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The Pilot

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Bell tower is latest GWU improvement

by Julie Gibson
staff writer

The latest addition to the Gardner-Webb campus is the bell tower at Lake Hollifield. The 60-foot, 48-bell carillon is unique in both design and function, making it distinct among 200 other carillons in the country, construction officials said.

The bell tower at the Lake Hollifield Complex is special because it is one of only four in the country that has an environmentally-controlled play room. The others are in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Pennsylvania.

Wyndolyn Hollifield and her late husband Hughy donated the \$1 million used to construct the Lake Hollifield Complex. The Hollifield name has been inscribed on the two largest bells in the tower. The one-ton bells memorialize the Hollifield's son Forrest, who was killed in Vietnam, and the other is a reminder of the couple's generosity.

BELL TOWER

The bells rang for the first time in a mini-concert that was held just before Christmas. They were played both manually and electronically by Frank DellaPenna, the only master carillonneur in America, and Dr. Terry Fern, chair of the of Fine Arts department.

The bells chimed out Christmas carols, Gardner-Webb's fight song, and the alma mater.



Dr. Terry Fern plays the bells in the new carillon
THE PILOT 1-31-1997

Gardner-Webb receives gift to fund bell tower

Gardner-Webb University (GWU) has received a gift for its \$20 million "Dreaming, Daring, Doing" capital campaign for use in the construction of a unique bell tower and plaza on the GWU campus.

The gift was made by Wyndolyn Hollifield and her husband, the late Hughy Hollifield of Winston-Salem. The Hollifields, prior to Mr. Hollifield's death in May, paid off — ahead of schedule — a multi-year pledge of \$1 million for the construction of a lake complex. The early completion of the gift provided enough funds for the construction of the bell tower and plaza.

The 70-foot brick tower will have a system of bells that can be played electronically or manually. The structure will serve as a memorial to Mr. Hollifield. A groundbreaking ceremony was held July 30.