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Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2012, Winter (Volume 46 No. 1)

Noel T. Manning II
Gardner-Webb University

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Gardner Webb

THE MAGAZINE

WINTER/SPRING • VOLUME 46, NUMBER 1

Freedom

JUSTICE

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THE MAGAZINE

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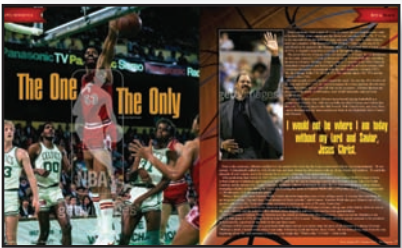
On the Cover: Amir Karadzic is a Bosnian genocide survivor, and he brought his living story to Gardner-Webb to offer a glimpse into the forgotten holocaust (Page 8).



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EMBRACING THE CHALLENGES TO COME

I have often used the first line from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*—"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times"—to describe the present time in American higher education and in the life of Gardner-Webb University in particular. In the case of our University, it is more accurate to say "the best of times, but among the most challenging as well." But even the challenges are exciting, and they can and will be met.

Our University is indeed blessed, and the times are good. We have an incomparable faculty and staff, dedicated to our students and their success, as well as to this University and its mission. I truly believe that for these—staff and faculty alike—this is more than a job, it is a calling. And while some of our students may on occasion disappoint us, as all young people can at times, Gardner-Webb's students are among the brightest, finest, and most delightful young people you will ever encounter. It is uplifting to see how many of them are already committed in so many ways to the concept of service to people and to the greater good.

Previous editions of this magazine have documented great progress at our University in academic and student life programs, as well as in campus development. The last edition of Gardner-Webb: The Magazine described several significant national awards and recognitions—four related to service, one to academic programs, and one to working environment. Next fall a new state-of-the-art science facility and the magnificent Tucker Student Center will open.

The challenges facing us are essentially the same as those facing other colleges and universities, and, for that matter, other institutions and businesses as well. There are three sources of pressure: increasing costs, due partly to increases in quality and growth in opportunities for students; steadily increasing social, political, and economic pressure to hold down the cost of higher education (student debt is being called "the next housing bubble"); and very difficult economic conditions that are affecting our students and their families.

These challenges are making thorough strategic planning and evaluation imperative, and requiring that we hone our skills at planning and evaluation. Here is the bright side of the challenges—we will be sharper, smarter and more efficient. We will recommit to the well-being and success of our students and their future. Most important, we will be rededicated to our purpose, mission, and values. The challenges will be met, and the best of times will continue!

Sincerely,



A. Frank Bonner
President, Gardner-Webb University

STUDY RATES GARDNER-WEBB'S CORE CURRICULUM IN THE NATION'S TOP TWO PERCENT

Gardner-Webb University's core curriculum ranks in the nation's top two percent for quality and breadth, according to the 2011-2012 *What Will They Learn?* study by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). The study rated all the major public and private colleges and universities in all 50 states—a total of 1,007 four-year institutions—on an "A" through "F" scale. Gardner-Webb was among only 19 schools—and the only school in the Carolinas—to earn an "A."

ACTA argues that for students to gain the knowledge and values necessary for responsible democratic citizenship, they should be required to take the following seven core subjects: composition, U.S. government or history, economics, literature, math, science, and foreign language at an intermediate level. Gardner-Webb received an A for requiring at least six of the seven.

"The beauty of our core curriculum," said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner, "lies in its diversity, its versatility. No matter the career field our graduates ultimately choose, their core classes provide the foundational knowledge, attitudes, values, and learning skills to enable them not only to achieve professional success but to lead fulfilled and productive lives as well."



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FORMER TV ANCHOR TRADES CAREER FOR CALLING

The Dimensions Program at Gardner-Webb recently welcomed Chris Justice, the senior pastor of Lee Park Baptist Church in Monroe, N.C. Justice spent 12 years with WCNC-Channel 36 in Charlotte, N.C., where he served as co-anchor of the evening newscast from 2004-08.

Justice shared that the pressure of having to find a job drove him as a college student, and as career opportunities in television opened, he took them. "But then I realized that calling was bigger than career," he said, and despite the surprised questions from many friends, he left his secure job to answer God's calling to ministry. "When you line up calling and career, instead of keeping them at odds," he told Gardner-Webb students, "everything fits."

Along with Justice, the Dimensions program has recently welcomed such speakers as Trudy Cathy, daughter of Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy, and Mary Kay Beard, the former fugitive turned philanthropist who started Angel Tree Ministries. For more about the Dimensions program, call 704-406-4277.



Pastor Chris Justice

GWU GIVES FIRST-EVER "NATIONAL STUDENT DAY SERVICE AWARDS"

October 6 marked the first annual National Student Day, sponsored by the National Association of College Stores (NACS). To celebrate, the Gardner-Webb Campus Shop and the Office of Community Engagement instituted a "National Student Day Service Award" to recognize students for their outstanding community engagement in and around the Gardner-Webb community.



This year, the Office of Community Engagement selected seven students as the Award's inaugural recipients for outstanding servant leadership in projects like leading trips to retirement homes, tutoring elementary school kids, and launching community gardens. Students honored were:

- Hallie Hefner – Freshman
- Erwin Johnson, Jr. – Junior
- Kevin Kassakatis – Senior
- James Mauney – Freshman
- Kelly Montgomery – Senior
- Brittany Mote – Senior
- Haley Sieber – Sophomore

"Many of our students participate in service projects once or twice throughout the year, and we are proud of each of them. But by participating consistently in and even taking leadership of service projects, some students make an even more profound impact by building real relationships with those they are serving. This year's recipients each display that type of faithful leadership," said Stephanie Richey, GWU community engagement coordinator.

GWU PROFESSOR PARTICIPATES IN CARAVAN TO PROMOTE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE



Dr. Michael Kuchinsky

On the tenth anniversary of Sept. 11, a team of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish clergy called Clergy Beyond Borders (CBB) embarked on a national tour to promote interfaith dialogue and resist religious extremism in the United States. Dr. Michael Kuchinsky, a professor of political science at Gardner-Webb University and a member of CBB’s Board of Advisors, accompanied the caravan to “give witness,” he said, to the power and importance of interfaith tolerance in his own life. The tour made stops in 18 different cities around the country, and Kuchinsky joined the tour for several of those stops.

“We discussed how interfaith dialogue can happen, but the presentations themselves were conversations, so we were modeling how interfaith dialogue is done,” Kuchinsky said. “There have been too many examples of intolerance and violence against people of other faiths, especially as the memory of Sept. 11 began to wane. I think this is an important witness. It is, perhaps, not the most popular. But it needs to be made.”

Gardner-Webb University celebrates its Christian, Baptist-related identity, even while it respects the dignity and value of every person, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religious commitment, national origin, or disability. We are unashamedly Christian, and as part of our commitment to serve God and humanity in the love of Christ, we support interfaith initiatives that seek to promote grace, peace, and mutual understanding while addressing the needs of the community.



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MASTERCLASS PROVIDES STUDENTS SOUND ADVICE

World-class trumpeter Charles Schlueter, formerly of the Boston Symphony, recently gave a masterclass for all brass players at Gardner-Webb University and the surrounding community. Schlueter coached a handful of trumpeters on achieving a better sound, gaining what he called “noticeable improvement” and giving the students a wealth of ideas for their musical futures.

“To have someone like that, someone who’s truly a living legend on our campus to work with our students was just a really unique opportunity,” said Tim Hudson, a former student of Schlueter’s and a member of Gardner-Webb’s music faculty.

“He’s just got what seems like infinite wisdom to impart on all of his students,” said Ty Sheets, a music education and performance major at Gardner-Webb. “Talking with him and hearing him play is just sort of enlightening, because you know he’s been there, he’s done it, he’s been successful. It helped me to know that I could do all that stuff, too, because he’s a person just like I am. That’s something to keep working for because those opportunities are out there.”



Charles Schlueter



GARDNER-WEBB HOLDS 20TH ANNUAL BEEP BALL GAME

The Noel Program at Gardner-Webb University hosted the 20th annual Beep Ball game, a version of “blind” softball that raises awareness about the challenges facing blind and vision-impaired individuals.

In Beep Ball, sighted players must wear blindfolds while trying to hit a beeping ball, run to beeping bases, and decipher instructions shouted to them by sighted spotters. “It’s a good opportunity – an adaptive way – for people who want the chance to be able to play sports,” says vision-impaired senior Travis Sherrill, “and it gives others a chance to see what life is like for the blind.”

English Professor and Beep Ball veteran Dr. Matt Theado said, “It is wonderful how everybody cheers for everybody else. At that moment we are all sharing an intimate world. You get very close to those around you when you’re in the dark.”

In 19 previous years, the faculty/staff team has only beaten the blind and visually impaired students once. This year’s game ended in a 6-6 tie.

BOILING SPRINGS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF MEMORIES

In 1911, the Town of Boiling Springs was incorporated, taking its name from the two bubbling springs that were located in the middle of what is now the campus of Gardner-Webb University. On Saturday, Sept.17, 2011, the Town ushered in the next 100 years of memories with a memorable Centennial Celebration.

The day’s festivities included community choir performances, a Centennial Sprint 5K race, an historical walk through the Boiling Springs cemetery, a drama written especially for the Centennial Celebration, and a street festival complete with live music, arts, crafts, hot food, and even a fireworks display.

Gardner-Webb, which celebrated its own centennial in 2005, sponsored many of the Centennial activities, and even offered a spontaneous spark of excitement during the street festival, as dozens of students, faculty and staff surprised onlookers with a flash mob dance performance.

“Today has been special not only for the Town of Boiling Springs but for Gardner-Webb University,” said GWU Director of University Relations Noel T. Manning, II, noting how closely interwoven the Town’s relationship has been with Gardner-Webb from the beginning. “In fact, the Town was incorporated largely at the request of Boiling Springs High School, our predecessor, and the town and gown relationship continues to remain strong.”



GWU PRESIDENT ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR SACS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

Gardner-Webb University President Dr. Frank Bonner was recently elected to the Board of Trustees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges. The Commission is the regional accrediting body for higher education degree-granting institutions in the Southern states. Bonner has been heavily involved in accreditation work through SACS, serving on 31 accreditation committees, including 22 as committee chair.

GARDNER-WEBB HOSTS 34TH ANNUAL CHORAL CLINIC

The Department of Music at Gardner-Webb University recently held its 34th annual choral clinic for high school singers, treating 185 students from 20 regional high schools to a daylong workshop under guest clinician Dr. Brad Holmes of Millikin University. The students then performed a concert for the general public that evening alongside the Gardner-Webb Concert Choir and Chorale.

“I think this is just a terrific endeavor for Gardner-Webb to take on,” added Holmes, the clinician. “This shows that Gardner-Webb is reaching into the community to give local choirs a platform from which to work. I really admire what Paul Etter has done to develop this and to strengthen and encourage music programs around the region.”

According to Dr. Paul Etter, director of choral activities and coordinator of sacred music at Gardner-Webb, the insights that high school students gain from the guest clinicians at the Choral Clinic, and the experience of singing alongside college choirs, are invaluable.



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Dr. Jim McConnell

GWU DIVINITY PROFESSORS, STUDENT, PARTICIPATE IN “HEALING COMMUNITIES” CONFERENCE

Two professors and one student from Gardner-Webb’s Divinity School recently participated in a conference at Wake Forest University called “Healing Communities: Conversations Toward Shalom.” The conference focused on the intersection of physical health and spiritual wellbeing, not just for individuals but also for communities.

“Biblically, the ideas of peace and wholeness that are involved in ‘Shalom’ are community ideas, not just individual ideas,” said GWU Divinity Professor Dr. Jim McConnell, who presented on the ways ‘Shalom’ is manifest in the Biblical narrative.

Barbara Massey, a Divinity student at Gardner-Webb who spent 40 years as a registered nurse, recently developed a unique spiritual care ministry geared toward preparing local churches to meet the holistic health needs of the people in their communities. Massey shared that ministry during a special presentation at the conference, and she has already begun implementing it in her home church in Greenville, S.C.

“The church often treats people’s physical needs separately from their spiritual or social or emotional needs, but we rarely look at the interdependence of those. That interdependence is the core of this ministry.”

GWU Divinity Professor Dr. Sheri Adams also helped plan the conference and participated in the discussions.

TONY-NOMINATED GUEST DIRECTOR LEADS GWU FALL PRODUCTION

Dr. William Martin Leads Student/Faculty Cast in Twain’s “Is He Dead?”

When Professor James Thomas assumed his role as interim dean of Gardner-Webb’s new School of Performing and Visual Arts in July, he made it a goal to attract actors and directors with national experience to take part in Gardner-Webb’s Theatre Program.

This fall, Thomas did just that, bringing Tony-nominated guest director Dr. William Martin to Boiling Springs to direct the GWU Theatre’s Fall 2011 production, “Is He Dead?,” a zany farce by Mark Twain.

Martin has nearly 300 productions to his credit, including several on Broadway. His Broadway premier, “The Lieutenant,” was nominated for five Tony Awards including “Best Musical,” and Martin received a Drama Desk Award nomination for “Best Director.” He holds the Ph.D. in Theatre History, and has served as visiting scholar and guest director at numerous colleges and universities throughout his career.

Martin planned to teach theatre before his career turned toward the New York stage, and says he still enjoys the opportunity to share his love of theatre with college students in an academic setting.

GARDNER-WEBB SPONSORS INAUGURAL “’TWAS THE NIGHT” CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Gardner-Webb University and the surrounding community rang in the Christmas season with its inaugural celebration “’Twas the Night,” a dynamic musical event to benefit the Salvation Army Toy Closet. Each guest brought an unwrapped, new toy for donation to the Salvation Army. In all, more than 140 toys were donated.

Part concert, part drama, part sing-along and storytelling session, “’Twas the Night” was based around two dramatic scenes—a contemporary Christmas fireside scene and the biblical nativity scene. A variety of local bands and solo musicians, dancers, actors and creative readers, led the audience in singing and reciting the Christmas classics.

“When the annual Christmas event with Carl Cartee stopped, we wanted to find some way to continue the tradition of celebrating the Christmas season and meeting real needs in our community through the Salvation Army,” said Kelly Brame, assistant director of student activities and the event’s coordinator.

Brame added that “’Twas the Night” was lots of fun, especially for kids, and that it gave parents the chance to show their children that the best part of presents is giving good gifts. “We look forward to making this an annual tradition for years to come.”



Painting by Jack Zimmerman

GARDNER-WEBB PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES NEW AWARDS TO SUPPORT UNDERGRADUATE ART

Two new annual awards will enable Gardner-Webb University to purchase original art by its undergraduate art students for campus decoration, Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner announced recently. Together, the Presidential Purchase Awards for Undergraduate Art and for Senior Art will enable the University to spend \$1,500 per year to purchase students’ original artwork for permanent display in campus facilities.

The money will award artists for their work exhibited at the School of Performing and Visual Arts’ annual undergraduate and senior art shows. The first purchased pieces will be displayed in the Tucker Student Center, which is currently under construction and set to open in 2012.

“The Department of Visual Arts is grateful to President Bonner for his generous establishment of the two annual awards. We are excited, and the art faculty think it is fitting, that the walls of the new Tucker Student Center and other campus buildings will be decorated with the original work of our very own students,” said Doug Knotts, chair of the GWU visual arts department. “Their work represents the dreams, aspirations, and concerns of the students of this university.”

The road to Reconciliation

Written by Matt Walters

A Genocide Survivor Brings Traveling Memorial to Gardner-Webb

They were marked, he said. Outsiders. At first, by jeers and cutting glances, or blatant disregard, even from some who were once friends. But gradually the marks grew more overt. Badges on their clothes to identify them in public. Permission slips they needed to walk the streets after hours. Sheets they were forced to hang from their storefronts and home windows. Illegal searches and seizures, usually at gunpoint. Orders to relocate into city ghettos. Boarded up doors. Bruises. Missing limbs. Fear.

Then it began in earnest. Screams in the night, as the marked ones were torn from their homes, confined in concentration camps, raped and murdered in their front yards—their children, or parents, often forced to look on. A careful, calculated holocaust, he said. All because the marked ones didn't fit the ethnic profile the leaders deemed requisite for life in the nation's future.

Sadly, an all-too-familiar story. But this isn't the story of the Jewish Holocaust of the 1930s and '40s. The perpetrators weren't Nazis and the victims weren't Jews, or at least not mostly. The ghettos weren't in German cities, and the camps weren't called Auschwitz or Belzec. This story is far more recent, and when a survivor of the early '90s Bosnian Genocide named Amir Karadzic visited Boiling Springs this fall, Gardner-Webb got to hear it firsthand.

Karadzic is a native of Prijedor, a multi-ethnic region in Bosnia located in the strategic center of "Great Serbia," what Karadzic called "an imaginary nation" that Serbian ultranationalists hoped to establish. To do so, the Serbs in 1992 launched an "ethnic cleansing" campaign against all non-Serb Bosnians in the Prijedor region, leaving thousands dead and even more displaced. In the decade that followed, both the United Nations and United States defined the conflict unquestionably as "genocide."

A well-respected citizen and real estate investor before 1992, Karadzic was forced from his job, robbed of his possessions, and was on several occasions nearly thrown into concentration camps. "For three years," he remembered, "I lived in what seemed to be a coma, a time during which my thoughts could not be heard and my actions were rendered useless." He watched friends get beaten nearly to death, powerless to help because of fear for his own family's safety. Eventually, having endured repeated death threats, Karadzic was forced to flee Bosnia and remained separated from his wife and son for months.

The Karadzics ultimately escaped to the United States in 1995, where Amir began work as a laborer in a St. Louis cheese factory. Today, he is a counselor for a mental health provider in St. Louis, and the founder of the non-profit organization "Union of Citizens of the Municipality of Prijedor."

"For three years I lived in what seemed to be a coma."



Amir Karadzic

Fittingly, Karadzic's visit to Gardner-Webb corresponded with the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and the symmetry was not lost on GWU Political Science Professor Dr. Michael Kuchinsky. "These are not easy subjects," he said, "but it seems fitting as we remember 9/11 to bring the real urgency of some of these problems to campus and ask ourselves, 'How far have we really come in matters of inclusiveness, tolerance of the stranger, openness to others, and cross-cultural empathy?'"

"When it comes to these genocides and holocausts and large-scale human atrocities, we often use the words 'never forget,'" Kuchinsky added. "We say that on purpose because in order to heal from these horrific crimes against humanity, in order to transcend or move on, one has to look at these things clearly and face-to-face."

That is precisely the cathartic opportunity Karadzic's exhibit offered to the Gardner-Webb community. "Behind this exhibit," said Karadzic, his finger shaking as it pointed to the panels, "are thousands and thousands of people who have been tortured and raped, people who were not soldiers, as many would tell you, but civilians. Bottom line. That's my problem, and in fact, that's my source of energy and the reason I'm doing this."

Karadzic explained that reconciliation has yet to occur in Prijedor because officials refuse to publically acknowledge that what happened was, indeed, genocide against civilians. "After WWII, the Germans erected monuments to honor the memory of Jewish victims of the holocaust, and criminals were brought to justice. In Prijedor, there are no monuments, no memorials. What's worse, there is a monument to Serbian forces outside the gates of one of the camps, and the person delivering your mail today in Prijedor was a guard in one of them. There has been no justice."

"Without truth and honesty, reconciliation is impossible."

Karadzic's exhibit has become a traveling monument, carrying the memory of those lost to colleges and universities around the nation. He even aspires to one day bring the exhibit to Prijedor, offering a chance, perhaps, for honesty and for healing. "We have to speak up," he said. "We have to tell them, to tell everyone, that war is something that should never happen, and to learn that truth and honesty are our only ways to stop it. Without truth and honesty, reconciliation is impossible."

His organization was the driving force behind the development of a gripping testimonial exhibit called "Prijedor: Lives from the Bosnian Genocide," which opened to thousands of guests at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., and has been displayed in locations all around the United States. That exhibit accompanied Karadzic to Gardner-Webb, and was displayed for a month in the Dover Memorial Library.

It features dozens of panels with gruesome photos, diary entries, official documents, letters, and anecdotes that testify to the brutality inflicted upon non-Serb civilians during the Bosnian Conflict. Karadzic often travels with the exhibit, telling stories that many of the victims cannot bear to tell for themselves.

"The effect of war," he said, "is to kill inside you everything that's normal. If you survive, and you want to continue living a normal life, then you have to find some box inside your mind to lock it all away and set it aside. I feel guilty talking about this, and sharing these stories, because so many others suffered so much worse than I. But those people cannot bear to speak about it because they cannot risk opening that box."



Still, Karadzic insisted that non-Serb Bosnians are now marked only by their desire for peace, and that his purpose is not to dredge up painful memories or exact vengeance against old enemies. Instead, he hopes for reconciliation after nearly two decades of silence and tension. "In Prijedor, we are not looking for more violence. We simply want to know where our friends are buried. We want to talk about what happened."

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A Great SIGN

Written by Matt Walters

Most architects insist that buildings have character, personalities even, much like individuals and communities. That is certainly true of Gardner-Webb's Tucker Student Center, which GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner promised will be "the single-most impressive and most transformational building ever built on Gardner-Webb's campus." Complete with skylight ceilings and glass walls, open staircases and fresh-air balconies, the Tucker Student Center's personality was designed to mirror that of Gardner-Webb's community: open, relational, transparent and unique.

When it opens in the fall of 2012, the Center promises to completely transform the student experience by inscribing itself into the center of every aspect of campus life. Recently, in a special symbolic "Topping Off" ceremony, Gardner-Webb students, faculty and staff returned the favor, inscribing their names onto the building's final structural truss before it was "flown" into place above the Center's main entrance.

"The flying of the truss is a very special tradition in the world of construction, an important symbolic moment when that last structural piece is put into place," Bonner said before adding his signature to the beam. "The Center is built for our students—they are its purpose. So it is quite fitting that they had this opportunity to permanently inscribe their names, and solidify their presence, within the walls of such an important structure on our campus."



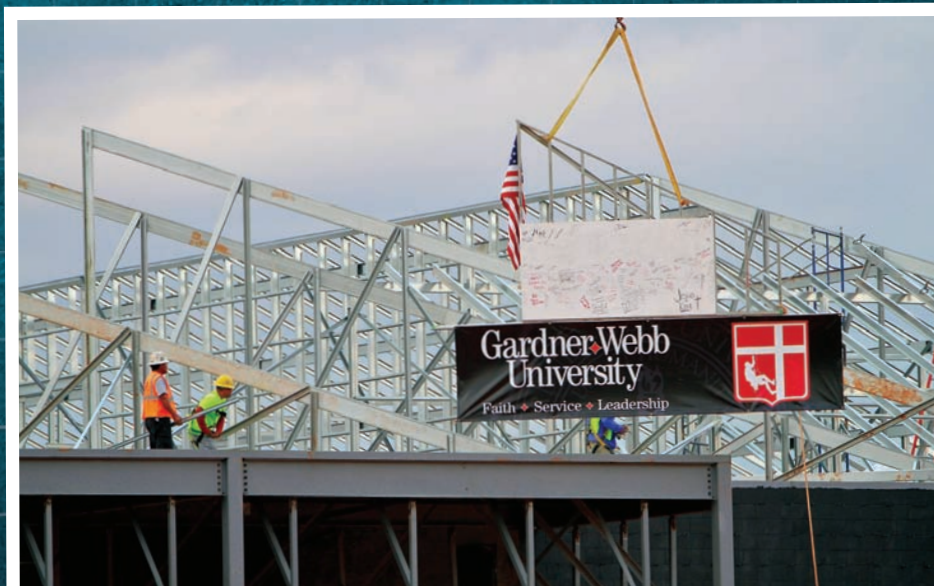
create a facility that was for the students—not the alumni's space, not the donors' space, but their space."

To meet that goal, Holland and Hamrick made openness their theme, utilizing glass walls and open concourses, open staircases and glass elevators, making visual and audible communication possible across vast areas and even across different floors.

"The Center is built for our students—they are its purpose."

A band could even perform a concert in Stewart Hall, Holland explained, and project their sound throughout all three of the building's other levels because of the open design.

"We didn't want to compartmentalize students into small study areas. We wanted them to feel connected, whether they are studying, eating, socializing, or just interacting as they move through the building. We've designed this Center so that students are never isolated from one another," said Holland. "This entire building is one big space where students can study and socialize."



"We're usually very critical of what we design, and we certainly don't want to pat ourselves on the back. But honestly, at this stage, I don't see anything I'd want to do differently," Holland said. "This has been a wonderful collaborative effort between everyone in our office and the administration and staff at Gardner-Webb. I'm so excited to see the finished result that I wish the building was finished tomorrow."

Judging by the countless signatures, messages, prayers and memories scribbled on the symbolic final truss, Gardner-Webb students feel the same way.

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Home Field Advantage

Written by Noel Manning

Gardner-Webb Baseball Receives \$1.3 Million Gift From Bill and Sue Masters



Last fall, the Gardner-Webb University Runnin' Bulldogs baseball program received a \$1.3 million gift from long-time GWU supporters Bill and Sue Masters. Fifty percent of the gift will be set up to endow the program while the remaining half is designated for baseball scholarships. This gift brings the Higher Ground Capital Campaign total to \$41 million.

"The remarkable generosity of the Masters' family will change the playing field for Gardner-Webb baseball. A gift of this magnitude and focus will allow our program to recruit the brightest student athletes who can make the right plays in the classroom and on the field," said Woody Fish, associate vice-president for Alumni Relations and Development.

Bill Masters grew up in Easley, S.C. with a deep love for baseball that took him from the sandlot to the ACC, where Masters was a walk-on at Clemson. "When I was a kid I always said that 'I'd rather play baseball than eat when I was hungry,'" said Masters. He also went on to play semipro baseball, and served in the U.S. Army Air Force.

Masters spent most of his career in the textile industry, working for the White Horse Cotton Mill in Greenville, S.C., Riegel Textiles in Ware Shoals, S.C. and Cone Mills in Cliffside, N.C., where he served as production manager. It was while in Cliffside that he began his relationship with Gardner-Webb 40 years ago.



"I was inspired that Cone Mills was involved in supporting private colleges like Gardner-Webb, and I wanted to be a part of that kind of community. Through the years, Sue and I have seen Gardner-Webb grow from a two-year college to university status, and we

have continued to see improvements along the way. This is a thriving university that we just want to be a part of," Masters said.

In 2008, the GWU baseball field was named in honor of Masters for his generous support to the baseball program, and on Nov. 12, Gardner-Webb named the Bill and Sue Masters Athletic Facility in the family's honor with a ribbon cutting and dedication. This facility houses the baseball and tennis offices.

"Mr. Masters is a real friend to Gardner-Webb and has made a real investment in the future of our baseball program," said GWU Head Baseball Coach Rusty Stroupe. "Mr. & Mrs. Masters trust that we are going to continue to uphold the values that Gardner-Webb stands for, and they trust that their investment will be used wisely now and in the future. I appreciate them putting that trust in our program."

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Scenic Impressions

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.

If we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

- Anne Bradstreet



WRITTEN BY ANNALISA MUSARRA

MORE THAN A WEEKEND WARRIOR

A quick glance at senior psychology major Kyle Wilkinson's car says a lot about his passions. In the front seat sits a backpack, textbooks on Hebrew and Psychology, his laptop, a bag of gummy bears—typical gear for a full-time college student. But in the back seat and trunk are drums, guitars, microphones and speakers—the stuff of a “future” life in worship ministry that won't quite wait until the future.

On three weekends out of the month, Wilkinson makes the one-hour trek from Gardner-Webb to New River Community Church in Lake Wylie, S.C., where he spends two days leading worship for a congregation of more than 1,000. “Kyle does an amazing job,” said New River's worship pastor Wayne Bolin. “It's amazing, because even though he's a full-time student, he's very much a full-time worship pastor too. He's not just playing one on the weekends.”

Wilkinson has been singing in kids' choirs since he was three, and in high school, he helped start a praise band. But he says he never set out to be a worship leader. “I tell people all the time that, at heart, I just want to teach people what it means to love God and how to worship Him. Right now my platform for that is singing and playing guitar.”

In June 2009, one of the pastors from New River asked Wilkinson and his band “The Unworthy Beloved,” to lead worship for their youth group. He had heard Wilkinson's band play at Gardner-Webb's student-led worship service called “The Verge.”

The band ended up returning to lead the youth about once a month for the next few months, and Wilkinson saw a chance. “I really bothered them a lot I think, asking to work with them,” he laughs. “I felt a pull to that church and saw an opportunity there, too.”

He landed the internship for the summer before his junior year where he worked almost full-time at the church, shadowing Bolin and learning about the church. After returning to school, the pastors of New River told Wilkinson they liked him and wanted him to work for New River for the next two years, making it an easy transition into a full-time position.

“So going into my junior year of college, I had a part-time job offer but it was also kind of a full-time one, which was cool,” Wilkinson adds.

“So many of our students, like Kyle, realize that they don't have to wait until after graduation to be involved in ministry,” said Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian life and service and senior minister to Gardner-Webb.

“They are using their gifts and talents now as they serve in leadership positions on campus and in local churches. They not only reap the benefit of gaining valuable ministry experience, but the Body of Christ is edified as our students contribute to advancing the kingdom of God through their service and leadership,” said Jessup.

Wilkinson admits that his brain is working full-time at balancing his lives as worship leader and student. “I'm preparing a message today for the Verge while preparing this weekend's set list for New River, all on top of schoolwork. It's crazy,” Wilkinson says.

So how does he manage it all? Wilkinson says his help comes from support from really great friends, people who love and actively pray for him. But mostly, it is strength from God. “Seeing results of God moving through people's lives keeps me going,” says Wilkinson.

“The biggest thing is remembering that I'm a child of God, so I worship Him first and everything else is second to that.”





When people discover strange and unexpected connections, like random friends they share in common or obscure places they've both visited, they often remark, "Wow, it's a small world." But in the case of Gardner-Webb sophomore Kendra Bragg and GWU community engagement coordinator Stephanie Richey, that's a bit of an understatement.

Shortly after the fall semester began, Richey was sitting outside the cafeteria offering applications for community service opportunities when a new student she didn't recognize approached and asked, "Hey, you're Stephanie Richey, right?"

"I just thought she was going to ask a question about community service," Richey said, "but then she asked if I was from Winston-Salem. So now I'm thinking, 'Ok, we're both from Winston so we've got some personal connection.' I still had no idea."

Then Bragg asked, "Did you ever do this program with your youth group in high school called Ceaseless, and did you write to a kid whose family was doing relief work overseas? Yeah, I was that kid. My name's Kendra Bragg."

Now weeks later, Bragg just laughs as Richey recounts the story of their uncanny reunion outside the cafeteria. "That moment right there? That's the coolest thing that's ever happened to me," Richey says, still shocked. "That's the story I'll tell for the rest of my life."

As it turns out, Bragg met Richey at a "Ceaseless" event in either 2005 or 2006. Ceaseless was an initiative in the Winston-Salem area to bring youth groups from various churches together to pray, especially for the persecuted church around the world. Bragg, a 13-year-old whose parents worked for a non-government relief agency in Jordan at the time, was back in the U.S. for a brief visit and was at the Ceaseless event with her youth pastor.

"They paired us up for a silly, ice-breaker game," Bragg remembers. "I was usually very shy, so when I noticed I would be paired with someone, I thought to myself, 'I need to seize this opportunity to make a friend.' I got paired with Stephanie, and I asked if we could exchange email addresses since I was heading back overseas. The rest is history."

Born in Germanton, N.C., Bragg lived in the U.S. until she was 10, when God opened the door for her parents to move overseas, where her father did electrical engineering work and her mother taught English. They lived for several years in Sudan and then for several more in Jordan, before moving back to the U.S. when Bragg was 15.

Bragg discovered a passion for music and songwriting during her time overseas that she says kept her centered during the difficult periods of adjustment. "Music was just one thing that was constant for me when a lot of other things were changing. I was a teenager, and I was thrust into

cultures that I wasn't used to, and music was one of those things the Lord sent me to get me through and to reveal Himself to me." Bragg's whole family is musically inclined, and both her parents are musicians and worship leaders. She says music was one of the things that deepened their family bonds while overseas.

"One July in Sudan," she remembers, "we only had a couple of days of electricity. But I didn't mind because we would find different ways to grow closer together. The one CD player we had ran on batteries, so we would all pack into one room around it, my siblings and my parents, and we would just listen together."

"That's the coolest thing that's ever happened to me."

After moving back to the States, Bragg graduated from high school at 16 and went on to a community college, where she earned her associate's degree last summer. She then began searching for colleges that would accept her into a music program, despite her lack of the formal music training because of her time abroad.

"I'm majoring in music business because I want to open a studio for artists and songwriters in this area who can't afford the really big-name studios, to allow them to have a platform to share their music," she says. "I want to continue writing my own stuff, too, to share my experiences in the hopes that music can do the same for others what it has done for me." Gardner-Webb gave Bragg that chance, offering her a music scholarship and enabling her to pursue her dream.

It was only after she arrived that Bragg realized the strange connection with Gardner-Webb staffer Richey. Serendipitous, for sure. But the more the two talk, the more their connection seems like more than coincidence. Richey worked with a man at a radio station in Winston-Salem, for example, who knew Bragg's parents because they helped him once when his tire blew. Bragg and Richey attended the same concert during another one of Bragg's stateside visits. Bragg is from Germanton, and Stephanie attended GWU as a student on a scholarship from Germanton Baptist Church, which Bragg's family attended.

And somewhere, little porcelain dolls are singing, "It's a small world after all..."



Every Day is a Marathon

Real-life superhero Terry Hitchcock challenges Gardner-Webb students to be “dreamers”
Written by Matt Walters

A pivotal scene in Paramount’s 1994 film “Forrest Gump” features Forrest running continually back and forth across the U.S. When asked why, Forrest’s answer is beautifully simple: “I just felt like running.” Ask Terry Hitchcock whether his 57-year-old body felt like running back in 1996, when he completed the equivalent of 75 consecutive marathons in 75 days, and he’ll just laugh. “The pain was unbearable—absolutely off the scale,” he says. But his cause—raising awareness for the plight of single-parent families—was too important, and too personal, for him to give up.

In a special Family Weekend presentation at Gardner-Webb University, Hitchcock shared the incredible story of loss, determination, faith and hope that led him to do the impossible. Within the span of a week in 1984, Hitchcock lost his wife, Sue, to breast cancer, and then his job to corporate politics. He suddenly found himself raising three children by himself and unsure of what to do next.

St. Paul, Minnesota

That began a stretch of life that Hitchcock said felt like “a marathon every day...I barely knew how to boil water, let alone be a single parent,” he remembered. But a self-described eternal optimist, Hitchcock had been raised by his grandparents to believe in himself. “I’m a dreamer,” he said. “My grandfather always told me that there is nothing in life that I can’t accomplish, that nothing would be impossible.” That spirit of hope enabled Hitchcock to hold his family together, and a decade later, on the eve of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, it sparked an idea.

“The Olympics are about trying to do the impossible, going beyond what anybody says you can do,” Hitchcock said. So, at 57 years old, Hitchcock began training to run the more than 2,000 miles from St. Paul, Minn., to Atlanta, Ga., hoping to encourage other single-parent families to believe that “no matter what is against them, they can accomplish something great in life.”

Hitchcock suffered a heart attack during his training, and then broke bones in his ankles and knees during the run. He ran through freezing cold and unbearable heat. He was even chased by a bear. But before the opening ceremonies in 1996, Hitchcock broke the finish tape in Olympic Park in Atlanta, completing a journey that had captured the imagination of the entire nation.

Today, Hitchcock continues to inspire audiences across the country to do the impossible and to strive to make a difference. He has co-authored a book about his run, “A Father’s Odyssey,” and his story was made into an award-winning documentary called “My Run,” narrated by Academy Award winner Billy Bob Thornton. Hitchcock donates the proceeds from his book and documentary sales, as well as his speaking fees, to raise money for single-parent families and for breast cancer, diabetes, and Asperger’s syndrome research.

Before a showing of “My Run” during Family Weekend, Hitchcock challenged Gardner-Webb students and their families to stay positive in the midst of their challenges, and to seek to make a difference in others’ lives. And while he graciously answered questions about the trek itself, he maintained that his story is ultimately not about running.

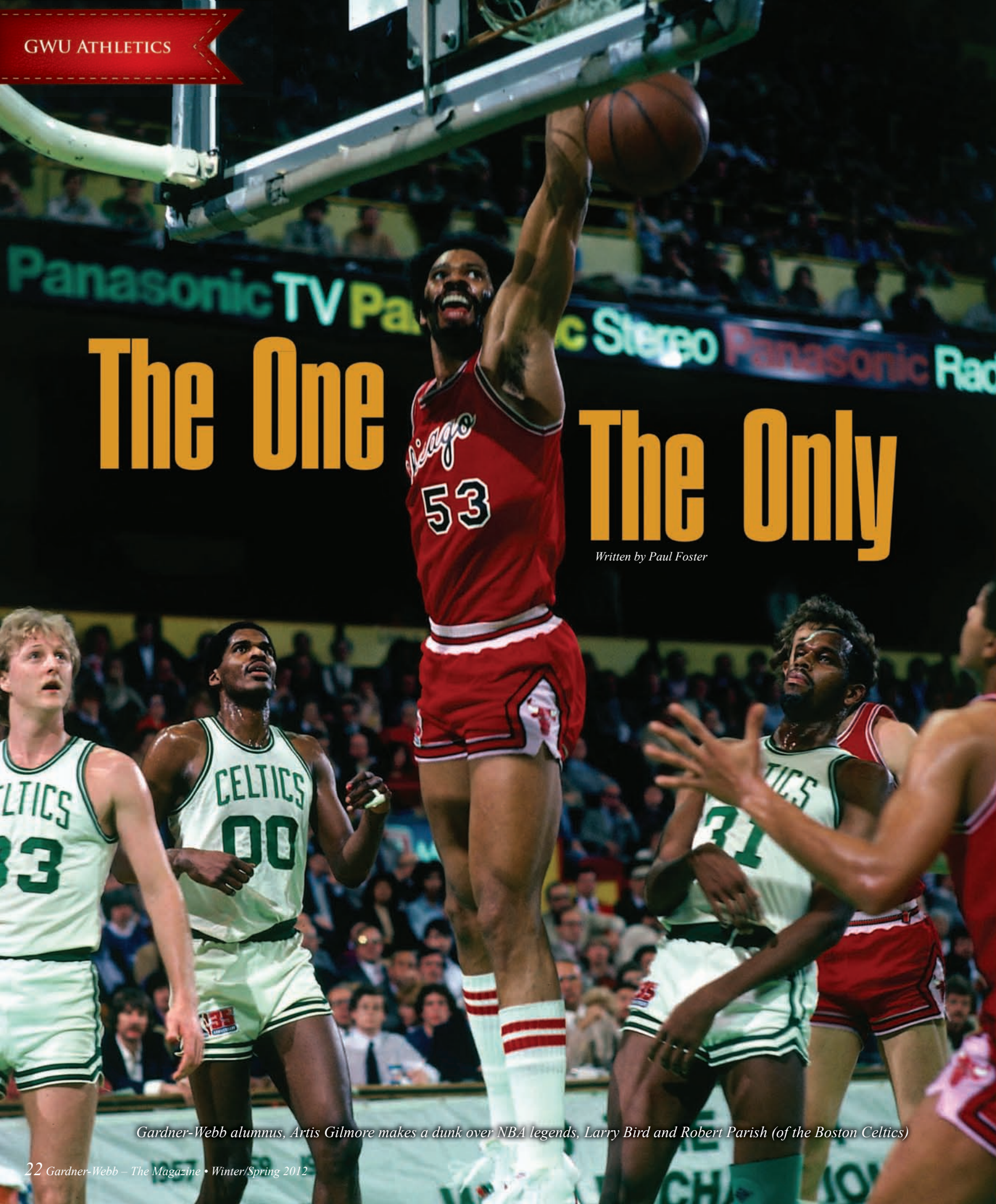
“For all of us, every day is a marathon,” he said. “For some people, it’s easy just to trot. For others, it’s terribly hard. Either way, look at what you’ve been able to do, just today. Look at how blessed you are. Then go help somebody. Pick them up, and don’t ask for anything in return. That’s my message, and that’s what this story is all about.”

For more about “My Run,” visit myrunmovie.com.

Atlanta, Georgia

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

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The One The Only

Written by Paul Foster

Gardner-Webb alumnus, Artis Gilmore makes a dunk over NBA legends, Larry Bird and Robert Parish (of the Boston Celtics)



What a moment, when a giant of a man in stature and accomplishments—and a Gardner-Webb alum—strode past his friend and introducer Julius “Dr. J” Irving to the microphone on that hallowed stage and, to the guests in attendance, including GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner, said, “My name is Artis Gilmore, and I am a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame.” Gilmore was one of 10 individuals to be named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2011, in August’s induction ceremony in Springfield, Mass.

The seven-foot-two Gilmore, who was nicknamed “A Train” for his dominance on the court, enjoyed a 17-year professional career in basketball after shredding the nets as a Runnin’ Bulldog. Gilmore played 12 seasons in the NBA (National Basketball Association) and before that, five years in the now non-existent ABA (American Basketball Association) with the ABA Kentucky Colonels (1971-76), the Chicago Bulls (’76-’82 and ’87), San Antonio Spurs (’82-’87), and the Boston Celtics (’88).

He won awards at every level he played the sport. He was the ABA Rookie of the Year and MVP in 1972, an ABA first teamer five times and first all-defensive teamer four times, and an NBA All Star on six occasions. Gilmore finished his pro career with nearly 25,000 points, over 16,000 rebounds, and well over 3,000 blocks.

In his hall of fame speech, Gilmore remembered playing basketball as a youngster in Chipley, Fla., with tied up balls that didn’t bounce and clothes that didn’t fit. “I idolized players like Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, and Jerry West. I never dreamed that my name would join theirs in the Basketball Hall of Fame,” said Gilmore.

“I would not be where I am today without my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Prior to the ceremony, Gilmore recalled how he reacted after receiving the long awaited news that he was being inducted. “It was surreal. I immediately called my wife, Enola Gay, and later shared the information with my closet friends and relatives. To reach the pinnacle of one’s career, and to be honored for it, is truly a blessing. I am indeed thankful.”

After graduating high school in 1967, Gilmore came to Boiling Springs, N.C., and helped lead Gardner-Webb College to back-to-back national tournament appearances in ’67-’68 and ’68-’69, and to stunning victories like the team’s home win over a North Carolina team led by current UNC Head Coach Roy Williams. Gilmore dominated the paint like no other post player in school history, averaging a double-double during his tenure and finishing his career at Gardner-Webb with 1,530 points (22.5 points per game) and 1,150 rebounds (16.9 rebounds per game).

“When I think of the name Gardner-Webb, I think about the beginning years of my college career. It was my first time being in an integrated setting. Up until then, I had attended all black schools,” said Gilmore. Gardner-Webb also gave Gilmore one of the greatest gifts of his life. “I am immediately reminded of meeting my wife of 39 years, Enola Gay.”

Gilmore gave his wife credit in his induction speech for being a Hall of Famer at home, taking care of the family while he was on the road. Gilmore and his wife have five children (3 daughters and 2 sons) and two twin grandchildren.

After two years at Gardner-Webb, Gilmore took his talents to Jacksonville (Fla.) University, where he led the Dolphins to the NCAA Title game in 1970, falling 80-69 to John Wooden’s UCLA squad. Today, Gilmore serves as special assistant to the president at Jacksonville, a position he has held for the past three years.

Gilmore will be remembered as a great basketball player and an even better man, but most of all, Gilmore is a strong Christian. “Without a doubt, I would not be where I am today without my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He has ordered my steps from the very beginning of my life, and continues to lead me every single day.” What a ride, “A Train” – what a ride.

Athletic Hall of Fame

The Gardner-Webb University Athletics Hall of Fame is designed to honor leaders, athletes, coaches and builders of the Gardner-Webb athletic program on an annual basis. It is also intended to preserve the historical and outstanding contributions made to the University's athletic program by participants. Gardner-Webb has been honoring Hall of Fame inductees since 1991. In this year's annual Hall of Fame ceremony, Gardner-Webb inducted three members and awarded two with the Meritorious Service Award. Each Hall of Fame inductee is presented with a commemorative plaque and Hall of Fame ring. The name and record of each Hall of Fame member is also on permanent display inside the concourse area of the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.



Ray Hannon – Football 1969-1972

Ray Hannon quarterbacked Gardner-Webb's first senior college football squad, and was a very talented dual-threat signal caller during his time with the Runnin' Bulldogs. During an era when the pass was not a regular weapon in the college game, Hannon passed for 3,971 career yards and 31 touchdowns in three seasons – a mark that remains eighth in school history. Hannon also ranks fourth in Gardner-Webb history in rushing yards by a quarterback, running for 604 yards and five touchdowns from 1970-1972. His best season came as a sophomore in 1970, when he passed for 1,441 yards, 15 passing touchdowns and three more scores on the ground. Hannon ranks sixth in school history in touchdowns accounted for by a quarterback with 36 total scores.



Bo Shannon – Football 1995-1998

Bo Shannon proved to be one of the toughest linebackers to ever suit up for the Runnin' Bulldogs, anchoring the middle of the Gardner-Webb defense from 1995-1998. Shannon set a school record with 463 total tackles during his four seasons, a mark that still ranks second in the GWU record books 12 seasons later. Shannon worked himself into the starting lineup as a freshman in 1995, and exploded onto the scene in 1996 with 127 total tackles and first-team All-South Atlantic Conference honors. Shannon earned his first-team All-SAC honors three times during his career, and was honored as a 1998 NCAA Division II All-America selection by both the Associated Press and Daktronics as a senior. Shannon registered a career-best 128 total hits in 1998. He also recorded 32 tackles for loss during his career and helped the Runnin' Bulldogs post winning records in three of his four seasons in the starting lineup. He was part of a 1997 team that posted an 8-3 mark and the biggest turnaround in the nation for wins from the previous campaign.



Dr. John C. "Jack" Hamrick, Jr. – Meritorious Service Award

Dr. Jack Hamrick spent nearly three decades diagnosing and treating injuries for Gardner-Webb student-athletes, serving as Team Orthopedist for the Runnin' Bulldogs from 1975 until 1999. The Shelby, N.C., native began his career in the sports medicine field in the same role with the Wake Forest football program, serving his alma mater from 1970-1973. Hamrick graduated Cum Laude from Wake Forest in 1963 and earned his Doctorate in Medicine from Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Hamrick returned to his hometown in 1975 and served as an Orthopedic Surgeon for Shelby Orthopedic Associates from 1975-2002, and during that time worked with thousands of area student-athletes – both as Gardner-Webb's Team Orthopedist and as the Medical Director for the Cleveland County Sports Medicine Center (1976-2001). Hamrick was presented with the Paris Yelton Memorial Award by the Cleveland County Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.



Heather Hauser – Volleyball 1996-1999

Heather Hauser helped spark the most dominant era in Gardner-Webb volleyball history, powering the Runnin' Bulldogs to South Atlantic Conference regular season and tournament titles in 1997 and 1999. She helped GWU post an outstanding 131-35 overall record in four seasons, including a 48-10 mark in South Atlantic Conference play. In 1997, the 'Dogs went 31-7 and finished 13-1 in league action, with Hauser earning All-SAC honors and a spot on the Food Lion All-Tournament Team. The regular season and tournament championships were the first for Gardner-Webb in the sport of volleyball. Hauser led Gardner-Webb to a magical season in 1999, with a 42-4 record and 16-0 mark during the SAC regular season. She posted career-high totals in kills (534) and digs (789), with her digs total a school record. Hauser earned first-team All-SAC honors and Food Lion All-Tournament and Tournament MVP honors in 1999.



Warren Ariail – Meritorious Service Award

Warren Ariail is a legend in the field of sports medicine, not only at Gardner-Webb but nationally, having served 54 years in the field with stops as head athletic trainer at Gardner-Webb, Indiana, Iowa State, Wake Forest and Wofford. Ariail started his career at Wofford after graduating from the school in 1948, becoming the college's first athletic trainer. In addition to his college experience, Ariail served as head athletic trainer for the Houston Oilers and New Orleans Saints and began his career in Shelby and Cleveland County in 1975. Ariail worked with area high schools and Gardner-Webb and became a pioneer for sports medicine and athletic training in the region, working with thousands of student-athletes. He appeared in two movies during his career: "The Longest Yard" with Burt Reynolds, and "Number One" with Charlton Heston. Ariail received the Pioneer Award from the North Carolina Athletic Trainers Association and is a member of the Iowa State and National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to WR James "Trey" Perry III for breaking the all-time Big South Conference record for receptions!

Trey Perry finished his career as the all-time leader in Big South Conference history with 223 catches, and is second in the league record book with 2,673 yards receiving. He caught 42 passes for 590 yards in 2011 – his fourth-straight season with at least 40 receptions in a Gardner-Webb uniform. Perry also tied a school record with at least one catch in all 43 games he played for the Runnin' Bulldogs.

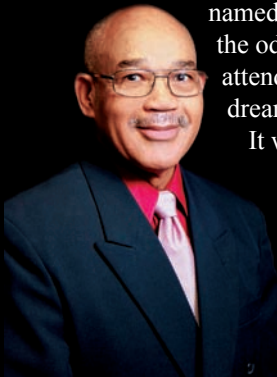
CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH SCHOLARSHIPS



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

The RACE of His Life

Written by Paul Foster



George Surratt

It was 1964 and a young African American named George Surratt was determined to beat the odds. There had never been a black male to attend Gardner-Webb Junior College, but his dream was bigger than historical precedent.

It was bigger even than the financial and familial circumstances that turned Surratt's sprint through college into a marathon. But when he finally crossed the finish line, Surratt solidified his legacy as the first African American male to attend Gardner-Webb and the first to letter in track and field, and he says the knowledge and relationships he gained along the way were well worth

the challenges of his journey.

Surratt was born and raised near campus in Boiling Springs, N.C. His father was a poor sharecropper, and then a custodian at Gardner-Webb, and his mother took care of Surratt and his brothers and sisters before working at Gardner-Webb as a cook. Surratt remembers his home as a happy one, full of love and compassion.

He also remembers running—constantly running, whether it was up and down hills in his landlord's cow fields or up and down baseball fields and basketball courts. Surratt developed exceptional athleticism and speed, and after graduating from Green Bethel High School in Boiling Springs, his dream was to play football at then Gardner-Webb Junior College.

"I turned down two scholarships to black colleges so I could attend Gardner-Webb. I didn't want to leave home," said Surratt. He first enrolled in the fall of '64 and soon after sought out Head Football Coach Norman Harris. "Before I got to practice with the team," Surratt remembered, "Coach Harris told me some things he felt I should know. He said because I wasn't on scholarship like the rest of the team, I had to prove myself even more. He also said that some people in the stands at the games might call me names, or try to provoke me, and he wanted my word that I wouldn't let it effect me. I told him it wouldn't bother me."

A car accident robbed him of his first semester, so Surratt never suited up for the Runnin' Bulldogs football squad. But he practiced with the team long enough for people to notice his speed. One of

those people was his teammate Jim Nolan of Bennettsville, S.C., who Surratt says is "still my best friend." Nolan suggested that Surratt try out for track and field and then, Surratt said, "taught me everything he knew, like how to hold my hands, how to breathe, and how to cross the finish line. I broke a lot of records in that spring of '65."

Surratt competed in the 100m, the 200m, the 400m relay, the 800m relay, and the mile relay. But his best race was the 400m individual. He went undefeated in that event in 1967 and qualified for Nationals, but the College couldn't afford to send him to compete.

Surratt also received support in the classroom from his teachers, even despite a persistent stutter that made it difficult for him to participate in class discussion. He mentioned the patience of one instructor in particular. "Dr. (Vann) Murrell was my Religion 101 teacher. He helped prepare me to make public speeches and what to say. I spoke at some churches. He even helped me after I graduated."

Interestingly, despite the struggles and fear he must have overcome in taking such a bold step toward equality by enrolling and competing at Gardner-Webb, Surratt shies away from questions about race. Unless, of course, you're curious about his record-setting races on the tracks at Gardner-Webb in the early '60s. He says his teammates, professors and the administration were all consistently supportive.

Due to several years of military service and then the demands of a full-time working schedule, Surratt would not graduate until 1976, earning a bachelor's degree from the Institution that was a junior college when he first enrolled. His perseverance even influenced his younger brother Tony Nathaniel, who also attended GW. They would graduate together in December of that year. "I remember our father gave us each a two dollar bill when we graduated. That meant more to me than receiving a Mercedes, because I knew where it came from. It came from his heart," Surratt said.

Surratt and his wife of 42 years, Carolyn, have five children, eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. At 65, Surratt still works today for Baldor Industries in Kings Mountain, N.C., and says he remembers his Gardner-Webb days fondly.



Wheels in Motion

Doolittle Brothers Complete Cross-Country Bike Ride for Charity

Written by Matt Renfer

Some of us are compelled to go to great lengths for the sake of helping others.

That certainly describes Taylor and Donnie Doolittle, who decided to embark on an unforgettable biking journey across the U.S. that came to a fitting finish in the nation's capital in early October. In the end, the two brothers rode over 3,300 miles from Oregon to Washington, D.C., spanning 62 days while raising over \$6,000 for needy children in Fortaleza, Brazil.

For Gardner-Webb alumnus and former Student Body President Taylor Doolittle, whose favorite part of the trip was being able to share the experience with his older brother Donnie, it was the journey that made it all worthwhile.

"All the fun times we had were a big enough encouragement to want to keep on riding," said Taylor, who discovered his love for the outdoors with Donnie during their high school years. "There were definitely times when it was tough—when it starts raining and it's 40 degrees. But I don't think there was any point when we were considering, 'alright—let's get home.'"

Using the trip as a platform to raise awareness and contributions, the Doolittles formed a non-profit organization, opened a bank account, created a website, designed a logo, sold tee shirts, and passed out business letters detailing the purpose of their charity. All these efforts would directly benefit Fortaleza's Davis Lar Children's Home, whose mission is to house and care for children victimized by prostitution, drug trafficking, abuse, and abandonment. By creating a network of childcare facilities, "The Lar" restores them to spiritual, physical and emotional health while reaching out to their families and communities.

The Doolittle's journey, aptly dubbed "Long Haul for the Lar," bore its fair share of ups and downs, and yet the brothers were encouraged by how quickly and sufficiently the lows gave way to more sustaining times.

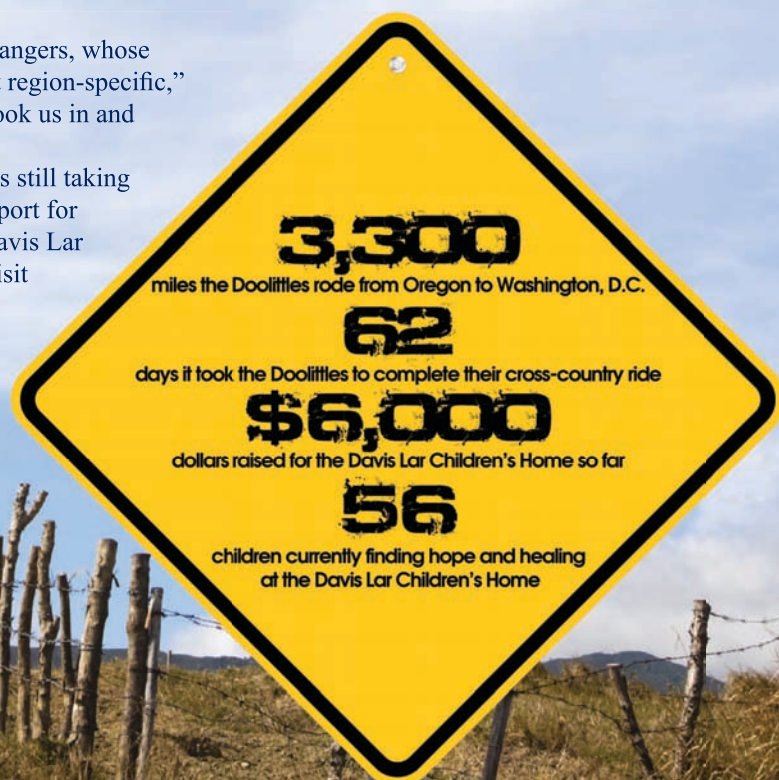
"I don't remember any days when we were suffering," said Taylor. "We saw when things were going bad, or when we had a rough day of riding, at the end of the day we'd say, 'whoa, this really worked out.'"

Oftentimes, their luck would turn around at the hands of complete strangers, whose hospitality was a pleasant surprise to the Doolittles. "Hospitality wasn't region-specific," said Taylor. "In every single state I can name an awesome family that took us in and took care of us when they didn't have to."

And while the brothers' mighty haul has come to an end, the charity is still taking donations. There is still time to honor their effort through financial support for "the Lar." If you'd like to make a contribution, read more about The Davis Lar Children's Home, or relive the Doolittle's journey through their blog, visit bikelar.com.



Donnie and Taylor Doolittle



Class Acts

"Gardner-Webb University inducted several alumni into the Gallery of Distinguished Alumni this year. The Gallery honors alumni who are making positive contributions in their careers and communities. Gallery members are nominated by their peers and chosen by representatives from the University. Gallery members represent the quality and depth found in the thousands of alumni produced by Gardner-Webb over the past 107 years. To submit a nomination for next year email: alumni@gardner-webb.edu."

The 1940s

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **CECIL "COTTON" BOLICK**
2011 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Cecil "Cotton" Bolick earned his associate's degree from Gardner-

Webb in 1948, where he starred in football, basketball and tennis. In fact, he single-handedly revived the tennis program, pushing the student body to build new tennis courts and coaching the team himself. He also edited the school newspaper and served as vice president of the International Relations Club at Gardner-Webb. But it's what happened before he enrolled at Gardner-Webb that makes this string of accomplishments even more impressive.

Bolick enlisted at age 19 in the Army Air Corps during WWII, and was trained as a top turret gunner in a B-24 bomber. After flying 26 successful missions, Bolick's bomber was shot down over Friedrichshafen in March 1944. Bolick and three others managed to escape the plane just before it exploded, but six of his friends and comrades were killed in the blast. Bolick's foot was badly mangled, and after being captured on the ground, he was shuffled from prison camp to prison camp and his leg was nearly amputated. Miraculously, he met a Polish prisoner who happened to be a surgeon, and the man conducted a series of skin and muscle grafting operations that healed Bolick's leg. Bolick was liberated by the Soviets from Stalag Luft I prison in Barth on April 30, 1945, and just over a year later, he was on the football field at Gardner-Webb.

After leaving Gardner-Webb, Bolick earned his bachelor's degree from Catawba College and then taught, coached, and served as Athletic Director at West Mecklenburg

High School and Charlotte Country Day School for the next 33 years. Bolick has been inducted into Charlotte halls of fame for both high school baseball coaches and athletic directors, and he has coached numerous players who went on to be Major Leaguers. As he says it, his life has been one string of awesome adventures, and he remembers his time at Gardner-Webb as "the best two years of my single life. It was wonderful." Bolick is currently retired and living in Cramerton, N.C.

The 1950s

ALUMNA PASSING

DAPHNE L. CANTRELL '50 A.A. passed away on Oct. 16, 2011. She worked for the U.S. Air Force's Petroleum Oil and Lubrication Division as an assistant director. She later joined a law practice with her brothers before becoming an administrative officer for the Clerk of Superior Court Office. She retired as a district court judge. She is survived by her husband, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

ALUMNA PASSING

RAMONA MCBRAYER ROSS '51 A.A. died on Aug. 3, 2011. She was a school teacher for 30 years. She also served as an organist at Gaffney First Baptist and Limestone Presbyterian Churches for 33 years. Her husband and one brother survive her.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **EDWARD "MAC" HILL**
2011 JUNIOR COLLEGE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Edward "Mac" Hill attended Gardner-Webb from 1953-55, before attending Furman University in 1956 and then earning his A.B. in Journalism from the University of South Carolina in 1958. He played

basketball at Gardner-Webb for coach Norman Harris, and was the first basketball player named to the Woodruff High (S.C.) Hall of Fame in 1959.

Hill enjoyed a 45-year career writing for and editing newspapers, including an early 18-month stretch with the Shelby Daily Star. As the assistant secretary and then treasurer of the South Carolina Sportswriters Association in 1959 and 1960, Hill was a founding father of the South Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. He judged three preliminary pageants to the Miss South Carolina Pageant from 1959-1961, and also judged statewide sports writing contests in West Virginia, North Dakota and Minnesota throughout his career. From 1976-1980, Hill was also a member of the Associated Press Managing Editors.

These days, Hill is best known around Gardner-Webb as a campus historian, having traveled to campus most months for the past three years as a volunteer to spearhead the Dover Memorial Library's archives project. He also assisted the Alumni Office in publishing the 1954 and 1955 Memory Books for those classes' 50th anniversaries. In addition to his service to Gardner-Webb, Hill currently delivers Meals on Wheels two days per week.

Hill and his wife, Mary Linda, have two stepsons, and currently reside in Newberry. They attend First Baptist Church Woodruff. "Gardner-Webb challenged me and gave me the confidence I needed to accept my dreams while polishing my limited skills to help lift me up the ladder," Hill said. "Also, Gardner-Webb presented me with a bunch of lifelong friends."

ALUMNUS PASSING

ROBERT HENRY TOBIN '56 A.A. passed away on Oct. 7, 2011. He was a veteran of the Air Force who served during the Korean Conflict. Tobin was a career educator and coach, and was inducted into the Davidson County Sports Hall of Fame

(Continued on next page.)

in 2008. For many years, he served as executive secretary of the Central Carolina Athletic Conference. He was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Thomasville. His wife, two daughters, two sons, one brother and one sister as well as several grandchildren survive him.

The 1960s

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **WILLIAM A. FIELDS**

William A. Fields graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1961 with a degree in the liberal arts. He spent nearly twenty years in various sales and marketing positions and as a self-

employed contractor, before moving to Pennsylvania as part of the Mission Service Corps of the Southern Baptist Convention. His primary assignment was to help small struggling congregations develop places of worship and evangelism, and he helped more than 150 churches along the East Coast before his retirement. In 2000, Fields also helped launch the Pennsylvania Racing Outreach, a Christian ministry for motor racing fans with which he continues to be involved.

Fields and his wife, Caroline, have five children and 11 grandchildren. “It has taken a lifetime to realize the two most significant things that came out of my Gardner-Webb experience,” Fields said. “First, I came to accept the teachings of my family as truth based on God’s word, the Holy Bible. Second, I was given the freedom to take an idea and develop it into a reality. The development of the campus radio station, WGWG, was the first of these experiences.”

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **KEN SANFORD**

Ken Sanford earned his associate’s degree from Gardner-Webb in 1962 before earning a bachelor’s and then a master’s in education from Western

Carolina University in 1965 and 1970, respectively. He then returned to Gardner-Webb in 1966 as a physical education teacher and assistant football coach, and served as head track coach and Dean of Men until 1978, when he began his career in public high school education. For the next 26 years, he worked variously as a head football coach, head track coach, health and physical education teacher, social studies teacher, and assistant principal at Rutherford-Spindale High School and then Chase High School, and was Chase High’s principal from 1998-2004.

Sanford is a member of First United Methodist Church in Rutherfordton, where he has served on various committees and teaches Sunday school. He has also volunteered regularly with Habitat for Humanity of Rutherford County. He and his wife, Diane, have two daughters and two sons, and they are the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **FREEMAN L. OWLE**

Freeman L. Owle attended Gardner-Webb from 1966-67, before transferring to Western Carolina University where he received a bachelor’s

degree in social work and a master’s degree in education. He went on to teach in the Cherokee Elementary School for 12 years, and was once named Teacher of the Year. In 1990, he began lecturing on Cherokee culture and history, sharing the Cherokee story in schools, churches and organizations all over the eastern part of the United States.

Owle has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Preserve America Presidential Award. He has also volunteered for the Cherokee Extension Program, the Vocational Opportunities Program, and Qualla Arts and Crafts. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Owle said, “Gardner-Webb was an excellent school for me. It gave me the personal encouragement to do well. I am thankful that I attended this fine school.”

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

© **BRUCE BOWERS**

Bruce Bowers attended Gardner-Webb in 1968, the first of his family to go to college. Gardner-Webb introduced him to college life and, he says, did not allow him to get lost in the crowd, as sometimes happens at large universities. At Gardner-Webb, he became involved in student government and drama, and his first job in journalism was editing the student newspaper, The Pilot.



Bowers earned a degree in Radio-Television-Motion Pictures from UNC Chapel Hill, and began his career as a reporter for BIG WAYS Radio News in Charlotte. He soon moved to television and did award-winning investigative reporting

Gardner-Webb University welcomed more than 340 graduates into the proud ranks of Runnin’ Bulldog Alumni during the University’s annual fall commencement exercises in December.

During the ceremony, several students were recognized for outstanding leadership, citizenship, and academic excellence during their undergraduate careers. Jack Harold Zimmerman, III, who received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, was awarded the Most Outstanding Male Graduate Medal. Haleigh Peterson, who received her bachelor’s degree in international business, was honored as the Most Outstanding Female Graduate. Stephanie Lynn Oliver received the Senior Scholastic Achievement Award for maintaining her Class’s highest scholastic average while earning her bachelor’s degree in American Sign Language and Spanish.

Nearly 140 of the graduates were students in Gardner-Webb’s Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL) program. The GWU College of Adult and Continuing Education presented the Academic Student Award to two GOAL graduates who tied for the highest scholastic averages during their tenure:

- Lisa Marie Hanson Brown, a human services major
- Denise Crotts Jones, a business administration major

While those few were honored for special awards, the day was momentous for each of the more than 340 graduates, all recognized individually as they received their degrees. As Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner said, “We pause to recognize our graduates one by one because we value them highly as individuals, and we are so very proud of each of them.”

To get involved with the Gardner-Webb Alumni Association, visit gardner-webb.edu or call 704-406-ALUM.

at WBTV and WSOC-TV, accompanying a White House trip to China in 1979 and covering Billy Graham’s first two preaching engagements in the Soviet Union in the 1980s. Today, Bowers is an independent producer and documentary filmmaker, having produced, among others, the groundbreaking historical documentary, “The Blue Ridge Parkway: A Long and Winding Road,” which has been broadcast more than 600 times in 27 states. Bowers and his wife, Jenny, have three adult children and two dogs.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA



© **FAREN SANDERS CREWS**

Faren Sanders Crews, whose Cherokee name is “Se-dah-ni,” was a member of the Gardner-Webb Class of 1969. She is an enrolled member of the

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the tribe of her mother. She was born in Tahlequah, Okla., the seat of the Western Cherokee nation, of which her father was a full-blood enrolled member. Crews is, therefore, a proud, direct descendant of both ends of the infamous “Trail of Tears.”

Crews is a self-taught artist who uses her art as a tool to express the beauty and the deep cultural values of her tribe. She has spent her life as an advocate for her people, and considers her art a gift from the great Creator. Of her induction into the Gallery, Crews said, “It is a great honor to me and my people to be selected among the fellow alumni of Gardner-Webb University for this significant honor. I am humbled and grateful to be among you. ‘Wa-do,’ or ‘thank you,’ from my heart. Peace and all good things.”

The 1970s

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA



© **AUNDR A MADDOX ADAMS**

Aundra Maddox Adams graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1972 with a degree in liberal arts, and later earned a degree in

teaching from UNC-Charlotte and then a master’s in educational administration. She taught school for 15 years and has been in administration for 13 years. Adams is also

a member and Deaconess at Mount Olive Baptist Church, where she is involved in youth ministry, marriage ministry and Christian education. Her entire adult life, Adams says, has been dedicated to helping children grow both educationally and spiritually, citing her faith in God as a key factor in her life’s success.

“Gardner-Webb has played a huge part in preparing me and helping me keep God the center of my destiny,” Adams said. A native of Shelby, N.C., Adams met her husband, George Adams, during her time at Gardner-Webb, and the couple renewed their vows on campus in 2008. They have four children, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

88.3 THE RANGE

Follow Gardner-Webb Athletics
online at www.wgwg.org.

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.



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www.facebook.com/gardnerwebb



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **WAYNE B. HENDERSON**

After earning a spot as a walk-on linebacker for the Runnin' Bulldogs in 1972, Wayne B. Henderson eventually earned a scholarship at Gardner-

Webb and graduated with his Bachelor of Science in 1976. Since 1980, he has been the Owner and C.F.O. of Peachridge Mowers Co. Inc, and he has been an Executive Flight Academic Pilot since 1972 and a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) member since 1990. He has also served with the Georgia Sheriff Association since 1990.

Henderson has also volunteered for 30 years at Camp Rutledge and he is a deacon and Sunday School teacher. In 2009, he won a Christian Choice Book Award for his book, "The Jesus Advantage." Henderson and his wife of 38 years, Marion, have two children. At Gardner-Webb, Henderson says he received a great education, and was shown "how to live right."

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **JEFF MCNEILL**
2011 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Jeff McNeill graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and then earned his master's from Clemson University in 1977. He has spent more than 35 years in higher education, and has been the Vice President for Development at Auburn University since 2008. After beginning his career as the field director for Clemson's Alumni Association in 1977, he has held numerous executive offices in Advancement and Development for Clemson, N.C. State University, the University of Alabama, Presbyterian College, and now Auburn.

Assuming his current role amidst a nationwide economic crisis, McNeill was able to maintain Auburn's giving levels in 2008 and then broke fundraising records in each of the next two years. In 2010, the Office of Development under McNeill's leadership raised more than \$240 million, exceeding its yearly goal by 276%. But as one of McNeill's coworkers, Patti H. Northcutt wrote, the true extent of McNeill's accomplishments cannot be quantified.

Calling herself an "inherited employee" after McNeill was hired at Auburn, Northcutt shared how McNeill encouraged her to complete the bachelor's degree she began in 1982, even taking on added responsibilities to ensure that her class time was uninterrupted. In a letter to Gardner-Webb's Alumni Relations office, Northcutt wrote, "The last sentence of Gardner-Webb University's mission statement reads, 'Gardner-Webb prepares its graduates to make significant contributions for God and humanity in an ever-changing global community.' Jeff McNeill has done just that. I owe more [to him] than I can ever repay."

McNeill has served on numerous volunteer boards including the United Way and Habitat for Humanity. He has also served with Clemson's Rotary Club, and he is a member of CASE (the Council for Advancement and Support of Education). He and his wife, Teresa, have three children, and are members of First Presbyterian Church of Auburn. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, McNeill remembered the "small classes," "good relationships with faculty," and the "nurturing environment at Gardner-Webb," and said "Gardner-Webb was the right school at the right time for me. Gardner-Webb is a much finer place today because so many people believe in it and follow its purpose. I am proud to be one of them."

The Southern Appalachian Culture Series Presents The Cherokee Culture Festival and Academic Conference

Join us for this unique educational experience, as we explore the cultural heritage of one of our region's first and most deeply rooted people, the Cherokee.

•Food •Music •Crafts •Dance •Games •Film Festival •Storytelling

October 11-12, 2012 at Gardner-Webb University



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA



© **DICY MCCULLOUGH**

Dicy McCullough graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, and then earned a master's in education from UNC-Charlotte in 1980. She taught in the Rowan-Salisbury Schools for 30 years until her retirement in 2006, and was voted MD Ulla Elementary School Teacher of the year in 2001. After the tragic death of her father in 2006, McCullough found a passion for writing that has turned into a weekly column for the Salisbury Post and two children's books ("Tired of my Bath" and "Tired of School"). She currently visits schools, churches and organizations sharing her books and her story, and she fills school music interims as needed. She is also the pianist for Franklin Baptist Church of Salisbury, N.C.

McCullough and her husband of 30 years, Michael Dixon McCullough, have two daughters. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, McCullough said, "Gardner-Webb opened doors of opportunity for me through music education that I never would have known otherwise."

I am thankful for the inspirational guidance of the Gardner-Webb administration, faculty and staff."

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **MARK ALAN TILLEY**

Mark Alan Tilley graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion. He served as a pastor for 21 years, and currently works as a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments in Brevard, N.C. He also serves on the Board of the Christian Service Organization at Gardner-Webb, and he believes in its mission to provide resources to equip young men and women for ministry both here and around the world.

Tilley and his wife, Rochelle, a cardiac recovery nurse at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C., are active members of Biltmore Baptist Church. They have four children and celebrated the birth of their first grandchild in November.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA



© **MARION PATRICIA HOUSTON**

Houston received both athletic (basketball) and academic scholarships to Gardner-Webb in 1978, an experience that propelled her into an incredible career in business and philanthropy. After attending Gardner-Webb, she went to Barnell Business College in Atlanta, Ga., before moving to Paris, France, to attend the Paris Institute, where she was in the top 3% of her class. In Paris, Houston became a top model for designers such as Givenchy and was featured in ads for Maybelline, Essence, Newport and others.

Houston is currently the manager for Grammy Award winner Whitney Houston, for whom she negotiated the highest paid record deal in music history for \$100 million in 2001. She is also the manager of the Celebrity Consignment Store in Shelby, N.C., which sells gently worn clothing donated by celebrities. In 2007, she launched Teen Summit through the Patricia Houston Foundation, an organization to "Rebuild, Restore and Repair" the lives of young adults. Houston and her husband, Gary Garland Houston, have one daughter.



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**



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

The 1990s

ALUMNA PASSING

DEBORAH SPIVEY HADLEY '91 B.A. died on Sept. 24, 2011. She is survived by her husband, mother, sister and two stepsons.

RICK CLARK '93 B.S.

was elected president of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police at their annual conference in Norfolk, Va. Chief Clark was appointed Chief of Police in Galax in Jan. 2001. During his tenure, the Police Department has been accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, and certified as a Crime Prevention Community by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. He was appointed to the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Board in 2010 by Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell.

Did you know?

A new book is being written on Gardner-Webb's namesake, Fay Webb Gardner ... and you can help be a part of it ... find out more here: www.gardner-webb.edu/fay-biography

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **ANDRE KWASNIK**

Andre Kwasnik graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in International Business, and with minors in economics and Spanish.

Kwasnik also earned All-American honors as a Runnin' Bulldog football player, and lettered in soccer as well. He then earned his M.B.A. from Barry University in Miami, Fla. Today, Kwasnik is an assertive leader with more than 16 years of management and leadership experience with top Fortune 500 organizations.

Kwasnik was most recently named Vice President for Business Development at Safeware, Inc., where he has grown Safeware's insurance and warranty business for consumer protection products for businesses and individual consumers. Among his many professional awards, Kwasnik was recently named one of Dealerscope Magazine's top 40 executives under 40 years of age for 2011. Kwasnik and his wife of 12 years, GWU alumna Dr. Danielle McDonald Kwasnik, reside in Marietta, Ga., with their two children.

PAUL R. "TREY" GILLIAM, III '94 B.A., '00 M.Div.

graduated on November 24, 2011 with a PhD from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) in early church history. Trey is employed at Chowan University as Assistant Professor of Religion and his wife, Lou Ann Gilliam '94 B.S., '99 M.Div., is also employed at Chowan University at Director of Church and Community Relations.

LEE DARNELL '95 B.S., '08 MBA

recently organized a film production company. Its name was inspired by Gardner-Webb University's motto and is called Pro Deo Productions. Visit Pro Deo Productions at www.prodeoproductions.com. Mr. Darnell hopes his business endeavor will soon gain 501c3 non-profit status and will have a positive impact. Email Lee at leadingbyexample@aol.com or prodeoproductions@aol.com.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **FRANK SHELTON**

Frank Shelton graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1996. A Washington D.C. native, Shelton worked for 17 years on Capitol Hill, and was appointed to the floor staff of the U.S. Senate in 1995. He has been a speechwriter to the House



Going Green

In an effort to promote environmental sustainability, electronic delivery of The Gardner-Webb Magazine is now available. You'll get all the content from the print version, along with exclusive online content, delivered free, straight to your inbox.

To switch to an electronic subscription, email Noel Manning at nimanning@gardner-webb.edu.

Majority Leader of Congress, an aide to the Governor of Maryland, and a fundraiser for the Republican National Committee. Shelton is now an author and evangelist, sharing the Gospel through more than 200 speaking engagements each year. In 2001, he was tapped VP of the National Christian Youth Speakers Network, and was recently named International Evangelism Director for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. He is a regular contributor to Fox News Live on religion and politics. He and his wife, Ruth, reside in Waldorf, Md., and they have two children.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



© **SHEDRICK HARRIS**
2011 YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Shedrick Harris graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He has worked for eight years at Wachovia Bank in business banking, as a financial consultant, and as a team leader in the Treasury Service. He currently serves on the Charlotte Economic Development Council, the Charlotte Rotary and the Charlotte and Lincolnton Chambers.

In the past, he served with the Lincolnton Rotary, the Shelby Rotary, the Lincolnton Economic Development Council, the Charlotte/Lincolnton Education Foundation, American Bankers, and Wachovia Diversity. Harris also served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors at Gardner-

Webb, and was that Board's President for two terms.

Harris and his wife, Deborah, live in Dallas, N.C., and worship at Bethlehem Church. They have one son. When asked what he learned during his Gardner-Webb experience, Harris said, "Be yourself. Above all, let who you are and what you believe shine through every sentence you write, every piece you finish."

WENDI CRAVEN BARBER '98 M.A.

is principal of Table Rock Middle School in Morganton, N.C. She previously served as principal of Hildebran Elementary School from June 2005 to June 2011 and North Liberty School from December 1999 to June 2005.

ALUMNUS PASSING

BOBBY L. BIGGERSTAFF, JR. '98 B.S. passed away on Aug. 25, 2011. He had been an employee of Brad Ragan, Inc., Goodyear Tire, O.M.C. of Spruce Pine, O'Mara Inc., and Feldspar. Biggerstaff also served as a youth league coach. He is survived by his parents, his wife, one son, granddaughter, two brothers and several extended family members.

The 2000s

CHARLES EDWARD PRITCHARD '01 B.S.

and Jennifer Susan McGahey were married on Sept. 23, 2011 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pinehurst, N.C. Charles is a manager for FirstHealth Centers and Jennifer is employed with the United States Golf Association in championship relations. The couple lives in Pinehurst.

MARTY T. HEMRIC '03 Ed.D.

was recently named Wilkes County Schools superintendent. He previously served as superintendent to Watauga County Schools and assistant superintendent to Wilkes. Before that, he was principal of East Wilkes High and Mount Pleasant Elementary Schools. He was also assistant principal at Elkin High School as well as teacher and assistant athletic director for Mooresville and Davie County High Schools.

MOORESVILLE AMERICAN LEGION POST NAMED FOR GARDNER-WEBB ALUMNUS



Darrell Wilson

It's doubtful that the late Darrell Wilson ('53) would have ever been forgotten in Mooresville, N.C. The Main Street resident and longtime owner of Wilson's Auto Parts was the consummate role model, a mainstay of everyday life in the town he loved. He was a little league baseball coach and a deacon of First Baptist-Mooresville, and the 1996 Citizen of the Year never lost a Town Board election in 20 years.

So when his son, Kyle Wilson, and several friends decided to name their new Mooresville American Legion Post 537 after Darrell Wilson, it wasn't to preserve Wilson's name, lest it be forgotten. Rather, it was to symbolize the ways his legacy is still vibrantly alive in the hearts of the town he loved.

A Mooresville native, Darrell Wilson attended Gardner-Webb College from 1951-53 and played football and baseball, before volunteering for the U.S. Army draft and enlisting in the 1st Company 8th Infantry Division, based out of Fort Carson, Colo. He was trained as a sniper during the Korean conflict, and in two years progressed to the rank of E-5 Sergeant.

Wilson married his college sweetheart, Sue Wilson ('53), and then worked for 15 years with Burlington Industries in N.C. and Va. after completing his active duty. He then returned to Mooresville in 1970 to take over his family's Auto Parts store. "It meant the world to him to come back home to Mooresville," Sue said, "and for the next three decades, he served this town every way he could think of. He was very humble, and yet, he seemed to make an impact on so many lives."

"He was just the consummate role model father," Kyle added, "the best anyone could ask for. I am proud that Post 537 will carry on traditions he believed in, like supporting our veterans, community service, and commitment to the foundational principles of American culture." Kyle remembers his father as "a patriot," and says Darrell was proud of his service, both in the Army and in his civic life in Mooresville. "But above all," Kyle said, "he was a wonderful father. We miss him terribly."



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

SARAH PARTLOW MARTIN '01 A.A., '03 B.S.N.

and husband, Chad, as well as big brother, Brody, welcomed another boy, Grant Charles Martin, into their family on Oct. 19, 2010.

AMBER REICHERT CURRIN '03 B.A.

and her husband, Travis, welcomed their first child into the world on April 27, 2011. His name is Nevin Bennett Currin.

SHANNON O'DELL SMITH '03 B.A.

and her husband, Ryan, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Cooper Finnlay Smith, who was born on June 24, 2011.

JON BREWER '04 B.S.

recently joined the staff of Coldwell Banker Mountain View Real Estate in Kings Mountain, N.C. He has been a broker/realtor since 2002. Brewer is also an employee of Daimler Trucks North America and a member of the North Carolina Air National Guard.

RAYLENE BYSON '04 M.A.

was recently named Jackson County's Principal of the Year. She became principal of Jackson County Early College in 2008. She previously served as assistant principal at Smoky Mountain High School. She and her husband have two children and three grandchildren.

KEVIN GARAY '04 M.A.

was recently named 2011-2012 Principal of the Year for Kannapolis City Schools. He has been the principal of A.L. Brown High School since 2009. He previously served there as assistant principal.

CRYSTAL ELIZABETH CARPENTER '06 B.S.

and Dustin Lee Rudisill were married on June 11, 2011 at Boger City Methodist Church. Crystal is a teacher's assistant at Union Elementary School in Vale. Dusty is a firefighter for the City of Gastonia and is Fire Chief of Howard's Creek Volunteer Fire Department in Lincolnton.

CHRISTINE ROSE DOW '08 B.S.

and Jesse Dean Pardue were united in marriage on May 28, 2011 at Arlington First Baptist Church in Jonesville, N.C. Christine is a customer care mentor for Lowe's Companies and Jeese is a CNC programmer for Rock Solid Dimensional Stone. The couple resides in Hamptonville.

MATTHEW WILLIAM KNIPPEN '08 B.S. and ELIZABETH BUTLER MAXWELL '08 B.S.

were married on Sept. 17, 2011 at St. Luke's Chapel in Charleston, S.C. Matthew is employed by Vendue Inn in Charleston. Elizabeth is a physician assistant with Lake City Community Hospital. The couple lives in Johnsonville.

THOMAS JACKSON SANDERS '08 B.S. and KAYLA ELIZABETH MORGAN '10 B.S.

were married on June 25, 2011 at Cowee Baptist Church. Thomas plays professional basketball in Europe and Kayla is a physical education teacher at Mountain View Intermediate School. The couple resides in Franklin, N.C.

JEREMIAH VANCE CHILDERS '09 M.DIV

and Amber Elizabeth Blackwell were united in marriage on Oct. 1, 2011 at Inman First Baptist Church. The couple resides in Inman, S.C.

JEREL LANGLEY '08 B.S. and ASHLEY HALL '09 B.S.

were married July 9, 2011 in Hendersonville, N.C. Jerel and Ashley were both members of the Gardner-Webb University track team. Jerel is an assistant women's track coach at Eastern Michigan University and Ashley is an accountant with Arvin Meritor Inc. in Troy, Mich.

DEBORAH MCARTHUR '09 B.S.

and Stephen Stowe were united marriage on April 16, 2011 in Rutherfordton, N.C. Debbie is a teacher at Rutherfordton Elementary School and Stephen is a Fine Furniture Maker.

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Gardner-Webb is in search of your student life photos. Some of these photos may even appear in the new Tucker Student Center or the Gardner-Webb Magazine. If you would like to submit photos for consideration, please send high resolution digital files to ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu (and please put "Student Photos" in the subject line) or hard copies to:

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AUTUMN WIGGINS '09 B.S.

married Branden Essick on Aug. 6, 2011.

CHAD M. TESH '10 M.A.

was recently named assistant principal to Thomasville High School where he will oversee their new freshman academy. He previously served the Davidson County School system at the alternative high school as virtual learning coordinator and virtual curriculum coordinator. Tesh also worked at Mt. Tabor and Trinity High Schools. He lives in Wallburg with his wife and three children.

MICHAEL GRAGG '11 M.DIV

was recently called to Oak Grove Baptist Church in Boone, N.C. as pastor. He previously served as associate and youth pastor to Perkinsville Baptist Church. He and his wife, Casey, have three children.

The 2010s

CRAIG S. SMITH '10 M.A.

is now the assistant principal at Ashbrook High School in Gastonia, N.C. Smith previously served as the dean of students and men's tennis coach at Hopewell High School in Huntersville, N.C. where he also taught math.

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New Science Wing Set to Open Fall 2012

"This new science wing is desperately needed. Because of limited lab space, our students have always had to tear down experiments each day to make way for the next class to use the lab. Now, we'll have labs for each of our research areas, so our students will be able to set up ongoing experiments. Most of all, having new, up-to-date facilities, especially in the sciences, attracts good quality students to campus. I've been anticipating this for 30 years, so it's exciting to see it happening."

-Dr. Tom Jones, Professor of Biology

