role of public servant, she is grateful for the season of quiet contemplation that immediately preceded her opportunity of a lifetime. “There were many times in my journey when I was tempted to get away from where the Lord was leading me,” she admitted. “It was certainly one of my deeper places spiritually, but for the Lord to put me in a place where what I had to do was wait, that was a tough thing for me. My professors at Gardner-Webb sensed that I was weary. They encouraged me and counseled me to keep going, to keep following after God, and to trust him and his perfect timing. I’m so grateful for their encouragement.”



Class Acts

The 1930s

ALUMNA PASSING

MARIETTA P. HOWINGTON '39 died on May 8, 2012 in Louisville, Ky. Marietta taught Sunday School for 73 years, and for many years, wrote numerous church training materials for children. She also taught school for many years, including a stint at the Tennessee School for the Blind. Howington is survived by her husband, three sons, three grandchildren and a sister.

ALUMNUS PASSING

NOLAN P. HOWINGTON passed away on Oct. 11, 2012 in Louisville, Ky. He served in the Army as a chaplain during World War II. Upon his military discharge, Howington was called into ministry and served as a pastor throughout North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas before joining the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as a professor of Christian ethics and preaching. After leaving the seminary, he served as an editor with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Howington is survived by his three sons, three grandchildren and four brothers.

The 1950s

Ⓢ **DAPHNE RANDOLPH BRIDGES '54**

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She graduated in 1954 and is a resident of Boiling Springs, N.C. Bridges has been actively involved with Gardner-Webb and the Boiling Springs community since graduating. She has served in several positions at Gardner-Webb including Alumni Office Manager, and later as a member of the Alumni Board of Advisors for many years. Bridges served as On-Site President of Crawley Memorial Hospital for more than 20 years where she was responsible for merging the hospital with Cleveland Regional Medical Center and the Carolinas Healthcare System. She was also the first woman to serve on the Boiling Springs Planning and Zoning Commission, and was one of the first women to join the Boiling Springs Rotary Club.



ALUMNUS PASSING

DREW CHARLES HUNSINGER '58 A.A. passed away on Dec. 3, 2012. He served two years in the United States Air Force as an allergist and pediatrician at its base in Colorado Springs, Colo. Following a year of teaching, he began a private practice in pediatrics. He was a member of the Open Door Baptist Church in Morehead City, N.C. and a volunteer Bible Study leader at Newport Correctional Facility. He is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, a stepdaughter, a stepson and a brother as well as four grandchildren.

Ⓢ **CAROLYN DIEMER '59 A.A.**

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She graduated in 1959 with an associates degree from Gardner-Webb. From Bakersville, N.C. Diemer went on to earn a B.S. in Elementary Education from Carson-Newman College, M.R.E. from Southwestern Seminary, and Ed. D. from Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.). She served as a



professor of education at Liberty University (Lynchburg, Va.) and taught for 27 years until her retirement in 2001. Currently the president of Books Without Borders, a Christian, non-profit organization which she founded in 1995, Diemer still impacts elementary education today. Her book, "What the Bible Teaches about Life," has been published in several languages, including Russian, Turkish and Arabic. Over a million copies of this book have been distributed as Diemer continues to teach around the world.

The 1960s

Ⓢ **DR. REGINALD HIGH '63**

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He has over 40 years of varied experience in the educational field, serving as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal throughout the years. His experience has taken him throughout both Carolinas in all levels of education from elementary to graduate level college courses. He has participated in many grant writing and research efforts throughout his career. He currently holds the position of Associate Professor of the Executive Leadership Program at Lincoln Memorial University (Harrogate, Tenn.).



Ⓢ **RONNIE ROBINSON '64**

has been named to the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. Robinson's work on the basketball court during Gardner-Webb's junior college era established him as one of the game's pioneers in Boiling Springs. The forward from Belmont, N.C., earned All-Conference honors twice in his two seasons, leading Gardner-Webb with an average of 20 points per game and pacing the squad in rebounds in 1961-62. In 1962-63, Robinson again led the team in scoring (14.3 ppg) and sparked the Runnin' Bulldogs to a second-place finish in the Western Carolina Junior



College Conference and the school's first WCJC Tournament title in the postseason. In addition to earning All-Conference honors in 1963, Robinson was named to the All-Region X team and All-Tournament team. Following his career at Gardner-Webb, Robinson continued his career at Charlotte College, where he posted an average of 20.1 points per game as a junior to earn All-Dixie Conference honors in 1964.

JIM TAYLOR '66 A.A.

has been inducted into the North Carolina High School Athletic Hall of Fame. His first football coaching post was at Polk Central (where he also served as track coach and athletic director). He later went to Shelby High School where he would spend the remainder of his head football coaching career (1974-2005) taking the Golden Lions to 10 conference titles, two state championships and two state runner-up finishes. During his 21 years as coach for Shelby, his teams were 201-54-2. He currently serves as the county athletic director for Cleveland County Schools, and is the executive secretary for the North Carolina Football Coaches Association. He is also the former president of the North Carolina Coaches Association and is an inductee in the Cleveland county FCA Sports Hall of Fame.

The 1970s

Ⓢ **ROBERT CRIBB '75 B.S.**

Cribb has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He graduated in 1975 with a B.S. in Mathematics from Gardner-Webb and went on to achieve his master's degree from Clemson University (S.C.) in Mathematics and Operations Research, and a master's in Project Management from George Washington University (Washington, D.C.). Cribb has worked for AT&T for over 35 years and currently holds the position of General Manager. Cribb has also managed organizations responsible for numerous copyrights and



patents within the telecommunication field. Having been a member of AACEI (the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International) for over 26 years, he once held a chair position of the Computer Science special interest group. His paper on Security Architecture for the Large Enterprise has been published by The Gartner Group, the world's leading information technology research and advisory company, and has become the international de facto standard for Security Topology.

Ⓢ **DR. LEONARD KEEVER, JR. '77 B.S.**

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He graduated in 1978 with a degree in Psychology. Keever worked in social work and sales and eventually answered a call to ministry. He has served as pastor in Indiana, Virginia, and North Carolina. He is the current pastor of First Baptist Church of Dunn, N.C. Using missions as a tool, Keever has preached worldwide in countries like Germany, Ukraine, and Belize. Keever has also served on the Gardner-Webb Board of Advisors.



Ⓢ **ROBERT PETTYJOHN '77 B.A.**

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He graduated from Gardner-Webb with a degree in Biblical Literature and Languages. Throughout his postgraduate life, Pettyjohn has given back to the University and local community by serving on the Alumni Board of Advisors and in several professional organizations in his home community of Wake Forest, N.C. Pettyjohn's carpet cleaning company, Pettyjohn's Cleaning and Restoration, is sought out by major carpet manufacturers and has been honored by the Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce for over 20 years of exceptional service. He is also an active member and leader of his church, Heritage Baptist of Wake Forest, and hosts evening meetings at his home.



LANSFORD JOLLEY '47 PENS NEW BOOK

Gardner-Webb University alumnus and retired faculty member Lansford Jolley's new book, "The Coed's Mite," may be fiction, but it's apparent that parts of the story, including characters, locations, and plotlines are based on reality and even some GWU history. Jolley, a native of Boiling Springs, N.C., served as the University's chair of the Department of Social Sciences for 33 years, where he taught history, sociology, and marriage and family, before retiring in 1992. Aspects of his new book bring historical moments of Gardner-Webb to life through the lives of main characters, Thomas and Ann.

"The Coed's Mite" highlights the relationship between Thomas Smith and Ann Forbes, who meet at a small Baptist college campus in the small town of Springmore, N.C. during the Great Depression in the early 1930s. Ann comes from an influential family living in a city, while Thomas comes from more challenging circumstances – living in the mountains with a family dependent on farming. Thomas is studying to become a preacher, which becomes an integral part of the book's storyline regarding ministry and service to those less fortunate.

"'Mite' is used in the book's title as a reference to the widow in the Bible that had little, but gave all she had," said Jolley. Her offering of two mites—coins—only amounted to a fraction of a penny. "In that scripture many people gave a lot to the offering, but Jesus was touched because she gave all." Jolley said that concept becomes a central theme in the story he weaves.

Jolley hopes people in the community and alumni will pick up a copy of his book and enjoy reading it. Currently, the book is for sale in the GWU Campus Shop, located in the Tucker Student Center.

Jolley was also responsible for writing, "Dreaming, Daring, Doing: The Story of Gardner-Webb University" (released 1997) and "Visions of Faith: The Centennial of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association (1851-2001)," a work that received a North Carolina Society of Historians Award.

THE V-MAN COMETH

GERRY VAILLANCOURT '73 EMBRACES THE BIG EASY

Written by Paul Foster



“Laughter is the lotion for the sunburns of life.” That quote from Gerry Vaillancourt offers a glimpse into what makes Gerry V tick. Known by radio and television fans for his upbeat personality, unique humor and diverse knowledge, Gerry V enjoys entertaining and informing his broadcast audience. As a young man who only knew life in the ‘big city’ of Queens, N.Y., Vaillancourt decided to expand his horizons when he headed south to small-

town Boiling Springs, N.C. to attend Gardner-Webb in 1969. It was his chance to play the sport he loved, basketball, while experiencing a new and different way of life.

“It was the first time I had an extended stay outside of New York City,” said Vaillancourt. “I was fascinated by small town life; its slower pace and different walk of life. There was none of the hustle and bustle of the city, and I quickly made lots of friends.”

Vaillancourt finished at GWU in 1973, earning a degree in physical education and health with a minor in psychology. Still unsure about his career path, Vaillancourt knew one thing: he wanted to be able to connect with people. He soon realized that his passion for interpersonal communication and his love for basketball offered a perfect solution to his dilemma. He began his first basketball coaching stint, which included a teaching position, at Bishop McGinnis High School in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Vaillancourt later moved up to college coaching. “I served as an assistant coach for several programs, including Appalachian State (Boone, N.C.), Davidson (N.C.), and James Madison (Harrisburg, Va.),” he shared. He also attended basketball camps, which gave him the opportunity to meet up-and-coming coaches like John Calipari (current head coach of Kentucky) and Les Robinson (former head coach for N.C. State).

“I was on the road to being a career coach, but guys like Calipari and, in particular, Les Robinson told me that if I got tired of coaching, I should audition for broadcasting,” Vaillancourt reflected. “I even got some advice from a man who has become a

National Basketball Association (NBA) announcing legend, Hubie Brown,” said Vaillancourt. Brown is an analyst on NBA television games for ABC and ESPN and a former pro basketball coach, who was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005. “He [Brown] said this would be a good path for me and that I had the personality, voice, and was engaging with others.”

Vaillancourt’s calling as an announcer began to take shape when he was hired as an NBA color analyst in the late 1980s. Less than 50 miles from the campus that first brought him south, Vaillancourt’s broadcasting career began in Charlotte, N.C. with the NBA’s Charlotte Hornets franchise. For over a decade, Vaillancourt became a central sports figure in the Charlotte market including color analyst and studio host for the Hornets’ television and radio broadcasts in the 1990s. He also served as sports director of WCCB-TV. Ultimately, he found his greatest success as a sports talk radio host of the show “Gerry V” on WFNZ and WBT. Vaillancourt even spent time as host of the post-game call-in show for the National Football League’s Carolina Panthers. When the Hornets moved to New Orleans after 14 seasons in Charlotte, Vaillancourt went with them in 2002, where he became a notable figure in sports talk radio in the “Big Easy.”

For 22 years, Vaillancourt was a member of the Hornets broadcast crew before new ownership took over the franchise in 2012. “All of a sudden, they wanted to put this face back on television,” he recalled. “Fox 8 in New Orleans gave me the opportunity to begin an adventurous new path.” In the fall of 2012, Vaillancourt accepted an expanded role at the station and became a host for the Fox 8 Morning News show as well as lead anchor for the noon weekday newscast.

The “V-Man” also enjoys serving as a public and motivational speaker when given the opportunity. “I still have a long list of things I’d like to do, including returning to Gardner-Webb, so I can tell students about my journey,” Vaillancourt said. “I would tell them to remember that you never know when you’re being evaluated. Students need to know how to network and market themselves.”

Now in the south for over 40 years, yet still speaking with much of his New York accent, Vaillancourt is still a fun, engaging guy who believes that a big smile and laughs are good for the soul. “I benefited from my experiences at Gardner-Webb,” he expressed. “The University helped me as I moved forward in life, business, coaching and broadcasting.”

STEVEN MIGIOIA '78 B.S.

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. Migioia intended to follow a track in Veterinary Medicine after graduation from Gardner-Webb. Instead, he became a Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). He began this career path in federal law enforcement in 1991. He has traveled internationally as a Special Agent Instructor and has educated more than 5,000 law enforcement officers. He has earned multiple awards throughout his career, including the “International Award of Honor,” “Exceptional Performance Award,” and “Dedication to Duty and Outstanding Contributions.”



PAM DAVIS FISH '82 B.S.

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She graduated in 1982 with a degree in physical education from Gardner-Webb, and throughout her career in education she has focused on children. Fish has received many awards and accolades including: Teacher of the Year for Boiling Springs Elementary School in 1995, Commitment of Excellence Award for 1998, and the 2011 Hoyt Q. Bailey Agape Award (one of the highest awards in Cleveland County education).



RANDALL HALL '88 B.S.

has joined Mechanics and Farmers Bank in Durham, N.C. as senior vice president and chief financial officer.



ORLANDO EARLY '90

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. He graduated in 1990 with a degree in accounting. After college, Orlando pursued a career in coaching and served Gardner-Webb as an assistant basketball coach from 1993-1995. He later spent four seasons as assistant coach for the University of Alabama, helping the Crimson Tide reach the NCAA Tournament each year. He was also once named coach of the year in the Sun Belt Conference when he was with the University of Louisiana-Monroe, and he served as South Carolina’s assistant coach for one season. Orlando is currently in his second season as assistant coach at N.C. State University. In his first season, he helped lead the team to a 24-13 record, and their first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2006, and their first Sweet 16 appearance since 2005.

KATHY CARSWELL '91 B.S.

was named finance director for Beaufort County Schools in Beaufort, S.C.

The 1980s

ALUMNA PASSING

TERESA KAY MELTON '81 B.S. died on July 11, 2012. She was a member of Christian Freedom Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, N.C. Teresa was the owner and operator of Kings Mountain Vacuum Shop and formerly served as director of the Kings Mountain Senior Center.



Pledge your Gift to the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund Today!

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.



GOAL

Minded

Neal Alexander '84 Takes Post in N.C. Governor's Office

Written by Paul Foster

Many people use the term “retired” very loosely. While the roles and responsibilities of one position may no longer be required, individuals who are used to being productive often “retire” and end up contributing even more to the organizations and communities where their passions lie. Gardner-Webb alum Neal Alexander is such a retiree. After 43 years of service at Duke Energy where he served as vice president of human resources, Alexander retired in April 2011. He continued his valuable service on many boards and community organizations, including Chairman of the GWU Board of Trustees, and was recently tapped by North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory to fill a full-time role as the Director of the State Office of Personnel. It's a safe bet that Alexander can drop the word retired, as duty now calls for not only his alma mater, but the state of North Carolina as well.

“My relationship with Governor Pat McCrory goes back to when he worked with me in human resources at Duke,” said Alexander. “He presented this opportunity to me to help improve services for state employees. I'm proud to be a part of his administration and support his goals.”

Alexander will be traveling across the state to help push several goals for North Carolina employees such as how to create a culture of customer service for state citizens. In addition, Alexander hopes to insure, motivate and retain talent in order to better meet the needs of the state and improve human resources (HR) services for employees, managers, and supervisors.

This native of Walhalla, S.C. graduated from the Gardner-Webb University GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) program in 1984 and can now reflect on how his GWU degree helped him succeed in his longtime role with Duke Energy, a role that ultimately led him to his current state appointment.

Alexander became involved with Gardner-Webb as an undergraduate student in 1965. However, as a member of the National Guard, he was called into active duty during the early stages of the Vietnam War and was forced to leave GWU. In the summer of 1967, Alexander was released from service and accepted a job at Duke Power, where he became an engineering surveyor.

His career led him to Duke's McGuire Nuclear Station near Charlotte, N.C., in 1971. Around the same time, Alexander and his wife moved to the small community of Denver, N.C.

Alexander's career with Duke Energy was advancing, yet he wanted to achieve more. “A colleague had mentioned—and I realized myself—that if I wanted to do more administratively and move up the corporate ladder, it meant I needed to continue my education,” said Alexander. He reconnected with Gardner-Webb in the early 1980s where he discovered that the GOAL program offered exactly what he needed to achieve his educational ambitions. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and graduated from GWU in 1984.

“It (GOAL) opened many doors for me at Duke, as well as other things in life. I was so thankful for the program's flexibility that still allowed me to balance my job responsibilities, while furthering my education,” said Alexander.

Alexander's advice to those who have not completed their four-year college degree is to simply stay resolute. “If you have the determination to complete the goal, the program provides a way,” he encouraged. “You will work with a great group of advisors and professors. In other words, someone will help you the best they can. GOAL courses are offered at numerous remote facilities and even online.”

His role as a GWU Board of Trustees member has kept him intimately involved in the University's challenges and opportunities over the last several years, and he remains committed to his alma mater. “Gardner-Webb will still be a priority,” he affirmed. “I think the University is well positioned for the student of tomorrow. We are continuing to add programs where there is a need for workers like the new physician assistant (PA) program. We've added buildings. Fundraising has been wonderful and most of all, the University is committed to the student.”

As GOAL celebrates its 35th anniversary this year, Neal Alexander will be one of its strongest supporters. He is most certainly one of its greatest successes.

KARLA E. HAYNES
'91 B.S., '07 M.B.A.

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She graduated in 1991 from the GOAL program, before receiving her MBA from the University in 2007. In 1994, Haynes joined the Cleveland County Community Development Corporation, where she is currently the Executive Director. She has been consistently involved with the Cleveland County community throughout her career, including board membership for several non-profit organizations, and was most recently awarded the Community Advocate of the Year for 2012 by the Cleveland County Business and Professional Association.



HOYT BYNUM, JR. '93 B.S.

was named president and chief executive officer of the Simpsonville Area Chamber of Commerce in S.C. Hoyt has spent 19 years working with nonprofit organizations, which included 14 years as an executive professional with three Boys & Girls Clubs of America organizations and the past five years as chief executive officer with the Children's Shelter of the Upstate and Henderson County Habitat for Humanity. In 2005, he became a preacher. Hoyt is a member of Hendersonville Kiwanis Club, an instructor for the University of South Carolina Upstate Gospel Choir and member of the city of Spartanburg Human Relations Commission.

ANDRE KWASNIK
'93

has been named to the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. He played a major role in the most impressive season in Gardner-Webb's senior college football history, and enjoyed one of the most prolific scoring careers for a kicker during his four seasons with the Runnin' Bulldogs. In 1992, Kwasnik helped kick Gardner-Webb to a 12-2 record, a South Atlantic Conference championship and the NAIA National Championship Bowl. He scored 97 points on the season, making nine field goals and connecting on a school-record 70 PAT attempts. That PAT mark remains first in school and South Atlantic Conference history. Kwasnik earned first-team All-SAC honors and first-team NAIA All-America honors in 1992, becoming only the second kicker in school history to earn first-team All-America honors. He finished his career ranked second in Gardner-Webb history with 243 points, which included a school-record 135 made PAT attempts and 36 field goals.



MIKIE DRUM
'94 B.S.

has been named to the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. She spent four seasons with the Gardner-Webb women's basketball program as the consummate floor



general, finishing her career with a school-record 646 assists. That total remains the top mark nearly two decades later and is also the third-best effort in the history of the South Atlantic Conference. Drum dished off 153 assists to earn SAC Freshman of the Year honors in 1991, helping Gardner-Webb to 19 wins and a 10-4 mark and third-place finish in the SAC. Drum followed that debut season by establishing Gardner-Webb's single-season assist mark in 1992 with 215, and closed out her career with 139 assists in each of her last two seasons. She averaged 6.04 assists per game during her four years with the program. Drum's passing exploits were key in helping Hall of Famers Fredia Lawrence and Delaina Adams post two of the top-four scoring careers in Gardner-Webb history.

NOEL T. MANNING II '94 B.A.

is chief communications officer for Gardner-Webb University. He has written a chapter for the book, "Current Issues in Higher Education." Manning's chapter, "Does Tribal Higher Education Matter: A Question of Culture," explores the history and culture of tribally controlled colleges and universities, while examining the challenges and the uniqueness of the Native American higher education experience.

CLAYTON KING '95 B.A.

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



What Kind of a Legacy will you Leave?

Twenty years ago, the founders of Gardner-Webb's School of Divinity established a life-changing legacy, one whose impact will reverberate for generations through our graduates' tireless work to advance God's Kingdom and bless people's lives.

You, too, can establish a life-changing legacy through a bequest gift made through your will or trust. There are several ways to make a bequest:

- Specific dollar amount
- Percentage of your estate
- Specific asset
- Residue of your estate

For more information on how to create a lasting legacy through a bequest, contact Greg Poe in the Gift Planning Office at (704) 406-2157 or visit our website: www.gwugift.org.

1995 with a degree in Religious Studies. He received an honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Anderson University during winter commencement ceremonies on Dec. 14, 2012. He is founder and president of Crossroads Worldwide and Clayton King Ministries. The organization has recently broken the million dollar barrier, having given over \$1 million to missions since 1996. Clayton is also the teaching pastor at NewSpring Church and campus pastor at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. He has also authored six books.

DR. DANIELLE KWASNIK '95 B.A.

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a double minor in Political Science and Psychology. She went on to earn a Master of Public Administration and Doctor of Education from Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.). Kwasnik has a passion for higher education, having spent over 15 years under educational and administrative functions while serving her peers, students, and local organizations to promote educational growth and development. She has written, co-written and taught several courses at NSU and was recently rated in the top four percent of professors at the Fischler School of Education, which serves nearly 11,000 students. She currently serves on the GWU Alumni Board of Advisors.



BRIAN CLUBB '98 B.S.

was recently promoted from senior credit service representative to credit coordinator for United Rentals (North America), Inc. He and his wife, Rhonda Villarreal Clubb, currently reside in Gastonia, N.C. with their three children: Emil, Kaitlynne, and Kendal.

STACY STANLEY '94 B.S.; '97 M.B.A.

joined EATON Corporation's Enterprise Site Infrastructure Support as an IT analyst at the Kings Mountain, N.C. facility. She will be supporting all the facilities in the Charlotte area including the one in Forest City.

TODD WIMBERLY '95 B.S.; '06 MSA

was recently named assistant principal at Harry M. Arndt Middle School in Hickory, N.C.

KATHY SMITH BROOKS '98 B.A.

and her husband, Ty, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Elijah Ty-Van Brooks, who was born on Aug. 27, 2012. Elijah weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 1/2 in. long. Kathy and Ty thank God for him and are excited to raise him to God's glory.



The 2000s

BRIAN A. MURDOCH '00

joined Cornerstone National Bank in Easley, S.C. as vice president and commercial lender. Brian has 17 years of banking experience in Spartanburg, Greenville and Anderson.

TORY ATKINS '01

has been named to the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. Atkins wrapped up his football career as the top tackler in the history of Gardner-Webb football, posting 485 stops in his four seasons. The two-time All-America selection also finished his career with 52 tackles for loss, which ranks third in school history. The Greenville, S.C., native became the first Gardner-Webb standout to earn NCAA Division I-AA All-America honors from the Associated Press in 2001, following a season that saw him total 126 tackles and 23 tackles for loss. Atkins was also named Division I-AA Independents Defensive Player of the Year in 2001 and was I-AA National Defensive Player of the Week after collecting 23 tackles vs. Samford. Atkins earned first-team All-South Atlantic Conference honors in 1999, posting 150 total tackles. That effort ranks second in school history for a single season and his 29-tackle effort in 1999 vs. Carson-Newman



Do you know of a GWU alum who is making a positive contribution to his or her community?

If so, then email us at: alumni@gardner-webb.edu

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

JAMIE JOHNSON '86 COMBINES ATHLETICS AND MISSIONS FOR UNIQUE MINISTRY

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

Jamie Johnson will never forget the moment he surrendered his heart to Christ. The son of a Baptist preacher, he had heard his father share the message of God's grace many times in his nine years. But one day, when he was preparing to receive a well-deserved punishment, something clicked and everything made sense.

His dad was understandably disappointed in young Jamie. He'd been out in the neighborhood, doing things that little boys do. On this particular afternoon, Jamie had decided to throw a rock at a bird he saw on a telephone wire. Except that he missed, and instead, the rock landed on the neighbor's prized restored car. The moments that followed tested Jamie's character, and to cover up his involvement, he lied about throwing the rock.

By the time he got home, news of the incident had already reached his dad. The truth of what really happened came to light. Johnson recalled that the look on his dad's face was sad. He was disappointed. This particular offense seemed to bother him more. The intentional deception was somehow worse than the bad decision.

Young Jamie was prepared for the whipping. He saw the belt and knew he deserved it. What he did not consider was the lesson of grace he was about to receive. His dad handed him the belt and laid down in Jamie's place. "I want you to whip me, son," his father said. "I want to take your punishment. That is what Jesus did for me. He took the punishment for my sin on the cross, because he loved me." In that moment, everything fell into place as the youngster wept. He felt the call of God and finally understood the meaning behind the scriptures he had heard over the years. He surrendered his heart and his life to the leadership of Jesus Christ.

Johnson's recount of the moment of his salvation is moving, but not simply because the truth of God's unconditional love was revealed to a child. The love of the father—both the Heavenly Father and an earthly one—was conveyed in a way that was tangible and life-changing.

"My theology was built on early examples of the grace God offers us daily," Johnson reflected. "My dad gave me an excellent picture of what God did for me through Jesus Christ."

Johnson now spends his life sharing that very message with whoever will listen, whenever he can, and in whatever way that will effectively reach the multitudes. Following his salvation, he spent the next decade developing both spiritually and physically while becoming a competitive athlete. After attending junior college for two years, he transferred to Gardner-Webb where he played basketball and earned his degree in religious education. He spent



Jamie Johnson (left) with Randy Shepherd (right)

a number of years working in the roofing and lumber business before transitioning into full-time ministry. Twenty years ago, Johnson teamed up with his friend, Randy Shepherd (UNC-Asheville). The two had both played basketball in college and had opposed each other on the court on numerous occasions. They also shared a vision for using the sports platform to spread the Gospel message. Johnson and Shepard co-founded Crossfire Ministries (based in Asheville, N.C.) in 1993 with a desire to go wherever God opened a door. With both domestic and international engagements in an 11-month traveling schedule, Crossfire Ministries saw 4,205 professions of faith and 723 commitments to Christ in 2012 alone.

"As athletes, we can all relate to training, discipline, and a total commitment to reach both personal and team goals," Johnson said. "When we share these commonalities with other athletes, a door opens to discuss spiritual things. As believers, we have to be careful not to develop such a church mind-set that we can't relate to the regular world."

Johnson and Shepherd minister both together and separately throughout the year. They share their mission and vision at church events, youth rallies, softball games and tournaments, basketball exhibition games, school assemblies, colleges and universities, prisons, and more. The two even attended the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, speaking twice a day at area churches and then doing outreach in public locations like Olympic Park, where they ministered to people from over 25 different countries.

One of the flagship events coordinated by Crossfire is the ACC All-Star Classic, in which senior basketball players from Duke, UNC, Wake Forest, N.C. State, and Clemson form a team and take on the Crossfire team, made up of Johnson, Shepherd, and a handful of other Crossfire representatives. Thousands of people attend the

annual ACC All-Star exhibition game in Asheville, held each April. About half of the time, the Crossfire team emerges with the victory. Many of the ACC All-Star players have gone on to become NBA standouts, including Grant Hill, Tim Duncan, J.J. Reddick, Trajon Langdon, DeMarcus Nelson, and Tyler Zeller, Miles Plumlee, Tyler Hansbrough, Nolan Smith, Kyle Singler, and Brandon Haywood, among others.

In addition to the exciting All-Star Classic, Crossfire also sponsors other sports teams. Their men's softball team plays competitively in Asheville area leagues, and following each game, members of the Crossfire team huddle up with their opponent and take turns giving their testimony. Each testimony is followed by an opportunity to surrender or rededicate one's life to Christ. Hundreds of decisions have been made following league games, Johnson said.

During the months of June and July, Crossfire hosts a myriad of basketball camps for boys and girls ages six to 17 years. "In 20 years, we've seen over 10,000 boys and girls participate in our summer camps, which are held in Western North Carolina and beyond," Johnson reported. "Gratefully, we've also witnessed thousands of these kids come to Christ while attending one of these camps."



Crossfire's effectiveness is a tribute to the devotion of Johnson, Shepherd, and the dozens of volunteers who help administer the ministry's programs and events. Personal hardships have emphasized to Johnson the importance of meeting people with tenderness and compassion in their hour of need. "I've discovered that my experience with hurt and heartache has offered a depth to my counseling that I didn't have previously," Johnson shared. The sufficiency of God's grace was not undermined through his trial, he said, but was proven in it.

"Whatever platform God gives us, we want to use it for his glory," Johnson reflected. "We've got to ask God to help us not to be timid. We've got something the world wants. They're starved and they're looking for it. A lot of people just aren't going to come to church and we have to reach them. We've got to go to where the lost are and tell them there's hope in Christ."

For more information on Crossfire Ministries or to contact Jamie Johnson, visit www.crossfireministry.com.

**Special thanks to Cheryl Huntley for additional research and content assistance.*

Built on Hope:

Legacy for the Next Generation

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Born and raised in Kings Mountain, N.C., M. Lamont Littlejohn, Jr. wasn't surprised when God called him into ministry at the age of 17. The son of God-fearing parents Marion and Jeannette Littlejohn, he was ordained by the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association in June of 1999, just after receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education from Gardner-Webb University. Littlejohn also wasn't surprised when God led him back to Kings Mountain after graduation, where he married his high school sweetheart, Nicole, and spent the next four years teaching social studies at his alma mater, Kings Mountain High.

After serving as the youth pastor and later as the assistant pastor in his home church, Mt. Zion Baptist, Littlejohn felt prepared for whatever the Lord might call him to do next. He had hit his stride; he was ready. He had even become a father to a baby girl, L'mia Nicole. Then, in 2003, he was called to Shelby, N.C. To say he was surprised is an understatement. Never did 14 miles feel more like a chasm.

He laughs about it now, but admitted that growing up, the Kings Mountain-Shelby rivalry had run deep. As a kid, he had never envisioned leaving the community he loved to go "across the creek" (Buffalo Creek separates the two Cleveland County cities). Yet he was being called to serve in pastoral leadership at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Shelby, where the longtime Reverend Dr. Sam Raper had been senior pastor for more than 35 years. He willingly embraced the call and, this year, will celebrate a decade of service as "servant-pastor/teacher" of a flock of several hundred.

"I have nothing against the title 'senior pastor,'" Littlejohn shared. "But for me, I want to be a servant leader. When we are called to be a pastor, we are called to serve. My prayer is always, 'Lord, keep me humble, and keep me loving the people.' I don't want to get to a place where I stop loving them, because then I fail in ministry."

Littlejohn and Raper spent about five years in a transition phase, where the elder pastor served as shepherd to the younger. In early 2004, Littlejohn entered the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, where he began coursework for his Master of Divinity degree. His very first day of class also marked another tremendous milestone for him personally. "My son, M. Lamont Littlejohn III was born on my first day of M.Div classes," he reflected. "There were also three deaths within the church that same week. It truly was baptism by fire."

In 2007, Littlejohn received his Master of Divinity degree from Gardner-Webb. Raper passed away in 2009, and the congregation at Mt. Calvary was fully dependent on Littlejohn for leadership. "From day one, I told them, 'It won't be done like Dr. Raper. It will be done in the way God shows me to do it,'" he shared. "So from the beginning, I tried to make it clear that I didn't want to emulate him but my desire was to build on what God had already done through his ministry."

With a young family, a full-time pastorate, and course work for his Master of Divinity degree, Littlejohn learned how to establish his priorities and find balance. "You learn a lot through the M.Div program, and you understand from the beginning that you're not going to apply every single thing in your congregation," he said. "You learn to pick and choose, and sometimes you just feel your way through."

Regarding his family, Littlejohn is crystal clear. "My family loves me, and I think the reason why is because I told them the church would never take me away from them," he explained. "I've seen so many horror stories of other pastors who have allowed the church to take them away from their children and their wife. I don't want my children to grow up hating the church because their dad was never around."

He admits that finding balance between family and ministry can be a challenge. Also difficult is balancing the love and compassion for his flock with the standard of righteousness conveyed in God's Word. "For anyone who has a pastoral heart, conflict is always difficult," Littlejohn shared. "There's definitely a balance there, that you have to find [between compassion and accountability]. A lot of people say the right thing but they say it in the wrong way. It took me awhile to get that. And guess what? I'm still getting it. Again, it's a process that you don't fully grasp because it's ministry. But every day, God gives us another opportunity."

Littlejohn is the first to admit that he is not perfect; that he has struggles and must stay on his knees and walk in the strength of God if he has any desire to be effective in ministry. "I have to make sure that my face is correct and my attitude is adjusted," he said. "I am leading these people. I'm to be an example for them. I need that stubborn person. I need that person who may be a thorn in my side to help me pray and keep me focused."

One of the biggest challenges facing churches in the world today, he believes, is a lack of compassion and love. "I don't see a lot of love amongst us. We may say we love each other, but the action is not there," he observed. "We are not consistent enough in our righteous living, in our loving one another, in our compassion, in our holding each other accountable. Perhaps where we are failing most is in our consistency. To be consistent in righteous living, you have to do it in God's strength and you need an accountability partner. We call ourselves the body of Christ, but so many of us are living on our own personal islands. For the one struggling with inconsistency, they must make a choice. They have to be intentional about being obedient."

Teaching his congregation how to be authentic in their faith walk is also of primary importance to Littlejohn. "We are all ministers. We are all called to serve God in some type of capacity," he shared. "Everyone has a gift. We have to look at the needs of our community and build ministries accordingly. We have to stop being lazy, stop complaining, and do something."

Sometimes, even the most resolute of believers can waver with uncertainty in a world where it seems that evil prevails. Littlejohn just smiles. "There's always hope when you're talking about Christ," he offered. "That's what we're built on; we're built on hope. God can take the impossibility and make something possible out of it."

The message of peace, hope, and love through Christ Jesus is certainly a soothing truth in a dark and depraved world. Littlejohn continues to embrace the call and vision that first brought him to Mt. Calvary. "God has sent me here to be the pastor of these people for this season," he shared. "I just pray that I get it right. It's only by his grace and mercy that I do."

remains the top single-game performance in school history. Atkins added 136 stops in 2000 (87 solo), leading Gardner-Webb to a 7-4 mark in its first Division I season. He was named third-team Division I-AA All-America by the Football Gazette as a junior.

JUDITH HUNT '02 B.S.
married Wayne Ryan on Sept. 1, 2012 in Golden Valley, N.C. She currently works as a registered nurse at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare.

ERIN BOYD ODOM '03 B.A.
and her husband, Will, are pleased to announce the birth of their third daughter, Hannah Joy, who was born on Aug. 22, 2012. They would also like to announce the birth of their second daughter, Margaret Elizabeth “Maggie,” who was born on Oct. 23, 2010. Hannah and Maggie were welcomed by big sister Emma Brooke, who was born on June 12, 2008. Odom works from home as a freelance writer and editor. She is the founder and owner of “The Humbled Homemaker” (thehumbledhomemaker.com), a blog dedicated to educating others on natural living and homemaking from a biblical perspective.

LAURIE A. PINKERT '04 B.A.
is a Ph.D. student at Purdue University, and was recently awarded a K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award by the Association of American Colleges and Schools. She is one of only seven in the country to earn this distinction. This is an interdisciplinary, national award that honors graduate students who show promise of becoming future leaders in higher education.

JENNIFER MOORE '05 B.S.
is in her eighth year teaching second grade. She has one daughter who has graduated high school, one graduating this year, and one finishing the eighth grade. She also is blessed to be a grandparent.

CARRIE BRINKLEY JONES '06 B.S.

has been named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She graduated in 2006 with a degree in Finance. While at Gardner-Webb, she served as a student athlete, vice-president of the Student Investment Club, and member of the Graduates of Executive Management. Jones went on to join the Brinkley Financial Group in Charlotte. She is the financial analyst and advisor for the family-owned firm, which was recently named one of the Largest Area Financial Planning Firms by the Charlotte Business Journal. Through a rigorous and comprehensive licensure process, Jones has obtained and currently holds the FINRA Series 7, Series 63, and Series 65 registrations by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the largest independent regulator of securities firms.

MEGAN FUTRELL UNRUE '06 A.D.N.
and her husband, Aaron, currently live in Rocky Mount, N.C. Their first child, Henry, was born on Sept. 26, 2011. Unrue is employed by the Edgecombe County Health Department as a school nurse. In August 2012, she became a Nationally Certified School Nurse. Megan can be reached at amunrue@gmail.com.



DARCY CRAVEN '07 M.B.A.
was named chief executive officer for Carolinas Hospital System where he previously served as chief operating officer. Darcy has formerly served as interim chief executive office for the Cherokee Medical Center in Centre, Ala, and assistant chief executive officer for DeKalb Regional Medical Center in Fort Payne, Ala.

ROBERTO VASQUES '07 B.S.; '10 M.B.A. and SAMANTHA PENNINGTON VASQUES '09 B.S.
welcomed their daughter, Lillyana Joyce Vasques, who was born on Nov. 29, 2011.

JENNIFER WILSON '10 B.S.
and Steven Brent Ledbetter were united in marriage on Nov. 3, 2012 at Abingdon Creek Baptist Church in Gaffney, S.C. Jennifer is employed at Jetline in the accounting department and Steven is employed by Suminoe as a machine operator. They reside in Gaffney, S.C.

SPENCER BLEVINS '11
and Hannah Roberts were married on Sept. 8, 2012 at Freedom Christian Church in Marshall, N.C. Spencer is operation’s analyst for Wells Fargo and Hannah is a project management office analyst for Genesis 10. The couple resides in Mount Holly, N.C.



twitter.com/gardnerwebb



Watch Gardner-Webb’s latest videos at www.youtube.com/gardnerwebb1905.

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 klovelace@gardner-webb.edu.

Everyone Has a Story

GWU Journalism Graduate Comes Full Circle

Written by Matthew Renfer

For many graduates, commencement signals a coming change in setting for the chance to put a newly earned degree to use. This was the case for Matthew Tessnear, a '07 journalism and public relations alumnus of Gardner-Webb, who followed a career path that led to opportunities in a number of different locations.

As it turned out, however, that same path came full circle. In June 2012, Tessnear returned to Cleveland County to fill the position of city editor at The Shelby Star. His way back is a fitting return to the area of his upbringing and the beginning of a journalistic career that began at the Star in 2004—all within close proximity to his alma mater.

Tessnear hails from the small town of Alexis, N.C. The only child of his father, who worked for Duke Energy; and his mother, who worked as a teacher and artist, he graduated from East Gaston High School where he took an interest in sports medicine and sports marketing. He later discovered a passion for sports journalism and writing before deciding to pursue a career in news that would include, but also go beyond, the scope of athletics.

During high school, Tessnear assumed he would attend UNC Chapel Hill for his love of Tar Heels basketball. But after visiting Gardner-Webb in his junior year, he took to the small community and atmosphere.

“Gardner-Webb gave me an opportunity to step up and lead quietly because of small classes, a small newspaper staff and communications department, and a small campus,” said Tessnear. “I met great people there, got great individual academic tutelage and a chance to serve as a reporter, editor and designer for the former student newspaper, The Pilot. Gardner-Webb is a place for the student who wants a chance to grow as a professional and as a person—in faith and in the world.”

During the summer before Tessnear’s sophomore year at Gardner-Webb, he contributed freelance work to The Shelby Star, covering the 2004 state American Legion baseball tournament. Fittingly, his return back to Cleveland County last summer was just in time to cover the American Legion 2012 World Series.

After his time at The Shelby Star, he interned at two sister papers: The Gaston Gazette and The Northwest Florida Daily News in Walton Beach, Fla. Then he spent nearly four years writing for the Sun Journal in New Bern, N.C., working for a short time in Huntsville, Ala., and serving as managing editor of The Observer News Enterprise in Newton, N.C.

Tessnear looks back fondly on his time at Gardner-Webb. “I wouldn’t trade the experience for another school,” said Tessnear. “If I could go back to 2002, I’d commit the next four years to Gardner-Webb again.”

Future plans for Tessnear are to stay put and settle down to start a family that will be active in the local community. He believes the best part of the newspaper business is meeting people in all segments of society.

“In this career, I’ve met governors, incredible young athletes, famous authors, and everyone in between, with incredible stories,” said Tessnear. “Everyone has a story to tell, and they all contribute to mine.”

Silent Healing

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Donna Seay '11 Guides Families Through Life's Darkest Moments

A physical education teacher and coach in the Swain County, N.C. public school system for 22 years, Donna Seay's toughest days at work often related to administrative challenges or student discipline. She loved teaching and enjoyed her students. Yet, she found it increasingly difficult to quiet the nagging sense that she was missing something - that God had a bigger plan for her than what she could currently see. For five years, she struggled with the idea of leaving the teaching profession and entering ministry. Finally, in 2007, she made a decision. She was going to take the first step.

"Through a lot of conversations with family and friends, and much prayer, I discerned that it was time," Seay recalled. She resigned from her position in the school system. "I knew there was something else God had for me. He provided enough light on the path for me to take the next step. And that's all we're required to take."

Initially afraid that she would regret her decision, school officials encouraged her to take a leave of absence. Seay agreed to do so, but told them emphatically, "I'm not going to change my mind. A lot of people told me they wished they had the guts to do what I did," she shared. "Many others told me I was crazy because I only had eight years to full retirement. But I've never been happier in my life."

With a Bachelor of Science in recreation from Carson Newman College (Jefferson City, Tenn.) and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, N.C.), Seay was certainly prepared for the next educational step. Exactly where that step was to lead her was another matter altogether. "I explored several different seminary options. My pastor, John Tagliarini, was a Doctor of Ministry student at Gardner-Webb and he encouraged me to look at the School of Divinity," she reflected. "I visited the campus in March, and everything just clicked. The Lord affirmed in so many different ways that this was where I needed to be."

Seay drove two-and-a-half hours one-way twice a week for three years so that she could attend classes on campus. "I didn't take one online course," she shared. "On Sunday afternoon, I would drive to

campus and late Tuesday or early Wednesday, I would drive back home."

As part of her pastoral care and counseling coursework, Seay elected to participate in a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Gaston Memorial Hospital in Gastonia, N.C. Through her CPE training, she began to discern that she was specifically called to minister in a healthcare setting. She signed on to complete another unit at Gaston Memorial prior to graduating from Gardner-Webb with her Master of Divinity in May of 2011.

Armed with a new sense of purpose and a specific desire to help families dealing with end-of-life situations, Seay began her first year of residency training at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. She primarily served as a pediatric chaplain, working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. "My pastoral care and counseling classes, combined with the CPE experience I gained at Gaston, gave me a really solid foundation on which to build," she shared. "Although there was a lot of loss and grief, I drew upon what I had learned at GWU to help me as I walked with families in those situations."

One of the challenges associated with being a hospital chaplain is their reputation for being called in when someone is near death. Seay believes people need to know that the ministry of a chaplain is multi-dimensional. "We try to specifically educate the healthcare providers within the hospital units so that we're not just seen as 'doom and gloom,' but so that families will know we're there to provide emotional and spiritual support during all aspects of their healthcare journey," she offered. "That can be an important component of the healing process as well."

In order to help facilitate a positive experience between her clients and the hospital's ministerial staff, Seay is very deliberate about how she approaches a patient's loved ones. "Particularly at Duke, I would be very intentional about how I introduced myself to families, because they would immediately associate a chaplain with death," she shared. "A lot of those families got to take their babies home. Sadly, some didn't. We were there to walk with them either way."

After completing her first year of residency, she prayed about the next step, and felt called to continue her CPE work. She is now a second-year resident chaplain at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center in Baltimore, Md., working with families of patients with traumatic brain injury, brain death and cardiac death. In addition, she also supports families whose loved one may be eligible for organ donation. "I typically assist family members as they process the information about their loved one," she explained. "I also help facilitate meetings with medical teams as needed and coordinate with the Living Legacy officials to assist with organ procurement."

At times emotionally exhausted, Seay is still learning how to effectively minister within some of life's toughest and saddest situations. "A lot of healing takes place in the silence, when I'm just sitting with someone," she said. "I really try—before I speak—to ask God if what I'm about to say is more important than silence."

Tender-hearted to the core, she is not immune to the difficult emotions that often accompany this ministry calling. "I've cried with families," she admitted. "I can think of several right now that—" She stops suddenly, taking a moment to compose herself. "Sometimes there's not much I can say other than, 'My heart hurts for you and I'm sorry.'"

Often, Seay is faced with tough questions like "Why?" or "Where's God in this?" She willingly admits to her clients that she doesn't have all of the answers, but points to what she does know. "God is present in the midst of our suffering and He mourns with us," she said. "That doesn't take away the hurt and it doesn't change the situation, but I try to encourage them to take one step at a time and look for the things that bring them hope."

As she finishes her second year of residency at Johns Hopkins, Seay is waiting on God's marching orders for the next chapter. "I've started to look at what's next. God has always provided enough light on the path for me to take the next step," she reflected. "I've really learned to trust God and trust the process."

And for the person like her, who is fighting that nagging feeling that God has something different... bigger... better? "Take the risk," she smiled. "Don't look back. It's been worth it; it's been a great ride."



Gardner-Webb College/University Alumni and friends are on Facebook

Haven't heard or seen from your Gardner-Webb classmates in a while? See if they're on Facebook! Sign-up and log on to GWU's Facebook page to keep up with what's going on at Gardner-Webb. Sign-up today!
www.facebook.com/gardnerwebb

Gardner-Webb Physician Assistant Studies Program – A Healthier Tomorrow



2013 PASTORS' SCHOOL

MAY 27-29, 2013

DR. GUY SAYLES, PASTOR OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN ASHEVILLE, NC

DR. MITCH SIMPSON, PASTOR OF
UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH, CHAPEL HILL, NC

DR. DANNY WEST,
GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

FOCUS: LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY

To reserve your spot, call John Bridges at **704-406-3008**

Beginning January 2014

WINGATE UNIVERSITY SELECTS GWU STANDOUT AS HEAD COACH

Gardner-Webb alumnus and former standout softball player Lani Shaffer '04 was named the new head softball coach at Wingate (N.C.) University.

After productive years as an assistant coach at GWU and Bowling Green State University (Ohio), where Shaffer helped these programs increase their winning percentages, Wingate felt Shaffer was ready to lead their team.

"I certainly have big shoes to fill. The opportunity is both a blessing and challenge, but I love a test," said Shaffer.

It was GWU head softball coach Tom Cole who told Shaffer that she had a gift for coaching.

"Lani wouldn't just ask questions in practice, she would ask them after practice too. She has a genuine passion for the game, yet a desire to keep learning," said Cole.

Shaffer believes the people who encouraged her along the way should get credit for her achievements, too. "Coach Tom was like a father figure," she shared. "He showed me the honest and right way of doing things and we still talk today." Often their discussions are about life, the Lord, and softball strategy.

Shaffer's players at Wingate will learn that she's about more than the game. "It starts in the classroom with a strong GPA," she said. "I will tell them about those little life lessons like ask questions, stand up for yourself, don't be afraid, and when necessary, to try again."

"Our goal is to get PAs back into that primary care arena, and help close that gap between access to care and patient demand. To make this happen, Gardner-Webb's Physician Assistant Studies aims to expand the healing gifts that Gardner-Webb students already possess."

*Dr. Gregory Davenport
Program Director*



Our national healthcare system is facing a crisis. Patients desperately need greater access to primary care, but there is a glaring and growing shortage of providers, especially in the underserved communities where patients are struggling most. Gardner-Webb's new Physician Assistant Studies (PA) Program aims to close that gap.

The Christ-centered PA Program at Gardner-Webb is looking for student applicants with a passion for making a difference in patients' lives. Through classroom instruction and hands-on clinical training—offered in partnership with Carolinas HealthCare System, the nation's 2nd largest private healthcare system—graduates will be equipped to address more than 80% of a family's primary care needs.

Interested in learning more? Call 704-406-2326

paprogram@gardner-webb.edu

gardner-webb.edu/paprogram

Gardner-Webb University

Office of University Communications

P.O. Box 997

Boiling Springs, NC 28017

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PPCO



#GWUPRIDE

HOMECOMING
10/26/13