

2011

Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2011, Fall (Volume 45 No. 3)

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Gardner-Webb University

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Gardner Webb

THE MAGAZINE

FALL 2011 • VOLUME 45, NUMBER 3



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SERVICE CAMPUS CHALLENGE**

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GWU ATHLETES HONORED FOR
NATIONAL ACADEMIC HONORS

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Gardner-Webb

THE MAGAZINE

Gardner-Webb--The Magazine Credits

Fall 2011
Volume 45 Number 3

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Dr. A. Frank Bonner

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On the Cover: GWU President Frank Bonner, Vice-President for Christian Life and Service Tracy Jessup, Community Engagement Coordinator Stephanie Richiey and Service Learning Program Coordinator Susan Manahan discuss the national call to service (page 12).

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Realizing the Dream

I am not a carpenter, an artist, or an architect, but I have always admired their ability to take ideas, even dreams, and transform them into reality before our eyes. As you return to campus this fall for a play or a Runnin' Bulldogs sporting event, you will be thrilled to see the progress of the Tucker Student Center, which we eagerly anticipate opening in the summer of 2012. Every day, the Center looks more like the manifestation of our original dream, and I am reminded of all the generous friends who, like visionary carpenters or inspired artists, have been the catalysts for helping us make the Center a reality for our students.

It is striking how closely the growth of the Tucker Student Center parallels the growth of our students themselves, and our entire University family, into a generation of leaders dedicated to large scale, tangible service in our communities. Gardner-Webb has been blessed this year by an armful of national awards and honors for our unique commitment to faith, service, and leadership. We were even handpicked by the White House to participate in the new President's Interfaith Community Service Campus Challenge. You'll read more about those stories in this issue.

You'll also learn about the contributions of Gardner-Webb students, faculty, staff and alumni to the booming local foods movement in Boiling Springs. You'll enjoy the story of Cotton Bolick, an alumnus who was literally blown from the sky during World War II, but whose resolve enabled him to survive the war, star in three sports at Gardner-Webb, and spend a lifetime making good on his miraculous escape from certain death. You will even come to know a woman whose heart for Christ, whose passion for service, and whose commitment to Gardner-Webb motivates me every day to be a better leader myself. The stories are literally as diverse as the people who inspire them.

I trust you will enjoy this issue of The Gardner-Webb Magazine, and I challenge you to think about your own Gardner-Webb story. Has it yet been written? What sort of story would you like it to be? We are climbing ever higher in our quest to achieve a "Higher Ground" in Christian higher education, but it will take the support, involvement, and prayers of visionaries like you to make that dream a reality.

Sincerely,



A. Frank Bonner
President, Gardner-Webb University



THE SECRET IS OUT

Gardner-Webb Lands a Host of Prestigious National Recognitions

Those familiar with Gardner-Webb University have often affectionately called it the "nation's best kept secret." But after the string of prestigious national honors Gardner-Webb has won in 2011, it is clear that the University's unique commitment to Christian faith, community and national service, and academic excellence is not so secret after all.

- Gardner-Webb's core curriculum ranks in the nation's top two percent for quality and breadth, according to this year's What Will They Learn? study by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). Of the 1,007 four-year institutions rated, GWU was among only 19 to receive an "A" grade.
- For its deep commitment to community service, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching selected GWU for the Community Engagement Classification. Of the thousands of institutions nationwide, GWU is now among only 311 schools to have earned the distinction since the Classification's inception in 2006.
- For the fourth consecutive year, Gardner-Webb was one of only 511 schools to make the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Associate Provost Dr. Gayle Price said the Carnegie Classification and the President's Honor Roll demonstrate that service "isn't just an attachment to our mission at Gardner-Webb, but it is organically integrated into all aspects of our identity."
- GWU is one of the nation's top 10 schools for mobilizing student missionaries through the North American Mission Board, earning the University the NAMB's distinguished Courts Redford Award for Excellence in Student Mobilization. In 2010, one in every 15 GWU residential students participated in mission trips to places like Tennessee, Guatemala, and Northern Ireland.
- The Chronicle of Higher Education named GWU a "Great College to Work For." The result was based on a Chronicle survey of nearly 44,000 employees at 310 colleges and universities. Only 111 of the 310 institutions achieved "Great Colleges to Work For" status.
- G.I. Jobs magazine named GWU a "Military Friendly School" for 2012, ranking it in the top 20% of all institutions nationwide for its efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students.

GARDNER-WEBB HOSTS CONFERENCE FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ACROSS THE CAROLINAS

Chair of N.C. State Board of Education Praises GWU's Initiative

More than 250 educators and school administrators from North and South Carolina recently participated in the 2nd annual Summer Conference sponsored by Gardner-Webb's Center for Innovative Leadership Development (CILD). The two-day conference focused on formative assessment, reflective teaching, and the developmental curriculum.

During his closing remarks, Dr. Bill Harrison, chair of the N.C. State Board of education, said, "We have made great progress in public education in this state, despite what our many critics are saying. But while we celebrate that progress, we must continue to develop innovative strategies if we are to realize our ultimate goal of providing all students a quality 21st-century education."

The participants gave up precious summer vacation time to attend two days of presentations by educational leaders and curriculum officials from around the state. According to Dr. Doug Eury, dean of the GWU School of Education and CILD director, "participants gained valuable insight about current policy issues, funding issues, and curriculum developments straight from the mouths of those who are making those decisions."

"It's great to see this connection between higher education and the K-12 sector," Harrison added. "Gardner-Webb has taken the lead and reached out to the public schools in our region, and this partnership is really a model for the others we hope to develop around the state."



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James W. Thomas

GARDNER-WEBB LAUNCHES NEW SCHOOL OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

Professor James W. Thomas Hired as Interim Dean

As support for arts programs wanes around the country, Gardner-Webb University recently launched its new School for Performing and Visual arts, a move Gardner-Webb Associate Provost Dr. Earl Leininger says will "bolster the arts rather than bury them."

The new school will contain the Departments of Music, Visual Art, and Theatre. "The goal is to have an entity that has internal integrity as the home of the arts on campus, and in which the three

pillars can be strong in themselves and yet also integrated in ways that serve one another,” said Leininger.

To help develop the School’s structure and vision, Gardner-Webb hired Professor James W. Thomas for a two-year term as interim dean. A man Leininger calls “a fierce advocate for the arts,” Thomas will assist in the enrichment of the arts’ facilities and academic programs, and provide leadership in the search for a permanent dean. Thomas holds degrees from Western Carolina University and UNC-Chapel Hill and extensive collegiate teaching experience, but he is best known for his 38 years at Mars Hill College, where he developed and managed the accreditation of the theatre (B.A.) and musical theatre (B.F.A.) majors.

“We believe that Professor Thomas is uniquely qualified by his experiences and his gifts to help establish the philosophical vision of the School. We are also thrilled that Dr. Patricia Sparti, current chair of the department of fine arts, has chosen to remain in her leadership role in the music program and that she will continue to use her considerable skills as Chair of the Department of Music in the new School,” Leininger said.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Alpha Chi Honors Students Shine at National Conference



Brittany Bounds (L)



Keith Menhinick (L)

Twelve outstanding Gardner-Webb students recently participated in the biannual national convention of the Alpha Chi College Honor Society in San Diego, Calif. They won more presentation prizes than any of the other 87 schools represented, giving Gardner-Webb what their chapter sponsor, English professor Dr. June Hobbs, calls “some serious bragging rights.”

Alpha Chi is a national honor society limited to the juniors and seniors whose grade point averages fall in the top 10 percent of their class. Though more than 250 students from around the nation gave scholarly papers, the Gardner-Webb students left with an armful of awards and accolades.

- Brittany Bounds won the psychology prize for her presentation, “Volunteerism in the Mirror: A Case for a Volunteer Personality.”
- Lia Hudak won the Health Science prize for “In Shape or in Denial: Perceived vs. Actual Fitness of Undergraduates.”
- Keith Menhinick won the American Literature prize for “Left Out of America: How Julia Alvarez Writes a New Identity Consciousness.”
- Nikki Raye Rice won the Religion prize for “Biblical Crossdressing: Unveiling the Masculine in the Woman of Valor in Proverbs 31.”
- Savanna Yount won the Region III scholarship for an essay on post-partum depression.
- Collyn Warner was named an alternate for the national Benedict Fellowship for graduate study.



Nikki Raye Rice (L)



Collyn Warner (L)

“Each of our students gave outstanding presentations,” said Hobbs. “I am convinced that many of them would have won, too, had they not been competing in the same categories as other Gardner-Webb students.”



CAROLINA CROWN’S FIFTH YEAR IN TOWN

Award-Winning Drum and Bugle Corps Spends Fifth Consecutive Summer at Gardner-Webb

If you’re anywhere close to Gardner-Webb during the late spring, you’ve probably heard the synchronous sounds of Carolina Crown, the world-class marching drum and bugle corps based out of Fort Mill, S.C. This year marked the fifth consecutive year that GWU hosted Carolina Crown’s spring training.

Comprised of drum majors, brass players, a pit ensemble, a drum line, and dozens of instructors and marching specialists, the corps’ members hail from colleges and universities all over the country. Spectators watched as they prepared their dynamic 2011 show, “Rach Star.”

Covering the likes of Hendrix, Guns & Roses, and Ben Folds, and featuring everything from stage diving to piano concertos, Crown 2011 explored the look, lifestyle, experience and showmanship of being a “Rach Star.” The corps even treated the Boiling Springs community to a free exhibition of its full show before launching its Summer 2011 national tour. For more information about Carolina Crown, visit carolinacrown.org.

A LOOK AT ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

GWU School of Education Hosts Charlotte Mason Education Conference

More than 180 teachers recently traveled from all over the U.S. and Canada to Boiling Springs for the seventh annual Charlotte Mason Education Conference, hosted by the GWU School of Education. Titled “A Charlotte Mason Education—A True Alternative,” the conference explored how the philosophy of British educationist Charlotte Mason (1842-1923) constitutes a “true alternative” to other contemporary models of education.

During the four-day conference, participants enjoyed presentations with titles like, “The Two Towers—Paradigms at War in Middle Earth,” “Wonder and Admiration...Living Science,” and “Inspiring Heroism and Claiming Magnanimity: What Mason Said about Citizenship.” They engaged in discussion groups led by Mason experts, education scholars, and experienced teachers from every level and arena.

Mason believed that education is about more than communicating isolated facts; rather, education is about inspiring students to understand their relationship with the living world around them, and to engage actively in that world. Dr. Carroll Smith, professor of education at Gardner-Webb and champion of the Mason movement, called the conference a resounding success. “For Mason, the bottom line is that education is about relationship,” Smith said. “I think this little old lady up in the Lake District of England figured out a heck of a lot.”



GARDNER-WEBB HOSTS NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR BAPTIST PROFESSORS OF RELIGION

Conference Brings Several Distinguished Alums Back to Boiling Springs

Gardner-Webb University recently played host to nearly a hundred Baptist professors and graduate students of religion for the annual meeting of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (NABPR). This was the University’s first time hosting the annual meeting.

The NABPR is a community of scholars who meet to sharpen teaching skills and encourage the continuation of meaningful scholarship in the fields of religious studies. According to Dr. Ron Williams, president of NABPR and professor of religious studies at Gardner-Webb, the annual meeting offers networking and career development opportunities for current professors and graduate students entering the field.

The NABPR members enjoyed three days of compelling presentations and conversations at Gardner-Webb, including breakout sessions in which dozens of scholars presented new research. In fact, 12 of the presenters were either current or previous Gardner-Webb students or faculty members, and four were recent graduates of the undergraduate religious studies program.

“As a graduate of Gardner-Webb,” said presenter and Brite Divinity School Ph.D. student Cody Sanders (’05), “I am pleased to know that the school is positioning itself in the center of emerging Baptist scholarship in religion by hosting NABPR. The conference helpfully brought into view the range of scholarship currently being undertaken by Baptist religious scholars.”

‘YOU GET A LINE, I’LL GET A POLE’

World’s Best Angler, Bryan Thrift, Makes a Splash at Gardner-Webb

Only in our dreams will most of us have the chance to seek advice from the world’s leading expert in our field. But that dream recently came true for the Gardner-Webb University student fishing club, when FLA Professional Angler and hometown hero Bryan Thrift, then the world’s top angler, visited campus.

Before a crowd of GWU fishing club members and other students, faculty, staff and friends, the Shelby, N.C. native graciously fielded questions about his approach to fishing, his emotions upon securing the top world ranking, his signature maneuver called “skipping the jig,” his biggest tournament bloopers, and his advice for how the Gardner-Webb students can find success on and off the lake.

Like all great advice, Thrift’s message was pertinent to more than just fishing. “Always remember to keep an open mind,” he said. “Never get stale in your approach. You never know when trying that different approach is going to unlock the key to being successful. And try not to get frustrated. This is a difficult sport, but getting frustrated may ruin your next chance to do something great.”



Bryan Thrift

A SEED ON GOOD SOIL

Gardner-Webb Welcomes, Missionary in Residence, Mike Boone to Boiling Springs

When Gardner-Webb’s current Missionary in Residence, Mike Boone, first sensed a call to ministry, it never occurred to him that he could be something other than a preacher. “I’ve always loved working outside, working with plants. I love to see things grow. But I didn’t know I could use that for ministry,” he says. God knew better. Boone and his family (wife, Amy; son, Tim; daughter, Grace) spent the early ‘90s pastoring a church in Salemburg, N.C., before God called them to full-time international missions. But more inclined to plant seeds than churches, Boone went back to college at N.C. State for a degree in agriculture, and they moved to Mozambique to use farming as a tool to share the gospel.

The Boones served in Mozambique from 1998-2003, until Mike’s repeated bouts of malaria forced them to leave that region of Africa. They settled in their current location—Cape Town, South Africa—where they teach Life Orientation classes in local schools and plant the seeds of the gospel in the lives of Cape Town’s children. Now on furlough, the Boones are serving as Missionaries in Residence at Gardner-Webb, where Boone teaches Old Testament Survey courses and shares his perspective on God’s global mission with hundreds of students. Boone has also shared his agricultural expertise, helping to launch Gardner-Webb’s first community garden. “I have been deeply impressed with Mike’s hospitality,” said Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian life and service at Gardner-Webb. “Whether it’s cultivating a garden, or as I’ve sensed, cultivating students’ spiritual lives, there is just a real gentleness about him, and a genuineness about him too.”



GWU PRESIDENT DR. FRANK BONNER NAMED BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT



Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner was elected vice president of the Big South Conference at the 2011 Big South Conference Council of Chief Executive Officers meeting. This is Bonner’s first year serving on the executive committee. Radford University President Penelope W. Kyle, the previous Conference vice president, was elected president of the Conference. She becomes the first woman to hold the title. UNC Asheville Chancellor Dr. Anne Ponder was re-elected league secretary. The most pressing topics of conversation entering Bonner’s term of leadership include the Conference’s strategic planning, championship formats, academic criteria and digital initiatives.

GARDNER-WEBB LAUNCHES OPERATIONS AT NEW CHARLOTTE CENTER

Building Symbolizes University’s Commitment to Lasting Presence in Charlotte

As part of its commitment to establishing a greater presence in Charlotte, N.C., Gardner-Webb University recently launched classes at its new Charlotte Center, a two-story, 25,000 sq. foot facility conveniently located at the Arrowood Road exit off Interstate 77 in Charlotte. The University-owned facility will house undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as office and conference spaces for the University’s development efforts in Charlotte. Gardner-Webb’s Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL) program has been operating in Charlotte since 1983. But by purchasing its own facility, Gardner-Webb established a permanent presence in Charlotte and enabled the development of new academic programs geared specifically toward the Charlotte community. “Our long-term goal is to design several graduate programs, particularly through the Godbold School of Business, that will address the particular needs of those living and working in Charlotte,” said Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner. “For example, we’re investigating a trust and wealth management program, and possibly even a banking program. Charlotte is the nation’s second-largest banking center, so we hope the Charlotte Center will become a real hub of activity for professional and graduate education in that area.” In addition to several GOAL and Godbold School of Business degree programs, the School of Education will also offer programs at the Charlotte location. For more information about the Charlotte Center, contact Charlotte Operations Manager Robert Mellbye at rmellbye@gardner-webb.edu.



GARDNER-WEBB HONORS OUTSTANDING FACULTY AND STAFF

Distinguished Awards Presented at Annual “Apples and Accolades” Ceremony

Every year, Gardner-Webb honors faculty and staff members for outstanding service to the University at the “Apples and Accolades” ceremony. People are recognized for excellence in full-time teaching, excellence in adjunct teaching, outstanding community engagement, staff dedication, and long service to the University. The Gardner-Webb Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Janet Land, professor of English and director of Gardner-Webb’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Land was praised for challenging students to think critically, for her faithful service as Faculty Chair, and for helping other Gardner-Webb teachers achieve their full potential through CETL’s resources for teaching development. The University also created a new “Adjunct Faculty Award,” celebrating adjuncts’ vital role in helping achieve the University’s academic mission. This year’s winner was Nan Francis Gregg, an adjunct instructor in the music department since 1975. The Adjunct Award will be named in her honor.

Community Engagement Awards were given in keeping with Gardner-Webb’s motto, “For God and Humanity.” Recipients are recognized for their civic responsibility through active participation and service to the community at large. This year’s staff award went to Teresa Davis, secretary in the Office of Christian Life and Service. The faculty winner was Dr. Tom Jones, professor of Biology and Dean of the Honors Program. Staff Member of the Year Awards were presented for outstanding dedication to the University and its students. Annette Simmons, office manager for student activities, was named the female recipient, and Scot Hull, network technician, was the male recipient.

FAITH, SERVICE, AND LEADERSHIP HALL OF FAME

President Dr. Frank Bonner also inaugurated the “Gardner-Webb Faith, Service, and Leadership Hall of Fame,” which recognizes faculty who have served the University for 40 years or more. The inaugural class of the “Hall of Fame” included four members: • Professor Hubert Dixon began teaching mathematics at Boiling Springs Junior College in 1935. “By the time of his death in 1976,” Bonner said, “Gardner-Webb College was an established four-year institution, and it was the leadership of professors like Hubert Dixon who solidified the school’s values and Christian commitment during those times of drastic transition.” Professor Dixon’s wife, Katy Ruth Dixon, was on hand to accept Dixon’s plaque. • Dr. Les Brown, Professor Emeritus of Biology, taught biology at Gardner-Webb from 1966 until 2006. Bonner praised Brown for his commitment to interdisciplinary creativity, his passion for his students’ success, and his volunteerism in the community. • Dr. Tony Eastman guided Gardner-Webb students in their exploration of American history and culture from 1966 until his retirement in 2011. “He has been adored by generations of students,” said Bonner, “not only for what he has taught them in the classroom but for his example of integrity outside it.” • Dr. Barry Hambright was professor of history and political science at Gardner-Webb from 1969 until his death in 2010. He is remembered for his empathy, his passion for students, and his role in establishing GWU’s Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL) program. “We lost an excellent professor and a dear friend last November,” said Bonner, “and when he passed, a significant part of our University’s history passed with him. But his memory lives on in those who knew and loved him.”

Faculty and staff members were also honored for their milestones of service to the University. Glenda Crotts, senior assistant to the President, was recognized for 30 years of service. Three employees were also presented 25-year service awards: Susan Carlisle Bell, professor of art; Dr. Cindy Miller, professor of nursing; and Stephen Sain, associate registrar. Fourteen employees received 10-year service awards: Brian Baker, head coach, track and field and cross country; Jim Corn, head coach, women’s tennis; Dr. Chris Davis, professor of English; Beth Davis, data coordinator for undergraduate admissions; Dr. Stefka Eddins, professor of biology; Dr. Paul Etter, professor of music; Dr. Linda Greene, professor of psychology and counseling; Dr. David Judge, professor of biology; Dr. Jim Lawrence, professor of communications; Wayne Merritt, manager of campus shop and post office; Dr. Teresa Phillips, professor of Spanish; Mary Roby, dean of libraries; Amanda Smith, assistant director of GOAL admissions; Dr. Carroll Smith, professor of education.



10 Year Service Award Winners

Through the Laughter and the Tears

In Emotional Ceremony, University Grants 273 Degrees and First-Ever Posthumous Honorary Bachelor's Degree

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” So says the band Semisonic in its song “Closing Time,” cutting to the emotional heart of college commencement ceremonies. Commencement is a time both of great joy and anticipation, but also of reluctant sadness, as one experience ends and another begins. The true depth of that emotional duality was on display at Gardner-Webb University’s 2011 summer commencement.

The University awarded degrees this summer to 273 graduates, who closed their journeys at Gardner-Webb and launched into a variety of new adventures. The day was particularly special for two students who were honored for maintaining the highest cumulative scholastic averages in their programs. Julian Lee, from Statesville, N.C., won the GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) Senior Scholastic Award for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) en route to his Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Jamie Lee Bowen, from Taylorsville, N.C., won the Senior Scholastic Award for the traditional undergraduate Day Program with a GPA of 3.93 while earning her Bachelor of Science in Health and Wellness.



Matt and Jenna Brown Ayers



Jeanna’s husband, Matt, son, Cameron, and her father Mark.

During his commencement address, David K. Wells, who received his Master of Science in Nursing, reflected on the ways his educational experience at Gardner-Webb bolstered his practice as a nurse educator. “My education was applicable to the work setting. It wasn’t just some esoteric concept being bestowed upon me. It was tangible,” he said. Wells insisted that he now has a “road map” for success, and he challenged his classmates to let their own similar road maps guide them.

But for one family, this commencement wasn’t supposed to be their destination. In an emotional ceremony, Gardner-Webb awarded its first-ever posthumous honorary bachelor’s degree to the family of Jeanna Brown Ayers, of Lexington, N.C., who passed away this spring only hours after giving birth to her first child, Cameron.

Ayers had completed 33 hours toward her B.S. in Business Administration, and was in good academic standing, when she tragically passed away. Her husband, Matt Ayers, carrying Cameron, and Jeanna’s father, Mark Brown, accepted the degree in her honor. “Jeanna truly valued education,” said Judy Badgett, Matt’s mother. “She was very happy to be attending Gardner-Webb, and she especially loved her religion classes.”

Badgett insists that while the family mourns the loss of Jeanna, they feel tremendously blessed to have Cameron. “He has already brought such joy and blessings to our family, and we are sure God has a special plan for that baby. We see Jeanna’s spirit in him.”



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A SWEET EXPERIENCE

Dr. Leonard Sweet, Dr. Ron Williams Lead Gardner-Webb University’s 2011 Pastors’ School

By Matt Walters



Dr. Leonard Sweet

In every age, the church faces the challenge of communicating the good news of Jesus in a culturally relevant way. But at Gardner-Webb University’s 2011 Pastors’ School, keynote speaker Dr. Leonard Sweet insisted that the church now finds itself in a transitional moment “as significant as the Protestant Reformation,” and that the current challenge—and the opportunity—to reach a new generation has never been greater.

A self-admitted “Gutenberg,” Sweet suggested that the initial Protestant Reformation was galvanized by the Gutenberg printing press, which ushered in an age of “words and points” that lasted five centuries. Sweet said that “Gutenbergs,” or members of his generation, process information by dividing texts into chunks—verses, or even words—and excavating those individual chunks for meaning. But according to Sweet, Martin Cooper’s invention of the cell phone in 1973 ushered in a new age, which he calls the “TGIF age”—Twitter, Google, iPhone, Facebook. The TGIF generation is an age not of “words and points” but of “metaphor and narrative,” in which people communicate and process information via images and stories built around central metaphors—a style Sweet insists is far more similar to Jesus’s own first-century paradigm than the Gutenberg world.

“TGIFers don’t hear points, and they don’t process information in chapters and verses. They communicate in images and stories. The TGIF world has its own language, and the church in our time has shown almost a willful refusal to learn the language of this TGIF culture,” Sweet said. He

insisted that if the church fails to communicate the gospel and elevate Jesus in the language of the TGIF generation, we will “miss our moment.” But if the church will study the new language, like missionaries training to reach a new culture, then we will discover a means of communicating the gospel that may reach an entire new generation.

According to Rev. John Bridges, director of church relations at Gardner-Webb and coordinator of the Pastors’ School, Sweet’s message was “of historic nature. It felt like we were sitting on the front row of a worldwide paradigm shift in faith. I think 200 years from now, people will look back at this current moment as the center-point of a new Reformation, and Len Sweet will be considered one of the Reformers.”

One of Bridges’s goals when he started the Gardner-Webb Pastors’ School four years ago was to offer ministers the chance to learn, converse, and reflect about themes related to church ministry, and to hear from leading thinkers like Sweet, who is an accomplished author and church historian and the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew University in Madison, N.J. The school also features some of Gardner-Webb’s leading scholars in religious studies.

“We invite one outside speaker and one person from our own staff who has an expertise in the year’s theme, and piece those two together as primary speakers,” Bridges says. Since the 2011 theme was “Jesus Manifesto: Focusing on Jesus Christ in the Twenty-First Century,” Bridges asked Dr. Ron Williams, Pauline scholar and professor of religious studies at Gardner-Webb, to share the podium with Sweet.

“One of our goals is to provide something very practical for our ministers, something they can hear and put into practice in their own churches and communities,” Bridges said. To that end, Williams offered an insightful discussion of Paul’s Christology, or Paul’s conception of Jesus and his ministry. He then introduced practical strategies for studying and teaching Paul Christologically, hinting toward several sermon series about the centrality of Jesus in Pauline writings.

The 71 ministers in attendance also participated in morning devotions led by Dr. Tracy Jessup, Gardner-Webb’s senior minister to the University, and breakout sessions related to Sweet’s and Williams’s presentations. Bridges insists that the School is not solely for Baptist ministers from the south, as pastors from several denominations and multiple states have attended.

Word is clearly traveling about the quality of Gardner-Webb’s Pastors’ School program. In fact, attendance has doubled since the annual School’s inception in 2008. “Our programs get better and better, and we still have room to grow.” For example, Bridges would love to see more women participants, and plans to line up a woman as a feature speaker in the coming years. Next year’s school will also feature breakout sessions geared toward specific topics in ministry, like youth ministry, led by experts in those areas.

Next year’s Pastors’ School, scheduled for May 28-30, 2012, will feature Dr. Walter Brueggemann as keynote speaker. As a teaser, Bridges also shared that the University has made contact with the likes of Richard Foster and Dallas Willard about possibly leading future Schools. What’s certain, though, is that the Pastors’ School will continue to deliver programs that are enriching and worthwhile for ministers of the gospel.





Scenic Impressions

*"All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word:
freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.." -Winston Churchill*

the Accepting Challenge

GWU Participates in President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge

By Noel T. Manning, II



Frank Bonner, Susan Manahan and Stephanie Richey

Gardner-Webb University gets a lot of phone calls, but it's not very often that the voice on the other line says, "This is the White House." But that's exactly what happened when, this summer, the White House issued the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge to colleges and universities across the country. To no one's surprise, Gardner-Webb answered the challenge.

Since his inauguration, President Obama has emphasized the importance of interfaith service as a way for different communities and faiths to come together for the common cause of human service. The White House recognized that many American colleges, universities and seminaries were already heeding the call to serve, so they launched the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge to spur on that commitment. In response, each participating campus will enter a yearlong commitment to specific community service programs.

"To be able to go through the application process and to have the proposal scrutinized by the White House, and then to be selected and invited to be a part of this is, I think, a great accomplishment for Gardner-Webb," said Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian life and service at Gardner-Webb. "At Gardner-Webb, we support community service in the broadest sense of the term—local, state, national and then global service. Since this is an interfaith campus challenge regarding community service, we can work alongside people of different faiths and exercise our common goals of service, without compromising our beliefs as a Christian university," Jessup added.

As part of the challenge, Gardner-Webb will continue and expand its partnership with the Cleveland County Potato Project, and Jessup says the University will also work with the Cleveland County Inter-faith Alliance to fight local homelessness. GWU will also team up with Rachel's Challenge, a national outreach designed to assist middle and high schools with campaigns focusing on anti-violence and anti-bullying through compassion and random acts of kindness.

To kick off the President's Challenge, a Gardner-Webb delegation including President Frank Bonner, Community Engagement Coordinator Stephanie Richey, and Service Learning Program Coordinator Susan Manahan, joined 193 other institutions in Washington D.C. for two days of workshops and lectures focusing on community service. The U.S. Department of Education's Brenda Girton-Mitchell was one of the coordinators of the event. "It's a thrill just to know that the President of the United States of America is saying, 'Good work, keep it up.' Ours is a global world, and we can't be in boxes just talking to people who we already understand. Our job is to expand those boundaries," Girton-Mitchell said.

Joshua DuBois, executive director for the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships applauded schools like Gardner-Webb. "This is truly a historic occasion. Never before in the history of our nation have colleges, universities, community

colleges and theology schools come together around the goal of interfaith cooperation for service around the nation. You are a key part in forming the ties that bind our country together."

Bonner said he gained a tremendous amount of perspective during his two days in the Capitol. "It's been inspiring to realize that so many schools across the country are doing this, and to come to understand what a real impact it can have across the country. This is a nationwide undertaking, but it's very much focused on the particular communities where the colleges are located," he said. The fact that national results will be achieved through local dedication and commitment is, according to Bonner, "a very special aspect of this whole initiative."

Richey feels this is a perfect fit for Gardner-Webb. "One of the biggest benefits we got from this event was the sharing of ideas. We were able to hear and see what other colleges and universities are doing, and to share our resources with them, and best of all, the White House has insisted that they will provide whatever resources we need to help us in this endeavor. It's

great to have that support," she said.

Gardner-Webb has already started the process of collaborating with other colleges and universities throughout the Carolinas on service-related issues that may provide mutual benefit for all involved.

Manahan feels that since GWU is a Christian university, we have a unique niche in aiding humanity. "Christian universities have a big part in helping others, and the White House realizes that. Schools like Gardner-Webb are on the forefront of this challenge because we are already assisting those in need," Manahan said.

Most importantly, the President's Campus Challenge offers just one more opportunity for Gardner-Webb to exercise the commitment to service that is inherent in its motto, "Pro Deo et Humanitate" (for God and Humanity). As Jessup puts it, "Faith, Service and Leadership is not just something that we like to put on a logo or on advertisements. It's something that's instilled and embedded in the life of this University."



ONLINE
EXCLUSIVE

www.gardner-webb.edu/onlineexclusive



The ortrait of a First Lady

Glenda Crotts, Assistant to the President, insists that much of Gardner-Webb's success over the last six years is due to the leadership of President Dr. Frank Bonner. "You've heard the old expression, though: 'Behind every good man is a good woman,'" Crotts says with a smile. "Well, Dr. Bonner definitely has someone who helps him." That someone is Flossie Bonner, Dr. Bonner's wife of 42 years and the woman Crotts calls "a small package of pleasant dynamite."

When asked about Flossie Bonner, almost everyone mentions her genuine sincerity, a quality GWU Director of Donor Stewardship Dawn Anthony calls a "a true gift. Ever since I've known Flossie, she has motivated me through her graciousness, her kindness, and her professionalism. She is a wonderful role model for our students and a great asset to our community," Anthony said.

Above all, Flossie Bonner is a listener. "Whether she's speaking to dignitaries or old friends, her humility puts people at ease," Crotts says. Like most humble people, she would rather listen to others than talk about herself. Recently, though, Mrs. Bonner shared a bit of her story with the Gardner-Webb Magazine, discussing her faith, her roles as wife, mother and teacher, and her passion for the Gardner-Webb community.

GW: You grew up in Chester, S.C., and your parents were both teachers. Would you talk about how your childhood influenced the person you are today?

FB: Well, my father taught textiles at the vocational school in Chester County, and my mother taught fifth grade and then junior high English. Growing up with two teachers as parents was a wonderful life. My parents were very supportive of everything my brother and I wanted to accomplish academically. Of course, they didn't have a lot of money, but they sacrificed and worked very hard to make sure that we could go to school where we wanted and have the opportunities we wanted.

GW: You and Dr. Bonner have been very active as members of First Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C., for years. When did you come to know Christ, and why is church involvement such an important aspect of your life?

FB: I've just always known Christ. I was baptized in the 2nd or 3rd grade at First Baptist Church in Chester, where I grew up, and my family was in church whenever the doors were open. It was a very progressive church, and there were lots of great activities for the youth, and I got to know so many good people in that church from a very early age. Now, Frank is a deacon at First Baptist Shelby, and there is such a wonderful support system there. I can't imagine how people cope with difficult situations if they don't believe, or if they don't have church friendships to help support them. I mean, no matter what happens to me, whether it's a little problem or a big problem, I know there is a loving God who is listening and hears my prayers, and I know there are people who care about me and want to support me. That hope, that basic faith in Christianity, is not something I would want to be without.

GW: Like your parents, you became a teacher, and you taught junior high and high school math in Anderson, S.C., and then in Shelby, N.C., for more than 25 years. What was your teaching philosophy, and what was most valuable about your experience as a teacher?

FB: I was a pretty strict disciplinarian. I felt that you just can't learn if you're not paying attention, so I was very strict. I also believed in a lot of homework, because to learn math you've got to do it and do it and do it. Sometimes, students didn't understand why I was making them do the things we did in class. Many times now, though, former students will come up and give me a hug, and tell me, "Now I understand why you made us do all those math problems." I hope they realize I was trying to teach them more than just math, but I was trying to build relationships with them and teach them character. When they come up and give me those hugs, those are the most rewarding parts of it.

GW: Your daughters, Alison and Florence, were still children when you began teaching. How did you balance the demands of being a full-time wife and mother, while still pursuing your own career as a teacher?

FB: I just had to get organized. I would wake up early and get housework done before we left for school, and then Frank and I had to work together in the afternoons to make sure the girls did each of their activities. We cooked meals and ate well, and I don't really remember a lot of the busyness of the time anymore. As every parent knows, those years just fly by. I just had to stay organized, and get things done when I could get them done, and not at my family's expense, because they came first.

GW: You're quite the fitness guru, and last fall, you ran your first half-marathon and finished 3rd in your age group! When did fitness become such a vital part of your life?

FB: When our girls were teenagers, I told Frank I was going to be a runner, so I went out and started running one day. I came back only minutes later swearing I wouldn't do it anymore. But I ended up taking a class at the YMCA that helped gradually get me started, and that's all it took. Now, I exercise every morning; it's just the first thing I do. There's not a question of whether I'll exercise today. It's just something I have to do for myself.



Flossie and Frank Bonner

GW: You've been involved with Gardner-Webb in several capacities now for nearly 25 years, and now you're the First Lady. What have been some of the rewarding aspects of being a part of this community?

FB: It sounds like a generalization, but the people are what it's all about. You can't meet a better student body anywhere. You look at what the student body here does, without being told—the things they achieve and the ways they support one another—I just don't think there is a better group of students. There is also a real genuineness about the spirituality and sincerity of Gardner-Webb employees. They truly care about one another. I hope Gardner-Webb never loses that personal touch, because you just don't get that everywhere.

GW: The title "First Lady" doesn't come with a job description, but how do you envision your role as Gardner-Webb's First Lady, and how do you try to fulfill that vision?

FB: More than anything, I feel like I need to support Frank in what he's doing, and enjoy it because of how much he enjoys it. And he truly does. I love getting to be involved in planning events, and I especially love talking with people and getting to know them, but I don't feel like it's my job to run Gardner-Webb. I'm open to help in any way I can, and I just want to be a supporter.

GW: When you're gone, how do you want to be remembered? What do you hope your legacy will be?

FB: I hope people say I was a good person, and that I treated people well. Maybe I was a little fun to be with sometimes. I just feel like you need to value your friendships. We need to value relationships with each other, with family and friends, and with God. Things come and go, but those relationships are just too important to miss.

Housekeeping for the Homeless

By Chelsea Usher

When asked about her group of housekeeping employees, Ann Dellinger, director of facilities services at Gardner-Webb, can hardly contain her admiration. "They are just the most giving people I've ever met," she says. "You let them know there's a need, and they meet it. That's just their nature."

Members of the GWU community probably don't thank the housekeepers enough for their "giving nature." It's tough to quantify generosity, but in the average month the GWU housekeeping staff replaces 3,600 rolls of toilet paper, changes 3,600 trash bags, installs 500 rolls of paper towels, and picks up countless scraps of litter around campus. Still, it's what the housekeepers give beyond their everyday jobs that is the best representation of their generous spirit.

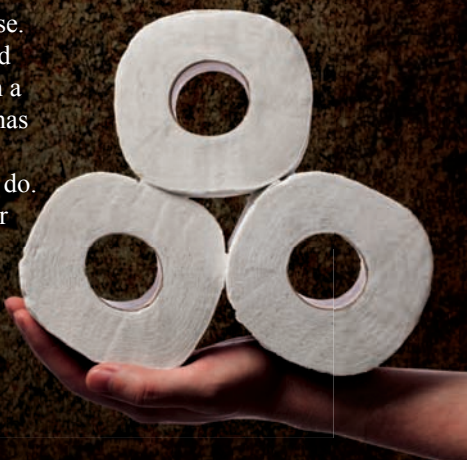
Earlier this year, Dellinger saw an ad in The Shelby Star in which the Shelter asked for specific toiletry items. Dellinger, who is responsible for ordering the University's toiletry supplies, thought, "I can get all of these in bulk at prices we can afford." She knew reimbursing the University for the toiletries would be cheaper than purchasing them on her own.

Though she wanted to ask her staff of housekeepers if they would like to contribute, she didn't want to burden them financially. "I wanted to make sure I wasn't asking too much, so I decided to ask them to consider giving one dollar a month."

The day after sending the note to her staff, Dellinger arrived in her office to find a surprise. "There was a pile of money on my desk," she said. "And not just ones, but fives and tens!" Though she had anticipated gathering money for several months before making the first purchase, the staff had donated such a large sum that she was immediately able to deliver 200 trash bags and 96 rolls of toilet paper, and the staff has continued to give generously toward the homeless shelter cause.

Dellinger insists that the group's compassion for others, and for each other, characterizes everything they do. "We had one individual who was recovering from cancer, and they immediately got a prayer chain going for him. That's just who they are," she said. Scottie Campbell, a longtime member of the housekeeping staff, agreed with Dellinger. "If I get caught up and someone needs help, I'll go and help them out so they can get to whatever else they need to do," he says. "We try to help each other."

Campbell says he works diligently because of his pride for his job, and for Gardner-Webb. "To me," he says, "picking up the trash is just showing kindness and love and letting people know that you care." How much is that caring worth? Just ask the Shelby Homeless Shelter.



PARTNERS IN Slime

GWU Alumna, Student Bond During Florida Internship

By Jordan-Ashley Baker, The Shelby Star

Jackie Jarvis and Alesha Shorts never met each other along the winding sidewalks or inside a chemistry classroom at Gardner-Webb University. The science scholars' paths finally crossed this summer in Tallahassee, Fla., at a prestigious internship program at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, where Jarvis recruited Shorts for in-depth exposure to world-class research techniques. But the pair has more in common than a love for science.

Jarvis, 25, grew up in Kings Mountain, N.C., and graduated from GWU in 2008 with a degree in chemistry and biology. Now a graduate student at Florida State University, Jarvis wanted to recruit up-and-coming scientists from her alma mater into the magnet lab for a chance to be part of research that could change the world. Mentor Jarvis found a protégé in Shorts, a Cherryville, N.C., native and a rising senior at Gardner-Webb.

"There's actually a world outside of where I came from," 21-year-old Shorts said, laughing. "It's been such a wonderful experience." Shorts, an environmental sciences major, was one of only 19 college students selected from 180 applicants from across the

country to participate in the magnet laboratory, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the state of Florida. During the eight-week program, Shorts and the other interns worked with their mentors, scientists and engineers in the labs, and attended weekly conferences about science concepts.

Jarvis and Shorts used unique ion cyclotron resonance (ICR) instruments to analyze petroleum samples taken from the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The ICR instruments help scientists analyze complex mixtures like petroleum. Jarvis said once they learn more about what comprises petroleum, they can help companies understand how to make more efficient fuels.

Even as the program helped Jarvis expand her research knowledge, she also learned more about herself as a mentor and teacher. "It helps me learn what I know well and what I don't really know well," Jarvis said. "Seeing Alesha's face, and seeing what she understands and what she doesn't, helps me know how

well I'm communicating and understanding things myself."

The pair also bonded outside the laboratory through activities such as a sailing lesson and a trip to the beach in Panama City, Fla. Their Cleveland County connection has also helped bridge the sometimes overwhelming gap between the hills of North Carolina and a research lab in Florida.

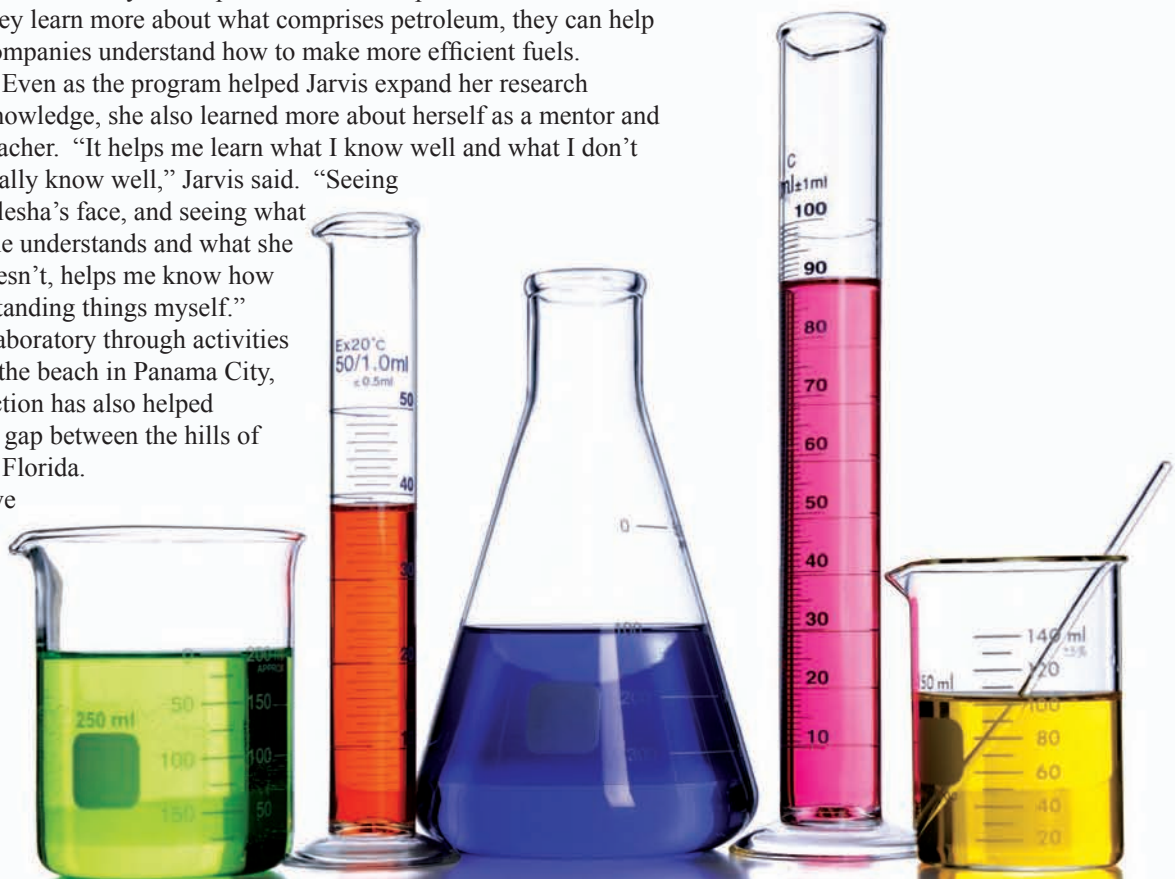
"We could talk about the classes we liked at Gardner-Webb, what's changed at the school, and the professors," Shorts said. Shorts insists that the research experience won't end now that the internship is finished. After graduating from Gardner-Webb, she plans to follow in her mentor Jarvis's footsteps and attend graduate school.



Alesha Shorts



Jackie Jarvis





Sprouting New Life

GWU's Roots in the Emerging Community Garden Movement

By Matt Renfer

A close eye on the landscape in Boiling Springs, N.C. reveals a number of freshly sprouted community gardens.

Perhaps less apparent, but equally important, is that each project's origins are inherently rooted in Gardner-Webb University. No less than four individual gardens and one farmer's market, all closely tied to the University, have come to fruition in the span of two years—the culmination of invigorated community involvement through volunteered growth.

The first seeds of the movement can be traced to 2009, when the Foothills Farmer's Market came to Boiling Springs. Current Gardner-Webb Coordinator of Community Engagement, Stephanie Richey ('10), and current senior Brittany Mote were instrumental in launching the market as a satellite campus at the Ruby Hunt YMCA.

Then, during the spring 2010 semester, one of the more notable gardens fulfilled GWU's commitment to community service by becoming a hub for volunteers looking to feed the hungry with harvested potatoes. The story of the Cleveland County Potato Project (see "Giving From the Ground Up," Winter/Spring 2010 Issue) has caused a widespread ripple effect, eventually gaining the attention of the White House and prompting the University's participation in the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge ("Accepting the Challenge," page 12).

But arguably the most tangible proof of University support for the local foods movement came during the Spring 2011 semester, when Richey and Mote were granted permission to start the University's official community garden. Fueled entirely by volunteers, the support of GWU faculty, and funded by the SGA, the garden's produce will be donated to feed the Children's Homes of Cleveland County.

"Because of the classes I took and the education I received," said Richey, "the local foods movement is something I learned a lot about—something I'm personally passionate about as a result of being a graduate of Gardner-Webb."

The University's official garden wasn't the only one to sprout this year, as another came to bear fruit with the backing of the Ruby Hunt YMCA and the local Broad River Community Church.

"Ultimately, the goal of our garden is to bring people together and provide for the community," said Joseph Hamby, coordinator of the garden and '09 GWU alumnus. "We want to facilitate a way that different people, different cultures can all come together." With a number of youth groups involved, the goal is to donate all grown produce to fight local hunger.

In the summer of 2011, yet another community garden was launched by a member of the Gardner-Webb community. Kelly Brame, coordinator of leadership and volunteerism, started a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) garden to sell weekly shares of fresh produce.

While each of the gardens and farmer's market share a common theme of service to the community, the bloom in recent months can be attributed to a number of varying factors.

"I think food has been an issue—a growing issue in the last decade, and probably the last couple of decades," said Brame. "But it's intensified with each year, especially with media exposure like Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution,"—the 2010-premiered television show whose aim is to combat obesity by offering healthier school meals.

"We want children to be healthier," said Mote, a health and wellness major, referring to vegetable donations to the Cleveland County Children's homes. "The GWU community garden could be their complete food source as far as vegetables go. We're just trying to get them as much as we can."

Hunger is another factor—currently compounded with rising food prices, high unemployment, and a weakened U.S. dollar. "Once you start taking away the hunger aspect of poverty," said Hamby, "you can start focusing on other issues like literacy."

Still, the prevailing motivators for launching the gardens may be less a question of "why?" and more a question of "why not?"

"It's a lot about doing what you can for where you are," Hamby said, elaborating on his project's mission.

"We realized we have all these incredible resources around us taken for granted for so long that we can be using to combat a lot of the issues that we have."

The new wave of community gardens in Boiling Springs have arrived, but will they dig in and take root—providing practical needs for Boiling Springs and the surrounding community?

Brame, for one, hopes his CSA garden does. "I think it's a good thing. Can we keep it going? That's a good question...whether we can make the growing of it sustainable."

And if the Gardner-Webb community garden is to thrive, Mote insists it will be because of the effort of not only "Gardner-Webb students and faculty but also people from the community."

"It's so much more than planting a seed," says Richey. "We have learned so much through this process, so I think it's just going to continue to grow."



We-Are FAMILY

GWU Football Kicks Off a New Era with Head Coach Ron Dickerson, Jr.

By Matt Walters

Any new NCAA Division I head football coach feels the pressure to build a winning program. But ask new Gardner-Webb Head Coach Ron Dickerson, Jr., how he spells “win,” and he’ll always say the same thing: F-A-M-I-L-Y.

“The thing I look for this season—our number one goal—is how we’re going to come together as a family,” Dickerson said before the start of the 2011 season. “Whether we’re talking about the coaching staff, or our players, or even the relationship between this football program, this University and this community—special things are going to happen around here if we pick each other up, if we respect and support each other, and if we truly become a family.”

As soon as he arrived in Boiling Springs, Dickerson plunged into all the activities one might expect to occupy a head coach: watching film, game-planning, and burning up the recruiting trail. But he and his staff have also dedicated themselves to community service. Dickerson has given motivational speeches, his team has participated in service opportunities around campus, and they even kicked off the 2011 season not with a special practice, but with a day of fun with children at the local YMCA.



to win football games, and that’s my job. But we also need this community to embrace our team, to come out and be excited on Saturdays.” And then there’s that word again: “It’s got to be like everyone coming out to a big family reunion.”

A family man himself, Dickerson began transforming his staff into a family by literally hiring his father, the accomplished player and coach Ron Dickerson, Sr., to coach the defensive line. But Dickerson’s ultimate vision for the Gardner-Webb football family is much larger than his own flesh and blood.



GWU Football Staff

“There are some great people at this University. I’ve been encouraged by how grateful, how compassionate and kind people are around here. My football players will be in that category,” Dickerson said. “We are going to win football games in the years to come, but even more important, our men will be men of character and integrity. I’m going to hold them to a high standard, because that’s what families do.”

Dickerson says integrity and character are the “backbone” of Gardner-Webb. “The values this University stands for are the values I stand for,” he said. “I am blessed to be the head coach here, and one of the things I tell my players is to never take anything for granted. Always honor God first in everything you do, and great things will happen. We’ve got to humble ourselves, honor God, and respect each other if we want to be winners, and that’s what we plan to do around this program.”

So what can fans expect to see from their ‘Dogs on the field in 2011, beyond the tenacious defense and electrifying offense Dickerson promised when he was hired? “Here’s how I’m going to answer that: If you want to see what the Runnin’ Bulldogs are all about in 2011, come out to Spangler Stadium,” said Dickerson. “And don’t just come and watch—cheer! Have a good time! There’s no need to feel embarrassed to act a little crazy,” he said, smiling. “We’re all family.”

GWU Football Remaining Schedule 2011

Saturday, October 8
GWU vs. Liberty at
Boiling Springs, NC
4:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 15
GWU vs. Presbyterian at
Clinton, SC
2:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 22
GWU vs. Coastal Carolina at
Conway, SC
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 29
GWU vs. Charleston Southern at
Boiling Springs, NC (Homecoming)
1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 3
GWU vs. Virginia State at
Boiling Springs, NC
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 12
GWU vs. Stony Brook at
Boiling Springs, NC
1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 19
GWU vs. Virginia Military Institute
at Lexington, VA
1:30 p.m.

Raising the Bar

By Matt Walters



Christoph Hutschalik

He is from Grossroehrsdorf, Germany. She is from Franklin, N.C. He’s now studying international business at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands. She’s working on a Ph.D. in biomedical science at West Virginia University. He can grab heavy objects and, spinning his body like a top, launch them dozens of feet away. She can fling herself over bars that tower above her, using only a stick. But for all their differences, Gardner-Webb track and field teammates Christoph Hutschalik (’10) and Carrie Long (’11) will be best remembered for what they shared: tenacity, determination, and the courage to become champions, both in their sport and in the classroom.

Every year, the Big South Conference recognizes one male and female student from each sport with a Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, a tribute to their combined athletic and academic success. Since those winners are chosen from among all the Conference’s athletes in their particular sport, the award is one of the highest honors the Big South bestows. Since track and field is a co-ed sport, there are two indoor and two outdoor track and field awards each year—in 2011, Hutschalik and Long took home all four of them.

For Hutschalik, the challenge to succeed as an international student was always just as important as the challenge to be a champion thrower. “I had clear goals in mind when I started at Gardner-Webb,” he said. “I wanted to be as good a student as any American could be, and I wanted to win the Big South Championship title and compete at the NCAA Regionals. All it took was commitment.”

Inspired by professors who he says were “role models,” and teammates who pushed him to succeed, Hutschalik became a four-time all-conference performer and a two-time NCAA qualifier in the hammer throw. He set school records in both the hammer throw and weight throw events, winning the 2011 Big South Indoor Championships with his record throw of 19.27 meters in the weight throw, and the 2009 Big South Outdoor Championships by throwing the hammer a school record 58.70 meters.

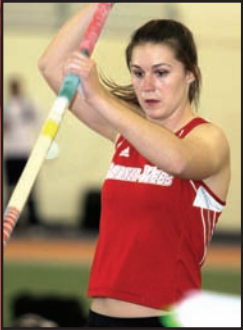
Not only did Hutschalik achieve success that any American student would envy, he even graduated in December of 2010 with a bachelor’s in international business. A four-time Big South All-Academic Team member, he earned an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship for the spring 2011 season, one of only 29 male student-athletes to receive that honor. He earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA) in graduate studies while finishing his collegiate career. Now studying in the Netherlands, Hutschalik says he hopes to become the first person in his family to earn a doctorate degree.

Long’s list of accomplishments and honors are equally impressive. Along with her Bachelor of Science in biology, she received the Senior Scholastic Award at commencement last spring for maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA during her tenure at Gardner-Webb. She was a three-time Big South All-Academic Team member, and in 2011, was one of five recipients of the Conference’s George A. Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence, the very highest Big South academic honor.

A four-time all conference performer, Long vaulted onto the scene as a freshman in 2008, winning the Atlantic Sun Conference Championship with her first school-record vault of 3.70 meters. That mark qualified her for the NCAA East Region meet. Long was, once again, a force in the pole vault event in 2011, breaking her own previous school record by clearing 3.75 meters in a first-place finish at the Terrier Relays. That mark was the highest in the conference last season.

Even with all their awards and accolades, Long and Hutschalik say it’s the people they’ll remember when they think back on their time at Gardner-Webb. “The Gardner-Webb experience was one of the best periods of my life,” Long said. “I have enjoyed countless unforgettable moments with people who will be lifelong friends.”

“The essence of Gardner-Webb, for me, was the spirit of community on campus,” Hutschalik added. “Anyone can find their place and their talents and develop them. Now that I have left Gardner-Webb, it is more obvious than ever what a profound influence the people at Gardner-Webb had on my life.”



Carrie Long

A STROKE OF GENIUS

BY PAUL FOSTER & MATT WALTERS



Since he was four years old, Dusty Quattlebaum, of Boiling Springs, N.C., has lived and breathed baseball. A strong kid with a powerful left-handed stroke, Quattlebaum starred for his local Crest High Chargers and anchored the Shelby Post 82 American Legion baseball team’s lineup for several seasons. No one was surprised when Quattlebaum signed to play college ball for ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) member N.C. State University.

But Quattlebaum never felt at home with the Wolfpack, and after his sophomore year, he transferred to Gardner-Webb—a move he says has made all the difference. “I’m a local, so I grew up being familiar with Gardner-Webb. It’s just a big change from where I started school at N.C. State. The class sizes are smaller, which I like. The teachers actually know who I am, and I can have real conversations with them. And I’m excited to be a part of an up-and-coming baseball program,” said Quattlebaum.

After transferring, NCAA rules stipulated that Quattlebaum had to redshirt the 2010 season, but he stormed onto the national scene in 2011 like a man with something to prove—and not just on the baseball diamond.

Quattlebaum was a two-time Big South Player of the Week in 2011, and was named National Hitter of the Week by the National College Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) in March. He hit .320 with six homers and 49 RBI (runs batted in) in 2011, and led the Big South Conference and finished 13th nationally with 25 doubles—only three away from tying the conference’s single-season doubles record. He also led the Runnin’ Bulldogs in home runs and two-out RBI, and was fourth on the team in hitting.

But equally impressive were Quattlebaum’s stats in the classroom. The sports management major maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA (grade point average) for the year, earning a spot on the Capital One/CoSIDA First-Team Academic All-America. He is the first baseball player in school history to achieve that feat. To cap it all off, Quattlebaum was named the Big South Conference Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

The always-humble Quattlebaum downplays the herculean effort it took to achieve such success, but he did admit, “It’s tough. It’s about sacrificing. It’s that combination of practice and preparation. Often that meant staying up late to study. Whatever it takes.” Quattlebaum says he was “surprised” to receive all the awards he racked up, and that since he takes pride in his academic work, the recognition “made all the sacrifice feel worth it.”

Quattlebaum will return for his senior season with the ‘Dogs in 2012, and he plans to attend graduate school for physical therapy after leaving Gardner-Webb. But the passion for the game still courses through his veins. “My ultimate dream would be to still play baseball,” he says. “As long as somebody gives me an opportunity, I’ll play.”

Whether it’s on the baseball diamond or in a physical therapy program, Quattlebaum’s track record proves he’ll be successful. For now, Runnin’ Bulldog fans are just glad to have one more season to watch that sweet left-handed stroke.



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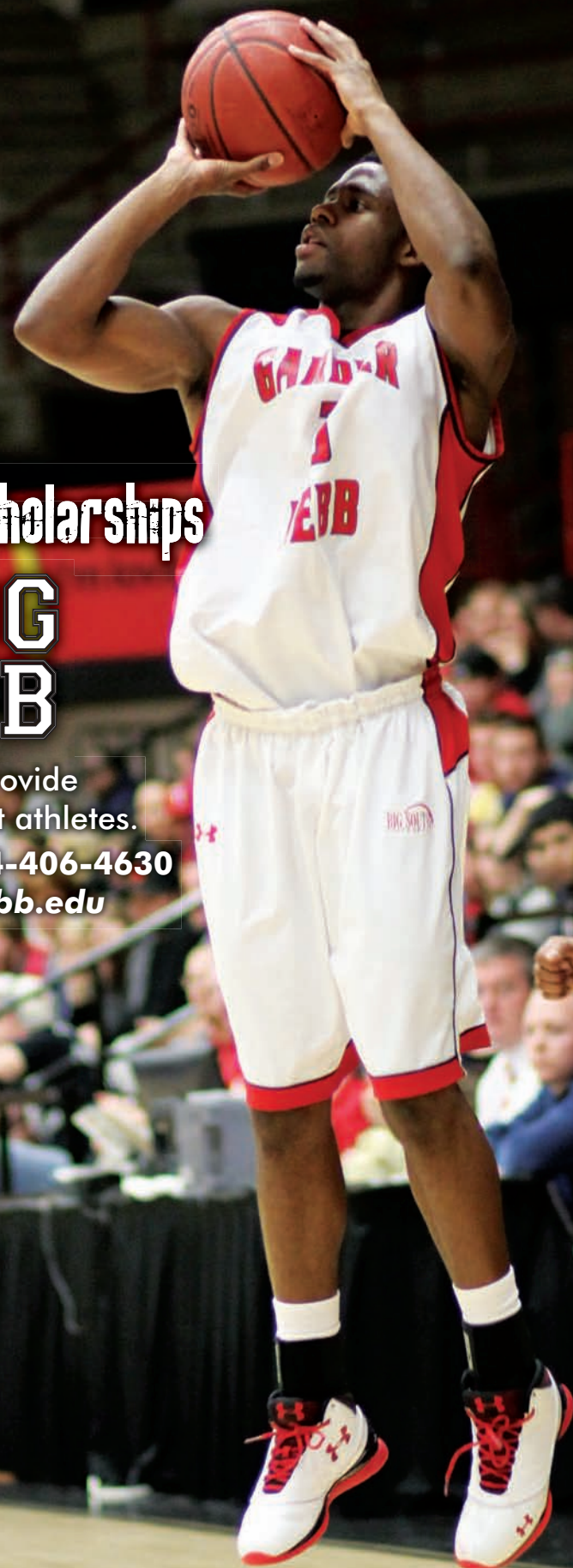
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A YET 26M

By Paul Foster

Are you good with puzzles? How about, say, a difficult jigsaw puzzle where the pieces have to be matched just right in order to create the finished product? That's how Emily Dotson describes accounting.

"I love the feeling of accomplishment that comes when you put all the pieces together. Bank examinations are like that too. You have to look for the clues or pieces to find the big picture or the status of the bank," said Dotson.

You don't have to talk to Dotson for long before

realizing she's a true puzzle master. Just ask the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), who hired Dotson only days after she graduated from Gardner-Webb in May 2011.

Dotson, a native of Charlotte, N.C., graduated with a double major in accounting and finance, and earned a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA (grade point average). Today, she works as a Financial Institution Specialist with the FDIC in their field office in Charlotte.

The FDIC was created in 1933 after thousands of bank failures. Its purpose is to preserve and promote public confidence in the U.S. financial system by insuring deposits in banks and thrift institutions of at least \$250,000.

Dotson explains, "Unlike many Government agencies, the FDIC is not supported by taxpayers. The FDIC is supported by insurance premiums paid by the banks." The FDIC also directly examines and supervises over 4,900 banks for operational safety and soundness. It employs more than 7,000 individuals and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with regional and field offices throughout the country.

Dotson has had her eye on the FDIC for quite some time. "As a freshman, I found out about an internship with the FDIC. I tried to apply several times over the next two years, but they wanted to hire someone closer to graduation.

As a junior I got the internship," said Dotson. This provided her with hands on experience and as a result, she was offered a full time job.

Dotson says she was interested in accounting even before coming to GWU, but during her studies it grew into a passion. Dotson said, "I learned a lot about ways I could take advantage of the opportunities presented in the business world from my professors in the Godbold School of Business. Their teaching and mentoring was inspiring and is probably the biggest force behind my passion for business."

Dotson plans to become a licensed bank examiner within the next four years and also hopes to get her CPA (Certified Public Accountant). One thing's for sure. No matter what, Dotson will make all the pieces and numbers fit.



Emily Dotson



A TERROR IN the Skies

BY MATT WALTERS

He was trapped. His B-24 bomber was hit, spinning and plummeting toward the German soil below, and Cecil “Cotton” Bolick was pinned to the side of the plane by the sheer force of the spin. When the blow occurred, he had pulled the cable beneath his seat, freeing him from the plane’s top turret where he was stationed as a gunner. But the plane’s hydraulics systems had been hit, and the doors on his side of the fuselage wouldn’t open. Unable to pull himself to the catwalk and out the other side’s doors, Bolick must have known he was doomed.

It wasn’t supposed to end like this. A native of Cramerton, N.C., and a four-sport star in high school, Bolick had enlisted at 19 in the Army Air Corps and had been trained as a top turret gunner. He had escaped numerous close calls, including a few in his very first mission, “Operation Tidal Wave” over Ploesti, Romania, on August 1, 1943—the day that has come to be called “Black Sunday.”

He went on to fly 24 more missions over the next nine months, completing his required tour of duty. But his pilot, who’d been wounded and temporarily grounded, still had six missions to fly, and Bolick’s desire to finish with his crew outweighed his longing for home. “We were just like a family,” Bolick remembers, “so of course we all volunteered to fly the six more together.” And now, during the second of those six extra missions in March 1944, Bolick’s plane was burning over Friedrichshafen, and he was trapped.

What started next was a string of events straight out of a Steven Spielberg movie script. The plane reversed its spin, hurling him across the fuselage and out the open doors, only seconds before exploding in the skies above him. Bolick and three others managed to escape the plane; six of his friends were killed in the blast.

As he floated to the ground, unsure of what awaited him below, Bolick realized his right foot was badly wounded, dangling by only a few tendons. He was found first by a German farmer and his daughters, who insisted they were not Nazis. They stuffed his leg with straw to stop the bleeding, and held off another German civilian who wanted to attack Bolick with a pitchfork.

Bolick was then shuffled from prison to prison, escaping several angry mobs of German civilians and always refusing to answer interrogators’ questions. “We had been trained, so we knew exactly what they were going to ask in those prisons,” Bolick says. “They told me my crew had already been there and given them everything, so I might as well just tell them what I knew. So I said, ‘If you already got it from them, you don’t need it from me.’” To coerce him to speak, the Germans began threatening to amputate his mangled foot, but he maintained his resolve until they finally sent him to a regular prison hospital in Obermansfeld.

There, Bolick met a Polish surgeon who was also a prisoner of war. Bolick remembers him as “a big strong man, a really compassionate person. He truly cared for everybody, and it worried him to death because he couldn’t get any anesthetics to work with.” With nothing to dull the pain—and with four people holding Bolick—the doctor conducted a series of skin and muscle grafting operations to repair Bolick’s leg, and miraculously, the operations worked. Bolick regained the use of his foot, and after finally being shipped to Stalag Luft I, a prison camp in Barth, he was liberated by the Soviets on April 30, 1945.

Bolick began his life of freedom in 1946 at Gardner-Webb College where, only months after having had his foot nearly amputated, 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. “Those two years at Gardner-Webb were the best two of my single life,” Bolick remembers. “It was wonderful.”

Bolick went on to earn his bachelor’s degree from Catawba College, and he would teach, coach, and serve as Athletic Director at West Mecklenburg High School and Charlotte Country Day School for the next 33 years. He 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.

The word “miraculous” sometimes gets thrown around too freely, and Bolick is hesitant to say “miracle” about that day over Friedrichshafen, when so many of his “family” were lost. But given all that he has accomplished, all that he has meant to so many people throughout his 87 years, it seems more than just luck that Bolick’s burning B-24 reversed its spin that day. “I tell you,” says Bolick, “I’ve been very fortunate. The Lord’s been good to me, and I just feel like everything’s happened for a reason.”



CHECKMATE

*Gardner-Webb Graduate Admissions Counselor Wins
Professional MMA Debut*

By Matt Walters



Those outside the sport of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) might suggest any number of ways to finish the sentence, “MMA is a lot like ...” A demolition derby. Watching two trains collide. The most painful thing imaginable. But for Brandon Beach ’07, GWU graduate admissions counselor and professional fighter, MMA is a lot like—chess?

At first glance, the analogy might seem like a stretch. But Beach insists that what is challenging and ultimately beautiful about Mixed Martial Arts is not violence and force, but strategy and precision. “MMA is more about what you know mentally, and how quickly you can make strategic moves, than what you can do physically,” he says. “You see guys trying to learn these elaborate moves, and they get in the ring and throw 200 punches in one round. They’re just flailing around.”

Beach says his style is much more calculated, and more controlled. “I try to focus on getting to certain positions instead of on particular strikes and submissions. I approach slowly, and then move quickly to certain positions that will give me an advantage.”

The drama of the match, then, is like the drama of the chessboard. Just as certain pieces can only strike from certain spots on the board, certain of his opponents’ moves and submissions can’t touch him if Beach is in the right position. If he masters the mind game, he wins the fight, no matter how strong the other fighter is physically. “If I can put him in a position where certain strikes won’t work, then I can predict what move he’ll try, and I know how to counter it, and I’m three moves ahead of him. Then I’ve got him.”

Beach has been developing this strategy since he began practicing martial arts at age 7, and his background as a wrestler gives him a decided advantage on the mat. Beach had a strong collegiate wrestling career at Gardner-Webb, winning 58 total matches and 20 in his senior year alone.

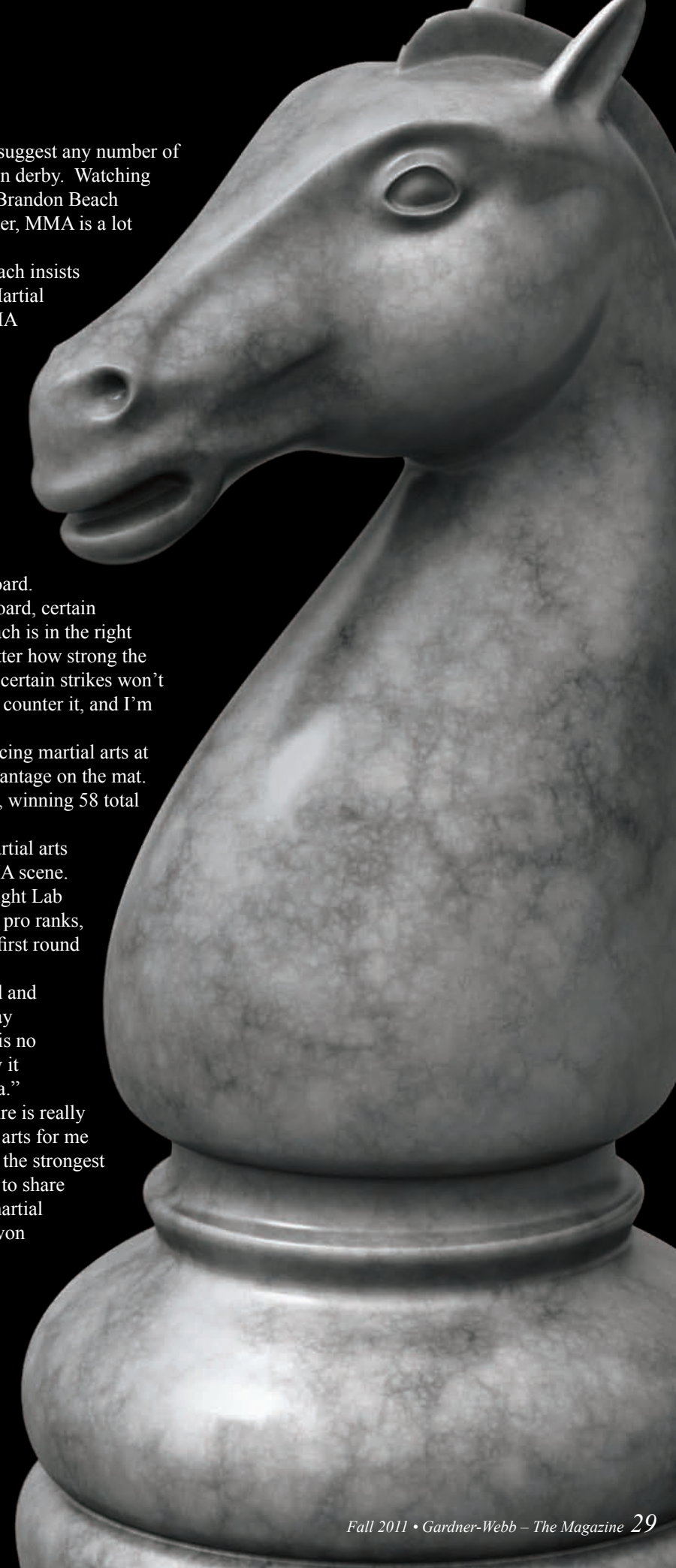
After graduating, Beach decided to combine his interest in martial arts with his skills as a wrestler, and stormed onto the Charlotte MMA scene. In five amateur fights, Beach posted a 4-1 record and won the Fight Lab Heavyweight Championship. Beach then decided to jump to the pro ranks, crushing Adam Dematteo by Technical Knockout (TKO) in the first round of his pro debut in July.

“The next step,” Beach says, “is just to continue working hard and lining up good professional fights, and hopefully fighting my way into the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) ranks.” There is no hesitation when you ask Beach about his ultimate goal. “I know it sounds big, but I want to be considered the best fighter of my era.”

But Beach hasn’t forgotten what the heart of martial arts culture is really all about. “I am passionate about MMA, but the core of martial arts for me is still about self-defense. It’s about teaching people who aren’t the strongest or fastest to defend themselves and their families.” Determined to share that passion with others, the black-belt Beach opened his own martial arts dojo in Shelby, N.C., called Complete Martial Arts, which won “The Shelby Star’s” Best of Cleveland County 2010 Award for “Best Martial Arts Studio.”

There, Beach shares the principles and culture of martial arts with students from age 4 to 54. “I’ve seen other people teaching martial arts, and they’re really turning it into more of a business than anything. We’re getting back to the true essence of what martial arts is all about—learning discipline, learning to defend ourselves, and having fun.”

For more information about Beach’s dojo, or to follow his MMA career, visit cmartialarts.com.



Class Acts

A JOB WELL DONE

Gardner-Webb Bids Farewell to Four Cherished Faculty and Staff Members

As the 2010-2011 academic year closed, so did the tenures of four of Gardner-Webb University's cherished faculty and staff members. To celebrate their long careers of service, the University presented retirement awards to Dr. Roger Gaddis, Dr. C. Oland Summers, Dr. Tony Eastman, and Jimmy Martin.



Dr. Roger Gaddis

Dr. Roger Gaddis was named associate professor of psychology at Gardner-Webb College in 1974. Gaddis served as chair of the Department of Psychology from 1978-1995, and he oversaw the development of both GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) and graduate programs in psychology. He served as the coordinator of the Human Services program until 2010, and as his colleague Dr. Frieda Brown said, he was “the architect” of Gardner-Webb’s School of Psychology and Counseling. Brown insisted that Gaddis will leave behind “students who are making a difference in others’ lives, colleagues who are grateful that it is his value system that has defined us, a school that is better for his having served it, and friends who remember his loving support and commitment to excellence.”

Dr. C. Oland Summers joined the Gardner-Webb faculty as assistant professor of music in 1976, and started Gardner-Webb’s first marching band that year. Prior to coming to Gardner-Webb, “Doc”—as his students affectionately call him—taught band, choir, and orchestra in various Indiana and Illinois public schools for 19 years. In total, then, Summers has taught music for 54 years. Dr. Tracy Jessup, GWU’s

vice president for Christian life and service, was one of Doc’s former students. In recognizing Summers, Jessup reminded the audience that Summers had also served as minister of music for over 52 years in part-time and interim church positions. Jessup said, “I don’t think I’ve ever met anyone who moved with greater ease between the academy and the church. That’s because Doc truly sees both as a ministry to which he’s been called to use his knowledge, his gifts, and his talents to glorify God.”



Dr. C. Oland Summers

Dr. Tony Eastman joined the Gardner-Webb faculty in 1966 as professor of American history, and helped transform the junior college into a four-year institution. In fact, the University graduated its first four-year class during Eastman’s fourth year. Part of an eager group of young professors, Eastman helped initially define the values of faith, service, and leadership, and the standards of academic excellence, for which Gardner-Webb College would be known. In recognizing Eastman, Jessup said, “there is not a single graduate of Gardner-Webb as a senior college who has known this institution apart from Dr. Tony Eastman. Students have not only gained from his role as a sage in the classroom, but from his role as father figure and friend outside the classroom. He has truly left an indelible impression.”



Dr. Tony Eastman

Jimmy Martin began what he calls his “adventure” at Gardner-Webb as a contract construction worker in the late 1970s. He was hired as a full-time maintenance employee in 1978 and was promoted to Director of Maintenance in 1981. Martin helped build the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center, the Williams

Observatory, Lake Hollifield, the Lake Hollifield Bell Tower, and the first University Commons Apartment. Ann Dellinger, director of facilities services, said that Martin is “a true southern gentleman” with “a heart of gold,” and that Martin will be missed as a friend more than as a coworker.



Jimmy Martin

The 1940s

ALUMNA PASSING

DOROTHY MITCHELL PITTMAN ’46 A.A.

passed away on June 8, 2010, at the McCall Hospice House in Simpsonville, S.C. She retired from the Pickens County School District as a third grade teacher. She later became a guidance counselor for Ben Hagood, Holly Springs, and Pickens Elementary Schools. Dorothy was an active member of First Baptist Church, Pickens. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa Teacher’s Sorority, the YMCA Silver Sneakers, and the Pickens County Historical Society. She is survived by her son, daughter, sister and three grandchildren.

ALUMNUS PASSING

BEDFORM JACKSON “BUCK” PAGE, SR. ’48 A.A.

died on May 22, 2011, at his home. He served in the United States Navy on the USS Block Island. He was athletic director, coach and teacher at several schools including Ellerbe High School in Richmond County, N.C., as well as Cobb Memorial and Bartlett-Yancey High Schools in Caswell County. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Yanceyville, where he was a deacon and taught Sunday School. Buck served as Scoutmaster for Troop 390 at First Baptist Church for many years. He was also a member of the Order of the Arrow, and served on the Board of Review for Eagle Scouts. Buck was a member and past Commander of American Legion Post 89, as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7316. He was a 50 year member and past Master of Caswell Brotherhood



Lodge #11, member and past Associate Patron of Caswell’s Order of the Eastern Star 239. He was a charter member and past President of Caswell County’s first Lion’s Club. He is survived by his wife, four children and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The 1950s

ALUMNUS PASSING

JONAS R. BRIDGES ’50 A.A.

passed away on February 1, 2010, at his home on Moss Lake. His voice was the first one heard broadcasting from the campus of GW in 1949 via hook-up through WOHS, Shelby, N.C. He was the former owner of several radio stations in North and South Carolina. He was in the broadcasting business for over fifty years, a lifetime dream fulfilled. Jonas was a member of Kings Mountain City Council, Lions Club, Rotary Club and a number of other boards in Kings Mountain. He was an active member in the Kings Mountain First Baptist Church. He also played baseball at GW under Coach Revis Frye.

ALUMNUS PASSING

CHARLES RAY HOWELL ’51 A.A.

passed away on April 26, 2011, at the Eastside Heritage Center. He was a retired operations manager for Siemens in Tucker, Ga. Charles was a member of Cannon Methodist Church. His wife, one daughter, two sons, one brother, three sisters and several grandchildren survive him.

ALUMNUS PASSING

WILLIAM WORTH WOLFE, JR. ’56

died on July 8, 2011. He worked for the art department at RJR Archer. Wolfe is

survived by his wife, one son, one daughter and several grandchildren.

The 1960s

ALUMNUS PASSING

LESTER I. MURPHEY ’66 A.A.

died on March 29, 2011, at the Madison Health and Rehabilitation Center in Mars Hill, N.C. He served as pastor to several churches including Hot Springs, Middle Fork, Madison Seminary, and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Churches. He was also a teacher for 23 years at Weaverville Elementary School. His wife, two daughters, three grandsons and three brothers survive him.

ALUMNUS PASSING

RICHARD “DICK” LAWRENCE ’67 A.A.

passed away on Jan. 16, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Sheila England Lawrence ’67, one daughter and three granddaughters.

ARTIS GILMORE ’69

was recently inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He enjoyed an 18-year professional career that included 12 seasons in the NBA, where he was a six-time All-Star. He was also a five-time ABA All-Star with the Kentucky Colonels, Chicago Bulls, San Antonio Spurs and Boston Celtics.



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For more information or to request an application, email Meghan Dalton at mdalton@gardner-webb.edu or call (704) 406-2251.

The 1970s

ALUMNUS PASSING

JOSEPH MICHAEL BECKWITH '73 passed away on May 8, 2011. He was a retired computer analyst. He is survived by his wife Marilyn Alexander Beckwith '73, as well as three children and two grandchildren.

ROBIN HALL COGAN '78 B.A.

is a 2010-2011 Council Scholar sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, N.C. Council Scholars are Charlotte-area educators who have shown outstanding commitment to promoting international education in their schools, education communities and the greater Charlotte region. Scholars receive individual grants to participate in international education opportunities. Robin used her grant to collaborate with educators in Finland and participate in the XI Youth Song and Dance Celebration in Estonia in July, increasing her understanding of music education strategies and culture abroad for incorporation into her classroom at Endhaven Elementary. Robin and her husband, Tom, reside in Salisbury, N.C. where Tom is pastor of Wittenberg Lutheran Church. They have been married 31 years and have one son and one daughter. Their

son, **JOSHUA COGAN '11 B.S.** is enrolled in graduate school in Dallas, Texas. Their daughter, Amanda, (also a Council Scholar) is a graduate of ASU and is employed by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

The 1980s

ANNE FEAGIN DONAHOO '81 B.A. was honored with the 2010-2011 Excellence in Teaching Award by The John Cooper School. She has served as director of counseling services and has taught Introductory Psychology at Cooper for the past 19 years. She and her husband, Bob, have two children and are active members of First Baptist Church of The Woodlands, Texas.

ALUMNUS PASSING

DANIEL C. JOHNSON, JR. '82 B.A. passed away on Jan. 16, 2011. He served as minister and missionary to the deaf for the North American Mission Board in Louisiana and North Carolina for 26 years, the last 15 of which were at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Wilson, N.C. He also served as director and adjunct professor for the TriState Deaf School of Theology, and was a contract editor of Sunday School Literature for the Deaf for Lifeway Christian Resources.

STEPHEN CHARLES SUMMERS '86 B.A.

was promoted to senior vice president and named deposit and information systems manager for Mountain 1st Bank & Trust. His wife, Amy, writes Bible study teaching material for Lifeway Christian Resources, and they have three children.

The 1990s

GARY TODD MITCHEM '95 B.A.

was recently promoted to senior acquisitions editor at McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers in Jefferson, N.C. He joined the company in 1998 and was promoted to acquisitions editor in 2004. He is a member and past president of Gardner-Webb University's Alumni Board, a member of the Society for American Baseball Research, and managing editor of two journals published by McFarland: "Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game," and "Black Ball: A Negro Leagues Journal." Gary and his wife, Pam, and daughter, Madeline, live in West Jefferson, N.C.

DELAINA ADAMS SMITH '95 B.S., '10 M.A.

was recently promoted to principal with Wilkes County Schools. She was a teacher with Wilkes County Schools for five years

MORE THAN A NEIGHBOR

By Chelsea Usher

Ministry and evangelism can come in many forms. For Cecelia Beck '08, ministry means befriending those around her, sharing the love of Christ with her neighbors, and working to build a strong community. Since earning her Master of Divinity degree from Gardner-Webb University in 2008, Beck has been working to strengthen the community of Shelby, N.C.

In 2002, Beck began working with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and was asked to serve for two years in Toronto, Canada. She lived in an urban area with several high-rise buildings and thousands of immigrants and refugees. "My apartment ministry involved befriending those whom God placed in my path," Beck says. By fostering hospitality within her apartment complex and babysitting her neighbors' children, she was able to form relationships that went deeper than a passing hello. These bonds allowed her to minister to her neighbors more effectively.

Beck has continued that type of ministry in Shelby. She has partnered with a local church plant, City of Hope, which provides a feeding ministry twice a month as well as several children's programs and activities. "The children are enjoying it and inviting their friends," Beck says. "We have 12-15 children each time." She also serves full-time as a Chaplain for Hospice of Rutherford County.

Beck is classified by the CBF as "self-funded personnel," so she works to support herself financially. She is currently renovating a home for herself, and is grateful for the help she has received from area churches and a group of Gardner-Webb student-athletes. She hopes to have the house finished soon, so she can become a more permanent, integral part of her neighborhood, and continue living out the vision of ministry God has given her.



and was an assistant principal for four years before becoming principal. She and her husband, Amp, reside in Wilkes County, N.C., with their son, Kamen.

FRANKLIN CAPELL SHELTON '96 B.A.

has been named the evangelism chairman for the "Bridging the Gap – London 2012 - Chaplains to the World's Olympians" ministry of Lay Witnesses for Christ International (LWFCI). Frank is an evangelist and a FOX NEWS contributor who formerly served as speech writer to the House Majority Leader of Congress, aide to the Governor of Maryland, floor staff for the U.S. Senate, and fundraiser for the Republican National Committee. He also worked for two U.S. Presidents.

ALUMNA PASSING

STACEY HOSKINS MCKEOWN '97 B.S. passed away on June 9, 2011 at her home in Chester, S.C. She was as an Elementary Reading Interventionist Teacher for the Chester School District. She attended First Baptist Church, Chester, where she was

a Girls in Action and Children's Church leader. Stacey was a member of the Chester Cotillion. Her husband, one daughter, one son, her parents, father and mother-in-law, one brother, grandmother, and several nieces and nephews survive her.

CHRISTOPHER LEE EMERY '97 B.S.

was recently named head baseball coach at Shelby High School. He has previously served as head baseball coach at Burns High School for the past nine seasons.

J. DOUGLAS RHONEY '98 M.A.

was recently named principal of Alexander Central High School. He has served as principal of West Caldwell High School for the past two years and previously at Heritage Middle and Ray Childers Elementary Schools. Before that, Doug served as assistant principal at Table Rock Middle and taught at East Burke and Freedom High Schools. Doug and his wife have one daughter and one son.

The 2000s

TONY LEE WORLEY '00 M.A.

has been selected as the 2011 Wachovia Principal of the Year for Lincoln County Schools in a program sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company. He is principal of Lincolnton High School.

KELLIE CAPE STEVENS '01 B.S.

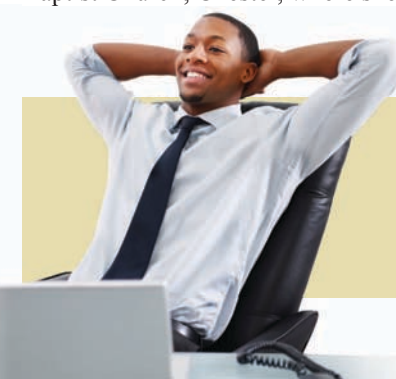
completed her doctoral degree in Teacher Leadership from Walden University in April 2010. She and her husband, Phillip, welcomed their first son, Colson MacArthur Stevens, in March 2011.

JOSEPH DEWAYNE RAMEY '02 M.B.A.

was recently named assistant chief of the Gaston County Police Department. Captain Ramey began a career in law enforcement in 1994 and has since served the GCPD as patrol officer, community police officer, patrol sergeant, criminal investigations sergeant, support services sergeant and commander in several ares.

Gardner-Webb College/University Alumni and Friends are on Facebook.

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



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.

SPIRITUAL SERENDIPITY

Small Group of GWU Alumni Begin a Church Plant in Gastonia
 By Chelsea Usher

Until recently, Gardner-Webb alumni Kelvin and Mary Katherine Monteith and Teresa Grigg had difficulty finding a church in their hometown Gastonia, N.C. As supporters of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) denomination, they had only two church options in their region: one in Charlotte and the other in Hickory. “The Lord began working in the hearts of several families in Gastonia, and He impressed upon us to begin a new church in our city,” says Kelvin Monteith. Through their effort and God’s providence, they have now launched Reformation OPC, a church plant of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Also involved were Timothy and Robyn Davis, and at the time, Grigg and the Monteiths didn’t realize they had anything in common with the Davises outside of their faith. It wasn’t until after the Davises joined that they discovered something unique: all five had graduated from Gardner-Webb.

“We just recently put that together,” says Robyn, whose former GWU roommate is now visiting the church as well. “None of us knew each other except for my roommate and my husband.” The Davis’ graduated in 1986, two years after Grigg and eight before the Monteiths.

Now, with a newfound bond, these families and several others are striving to build Reformation into Gastonia’s first true OPC church. “I find that being part of a new church plant is quite different than being part of one that’s already established,” Kelvin says. “In our case, all the families pitch in to make this work. They work well together and have a great time encouraging and supporting one another.” Kelvin insists that, no matter what else develops, people will “always find a loving and caring congregation at Reformation,” a community that “supports each other in every way possible.” It just so happens that Gardner-Webb University is one of the cornerstones of that community.

For more information, visit www.reformationopc.com.

Gardner-Webb University Homecoming 2011
 OCTOBER 28-29, 2011

Friday, October 28

Junior College Reunion
 & Half Century Club Luncheon
 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 Sponsored by Office of Alumni Affairs

Athletic Hall of Fame Reception
 & Banquet
 Hosted by the GWU Athletic Department

Saturday, October 29

Pound the Pavement 5K
 7:30 a.m. – Pre-registration location Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center parking lot.
 8:00 a.m. – Race will take runners throughout the town of Boiling Springs and the GWU campus.
 Pre-Game Tailgate
 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Soccer Field on Visitor’s Side of Spangler Stadium
 Featuring Band of Oz
 Sponsored by Alumni Association, Bulldog Club, & Dawg Pound

Homecoming Football Game
 1:30 p.m., Spangler Stadium, Harris Field
 GWU vs. Charleston Southern
 Alumni and Friends Recognitions and Awards Reception
 Fireside Lounge
 Open to all alumni and friends.
 Business attire. Sponsored by the Alumni Association Board of Directors

Alumni and Friends Recognitions and Awards Banquet
 Ritch Banquet Hall
 All alumni and friends of the University are encouraged to attend. Hosted by the GWU Alumni Board and the Office of Alumni Relations. An opportunity to recognize and honor alumni and friends of the University.
 Pre-registration required.
 Business attire.
 Sponsored by the Alumni Association Board of Directors

For times, locations and more information call 704.406.3862



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 ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu.

LARISSA BIXLER ’03 B.A.
 and Andy Stein were united in marriage on Sept. 20, 2010 in Sonoma, Calif. Larissa recently joined the firm of Sodoma Law, P.C. in Charlotte as lead attorney for the firm’s estate planning practice group. She and Andy enjoy life in Charlotte with their dog, Charlie. Email Larissa at lstein@sodomalaw.com.

JENNIE JONES MARKS ’03 B.A.
 and her husband, Pete, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Ella Elizabeth Marks, on July 27, 2011.
 SOMMER JONES ’04 M.A.
 is now the assistant principal for Banks Trail Middle School. She previously served

as eighth grade assistant principal at Castle Heights Middle School for the past six years.

JENNIFER LEIGH GOODIN ’05 B.S.
 and Joshua Franklin Minton were married on Oct. 3, 2010 at The Centennial Oak Tree, Tangelwood Park in Clemmons, N.C. Jennifer is a service center coordinator with Carolina Farm Credit and Joshua is a senior design manager for Lowe’s Companies.

CHRISTA SIMMONS
 DIBONAVENTURA ’06 M.A.
 was recently appointed principal at Churchland Elementary School in Lexington, N.C. She has previously served

as teacher and assistant principal for Reeds and Tyro Elementary Schools and most recently as principal of Friendship Elementary School.

STEVEN “RUSS” GRIBBLE ’06 B.A. and JESSICA RUDISILL GRIBBLE ’06 B.S.
 are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Mali Aivana, who was born on Dec. 3, 2010.

LEAH LEONARD ’06 M.A.
 was recently named assistant principal for Reeds and Tyro Elementary Schools. She previously served as teacher at Reeds from 2002-2007 and later as assistant principal at Davis-Towsend Elementary.

ANSWERING THE CALL IN QUEPOS

Alumna Alesha Winters (’03) Helps Launch Christian School in Quepos, Costa Rica

Many people’s careers quickly take them outside the realm of their major field of study. But Alesha Winters (’03) is using both her Religious Studies and Spanish majors on a daily basis as the Lead Teacher and Trainer at El Puente Christian School in Quepos, Costa Rica.

“I always felt there was a calling on my life to draw closer to God and help others do the same,” says Winters, but after a study abroad stint in Costa Rica in 2001, God expanded that call. Winters returned to Costa Rica after graduation and, nearly four years ago, helped found the small bilingual Christian elementary school in Quepos.

“Our goal is to provide an excellent Christian education to local families who would otherwise be unable to afford it, equipping the next generation to rise above poverty level and be leaders in their community,” Winters explains. “About 90% of our students come from un-churched families, so sharing the love of Christ is the center of everything we do.”

El Puente faces numerous challenges, including limited access to materials and extremely limited funding. Most of the students’ families cannot afford tuition, so the need for scholarships and for educational materials is great. Winters teaches 1st-5th graders in a single room each day, teaching for 5 hours in Spanish and 2 hours in English.

But despite the challenges, El Puente is making a positive impact for Christ in Quepos. “As our students develop relationships with God, our hope is that they will be better spouses, parents, employees, and neighbors in the future.” For more information about El Puente School, visit www.elpuenteschool.wordpress.com.



STEVEN LAMAR CARSCADDON '07 B.S. and MEGAN MICHELLE CARSCADDON '09 B.A. were married on Oct. 2, 2010, at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Asheville, N.C.

RICKY ERNEST HARRIS '07 M.A. is now the assistant principal at Central Davidson High School. Harris' teaching career began in 1987, and in 1993, he began teaching at Central. In 2008, he was named assistant principal at North Davidson Middle School.

ERIC BOYD PROCTOR '07 B.A. is the compensation and benefits enrollment and communication specialist and assistant vice president for BB&T. Recently, he has been honored with the following awards: Social Media Award, West Virginia University INTEGRATE Conference (2011), League of American Communications Professionals Spotlight Award (2010), Communicator Awards: Award of Distinction (2009). Eric has published in The Business Journal (2010) and Women of Color Magazine (2010). He is a United Way Cabinet member and Kickoff Event Chair, as well as BB&T Lighthouse Project Chair and Team Leader. He conceptualized the "Frozen Food, Warm Hearts" Project to benefit Group Homes of Forsyth, Inc. and coordinated a marketing

summit to help the Kids of Childhood Cancer foundation identify and meet communication objectives. Eric is currently working toward completing a Master's of Science Degree in Integrated Marketing Communications through West Virginia University's P.I. Reed School of Journalism. He and his wife, Hannah, live in Advance, N.C. and are members of Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem. Email Eric at ebproctor@yahoo.com.

JONATHAN MICHAEL CROCKETT '08 B.S. was recently named assistant vice president at BB&T. He joined the bank in 2008 and is a financial center leader at BB&T in Summerville, S.C.

KENNY RAY BENTLEY '09 B.S. and Kayla Nicole Williams were married on June 25, 2011, at Union Cross Friends Meeting in Yadkinville, N.C.

JEREMY MATTHEW BOLER '09 B.S. and ADRIENNE YVONNE SMITH '09 B.S. were married on April 30, 2011, in Greenville, S.C. Jeremy is the general manager of the Forest City Owls Baseball Club and Adrienne is a fourth grade teacher at Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy. The couple resides in Forest City, N.C.

DEBBIE HEGE '09 M.A. was named assistant principal at Southwood Elementary School in Lexington, N.C. She began her career with Davidson county Schools in 1996, and in 2009, she was named assistant principal at Friendship and Pilot Elementary Schools.

The 2010s

PAIGE LENORA BROWN '10 B.S. and Micah Aubrey Evans were married on Feb. 26, 2011, at First Baptist Church in Robbins, N.C. Paige works for Tar Heel Drug and Micah is employed with Evergreen Landscaping. The couple resides in Robbins, N.C.

JONATHAN BROWN '11 M.A. is now the assistant principal at North Davidson High School in Lexington, N.C. Since 1997, Brown has served as a business teacher at Central Davidson High School until his appointment as assistant principal in 2010.

CLINTON LESLIE HARBISON '11 B.S. and Whitney Elizabeth McSwain were married on Dec. 18, 2010. Clinton is the manager at the Village Inn Pizza in Morganton, N.C. and Whitney is employed by Cleveland County Schools.

OPENING DOORS AT OPEN HOUSE

By Chelsea Usher

In 2004, GWU Alumna Wanda Ashworth Valencia shocked her friends and family by leaving a secure position as choir and youth director at her South Carolina church to begin pursuing a degree in human services. "I explained that I wanted to put hands and feet on my faith and pursue social ministry," Valencia says. One of those friends was former pastor Dr. Ray Johnson, who knew just where to direct her: Open House Ministries.

Johnson, a board member for Open House, knew that the Homestead, Fla., organization was looking for a director. A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) field worker, Valencia was perfect for the job, and now seven years later, her ministry with Open House is still flourishing in Homestead.

"Open House Ministries seeks to connect local intelligence, creativity and energy to resources and available opportunities," she says. The center runs several programs, including after-school and summer youth programs, a food pantry, and a recovery program for youth with addictions. Working with children is Valencia's favorite part of the job. "You can see a little light in their eyes when they finally realize that they are children of God, they have great worth, and they are capable of success," she says.

Teaching children the value of success is vital in Homestead, where only 50 percent of students graduate from high school. Valencia is also an advocate for what she calls "micro-enterprises." She says several of her youth have started their own small businesses selling homemade products such as jewelry and crocheted items. This not only helps the students learn new skills to feed their families, but it encourages the mindset that "they are intelligent and capable."

Valencia says the ultimate goal of Open House is to foster local leadership. "We want to expand the Kingdom of God so more people from our community are invested and participating in the work of Open House." For more information, visit www.floridacbf.org/missions/open-house-ministries.



Wanda Ashworth Valencia

EXPLORING INVESTMENT OPTIONS

Dr. Drew Bridges wanted to invest in the future of Gardner-Webb and acknowledge the contribution Gardner-Webb made in his life. "Although Gardner-Webb is located only 42 miles from where I grew up," Bridges says, "I found it to be a remarkably broadening experience. I found a place to explore new ideas, and teachers who valued my point of view."

If you, like Dr. Bridges, own appreciated securities and personal residences, you are probably tired of living at the mercy of the fluctuating stock and real estate markets. You recognize that if you sold your appreciated assets you would face a high capital gain tax. Also, you want to make investments that are secure today and in the future.

There is a solution – a plan that provides you with fixed income for life, avoids capital gain tax, and makes an indelible impression on the life of our University. This plan is a charitable gift annuity.

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and Gardner-Webb. You can transfer your appreciated assets to us in exchange for our promise to pay you fixed income for your life. The income can be quite high depending on your age, and a portion of your income stream may even be tax-free. Best of all, you will receive a charitable deduction for the value of your future gift to us plus the satisfaction of contributing to the future of Gardner-Webb University.

Are you looking for secure sources of fixed income for now or future retirement? Do you want your life to have made an impact on future generations? Consider a charitable gift annuity, and establish your legacy of generosity at Gardner-Webb University.

For more information, call Greg Poe at **704-406-2157**.

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