

Fall 2010

## Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2010, Fall (Volume 44 No. 3)

Noel T. Manning II

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# Gardner Webb

THE MAGAZINE

FALL 2010 • VOLUME 44, NUMBER 3

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE...**

\$5 MILLION GIFT

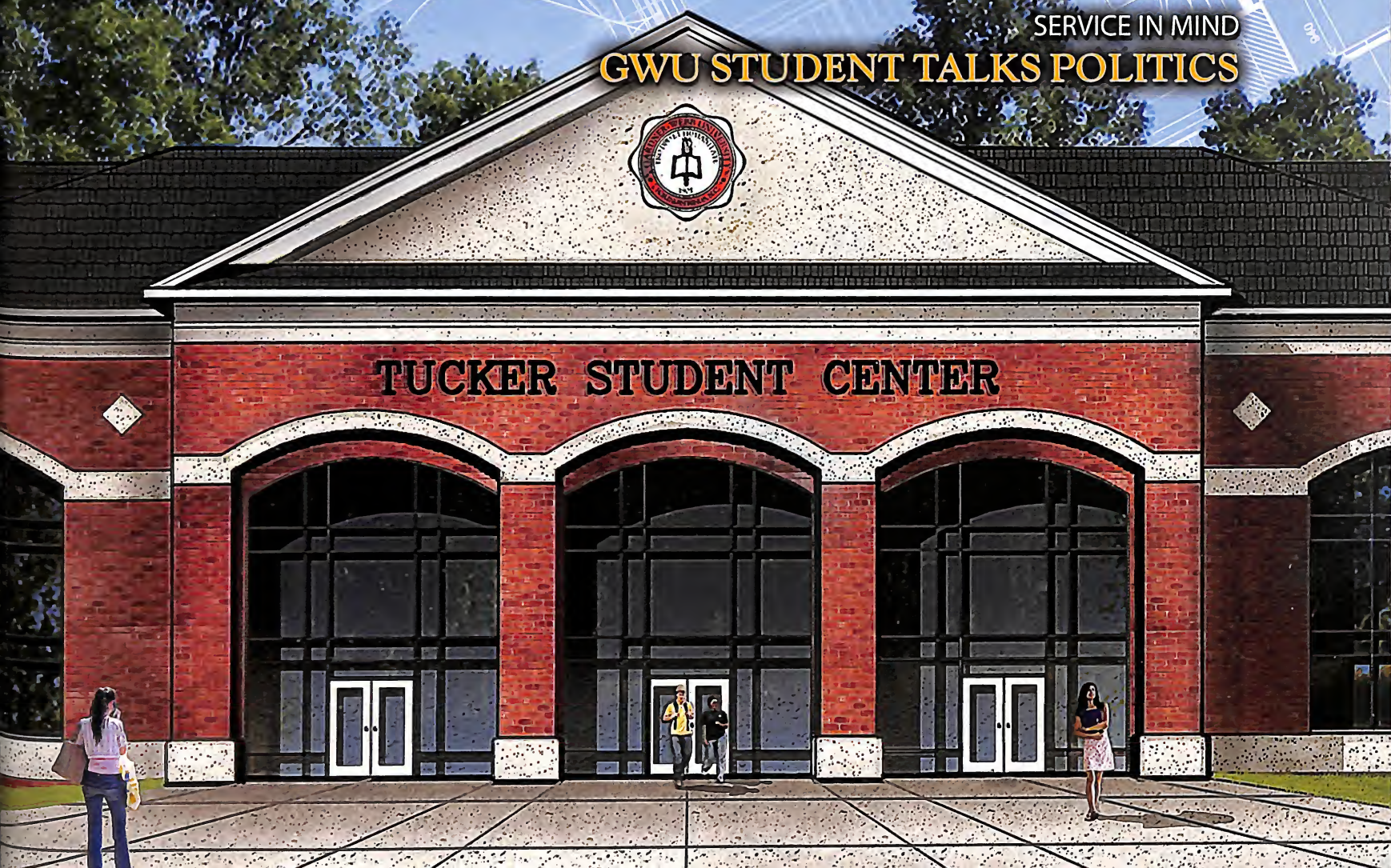
**TUCKER STUDENT CENTER  
TO BECOME A REALITY**

HEEDING THE CALL

**NATIONAL BAPTIST LEADERS  
REMEMBER GWU ROOTS**

SERVICE IN MIND

**GWU STUDENT TALKS POLITICS**



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# Gardner-Webb

## THE MAGAZINE

## Gardner-Webb-The Magazine Credits

Fall 2010

Volume 44 Number 3

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

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# Contents



## 12

### STUDENT CENTERED

*\$5 Million Gift to Pave the way for Tucker Student Center*



## 20

### HEEDING THE CALL

*Baptist Leaders Share Common Ground*



## 22

### LIFE AT THE CROSSROADS

*Former GWU Student Shares His Faith with Youth Worldwide*



## 24

### THE ROAD WARRIOR

*GWU Alum Explores His Limits*

## DEPARTMENTS

### 2

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

• *Exciting Times at GWU*

### 3

#### NEWS & NOTES

- *Lectureship Series Offers Biblical Perspectives*
- *Youth Learn Life Lessons, Teamwork and Trust*
- *GWU's School of Divinity Announces Landmark Scholarship*
- *GWU SIFE team Travels to Costa Rica*
- *IRS Honors GWU*
- *Center for Innovative Leadership Development Hosts Annual Conference*
- *Film Director Gary Wheeler Visits GWU*

### 8

#### SCENIC IMPRESSIONS

### 12

#### ATHLETICS

- *Chris Holtmann Named Head Basketball Coach*
- *GWU Swimmers Win National Academic Championship*

### 16

#### STUDENT PROFILES

- *GWU Student Jackie Seter Finds Faith in Balance*
- *GWU Student Takes her Civic Responsibility Seriously*
- *GWU Senior Explores Social Ministry*

### 26

#### CLASS ACTS

- *Graduate Remembers GW Athletics During WWII*
- *GWU Alumna Named as Fulbright Scholar*
- *GWU Mourns the Death of Prof. Emeritus Jack Partain*
- *Your Connections to GWU Classmates*
- *Weddings*
- *Birth Announcements*
- *New Jobs*

## EXCITING TIMES

One of our trustees likes to say that it is always a great time to be part of Gardner-Webb University. I certainly agree, but I do not think there has ever been a more exciting time. It is indeed a great time to be a part of Gardner-Webb.

We are indeed blessed, and I pray—and believe—that it is because our Lord is pleased with the values and the purpose of this University and what it is doing.

In spite of major challenges to higher education throughout our country, many of those challenges related to economic factors, for Gardner-Webb the “State of the University” has never been stronger. By the most important financial measures, we are coming off of what is probably the strongest year in the University’s history. While the numbers are still settling, our enrollment for the fall is setting records in more than 15 categories, including total headcount—at this writing over 4,338 compared to the previous mark of 4,048. We have built a new residence hall each of the last two years and may need to consider building another new one sooner than originally expected.

While I join those who are skeptical about the meaning of US News and World Report rankings when it comes to the real quality of the educational experience, I am pleased that Gardner-Webb is in the top tier of regional universities in the South. In fact, according to the vice president for Institutional Effectiveness, no other school in the South has moved up both as far and as steadily in the rankings as Gardner-Webb in the past five years.

But the greatest strength of Gardner-Webb University is our world-class faculty, student life staff, and supporting staff across the campus. Our faculty and staff know our students as individuals, and they are dedicated to their well-being and their personal and educational success.

The excitement I mentioned has been building over a very busy summer. We have completed our newest residence hall, the new John Henry Moss stadium, and the new Bridges gate and tower at Stadium Drive, as well as major improvements to Stadium Drive. Significant renovations have been done in the library, there are new pews and carpet in the chapel, there is new landscaping in front of Lindsay and Elliott Halls, and students have welcomed the new Chick-fil-A in the Dover Campus Center.

The most exciting upcoming event will be the announcement of our campaign, “Higher Ground,” along with the groundbreaking for the Tucker Student Center, to be named in recognition of the wonderful support of the Robert and Carolyn Tucker family. This three-level, 110,000 square foot facility will be the center of student life on campus and much more. It will be the headquarters of a wide array of great student development programs that students will interact with every day. The Tucker Student Center will be a vital part of our mission to prepare our students to carry out the motto of Gardner-Webb University—“For God and humanity.” Undoubtedly, you have read or heard me say it before: We are about more than education. We are preparing our students not only for meaningful and successful lives of their own, but also preparing them to make the lives of others better and to make the world a better place than they found it. That is what is most exciting.

I invite you to join with us—and to join in the excitement.

Yours, for God and Humanity,



Frank Bonner

President, Gardner-Webb University



## LECTURESHIP SERIES OFFERS BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

The legacy of C.O. and Eliza Greene continues each year at Gardner-Webb through the annual Greene Lectureship Series. This series provides various dimensions of pastoral ministry and continues to feature internationally recognized speakers.

The C.O. and Eliza Greene Endowed Lectureship was established in 1993 in honor of Reverend Greene and his wife, Eliza, for their commitment to the ministry of Christ. Greene served as director of missions for the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association for 14 years, and served as pastor of six North Carolina churches.

At the 2010 Greene Lectureship, approximately 500 people attended lectures by internationally renowned theologian, author, and educator, Dr. Marva Dawn. Dawn, who serves as teaching fellow in Spiritual Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, presented the program "The Theology of Suffering." Through Christians Equipped for Ministry (CEM), a non-profit organization founded to equip professionals and laypersons for deeper biblical knowledge, Dawn has traveled throughout the United States, as well as Canada, China, England, and Norway. Dawn is also the author of over 20 books and numerous articles.

Dr. Sophia Steibel, professor of Christian Education for the GWU School of Divinity, said Dawn's stories and thoughts are great biblical guidelines for worshippers, Divinity School students and Bible readers. "She (Dawn) is a good example of a well-trained individual who can speak to people of any background. I call her a bridge builder for God because she brings a high level of knowledge down to our level without it losing its integrity," said Steibel.



Marva Dawn

## WALK OF FAITH

*Jennifer Pharr Davis Shares her Appalachian Trail Journey*

It was an adventurous undertaking to say the least. Jennifer Pharr Davis had just finished college and didn't know what to do with her life. It was then that she got the idea to hike the entire Appalachian Trail alone, a 2,000-mile long national hiking trail extending from Georgia to Maine. Davis spoke at a GWU Earth Day event and shared her trials and tribulations of a journey that ended with a record-setting completion by a female.

Davis, a native of Hendersonville, N.C., spoke about the excruciating challenges on her Appalachian journey. "I was in tears by the second day. I was exhausted and homesick. I had foot blisters and dealt with rain, storms, and the cold," said Davis.

Along the way, Davis was struck by lightning, had one of her eyes frozen shut (due to icy weather), got hundreds of bug bites, and was the first to come across a dead man who had apparently committed suicide.



Jennifer Davis and friends

Although she faced hardships and chaos that could deter anyone, she powered through with faith and strength that was not her own. "I eventually became more comfortable with myself, my Christianity," said Davis. "Before the trail, I thought God talked to me through scriptures, but on the trail he talked to me through nature (as well)."

When Davis finally reached the beautiful vista in Mount Katahdin, Maine, she knew the journey was over. However, she continued to pursue her passion even after completing the trail. "I thought that would be it. But I missed it, and decided to go hiking everywhere," said Davis.

Since then, Davis has hiked over 8,000 miles, including trails in North America and Australia. Her second visit to the Appalachian Trail in 2008 led her to become at 25 years of age, the fastest woman to ever hike the trail. She averaged 38 miles a day, hiking an incredible 64 miles on the final day (to finish the entire trail in only 57 days). "I was tired yet fulfilled. The trail helped me to see who I am. I was blessed," said Davis.

## YOUTH LEARN LIFE LESSONS, TEAMWORK AND TRUST

Gardner-Webb University's Broyhill Adventure Course became the perfect location for a group of girls and boys to discover self-esteem, teamwork, and trust. The Cleveland County YMCA Girls Club and the Impact Camp for Boys utilized the course last summer as a way to foster confidence while having fun in the process.

Cleveland County YMCA Girls Club Coordinator, Maricara Knox, says the Broyhill Adventure Course gave the youth an uplifting experience that she hopes will lead to other things. "They are also exposed to a college campus and in most cases for the first time. I hope this experience makes them think about college and furthering their education when the time comes."

Marcus Shumate, a student in the Gardner-Webb Mental Health Counseling Program, is a trained staff member for the course. "This is an exciting experience for the kids.

Many of them would never get to do this kind of thing," said Shumate. Shumate and other staff members were there to motivate and encourage the children as they tried this new adventure. "The course enables a participant to follow direction, set a goal, and experience self-reflection in a group context," said Shumate.

The Broyhill Adventure Course opened in 2000 and is located on Stadium Drive on the GWU campus. The course is open for individuals, business, corporate, civic and non-profit groups, to use for team building and/or retreats.

## GARDNER-WEBB'S SCHOOL OF DIVINITY ANNOUNCES LANDMARK SCHOLARSHIP

*Gift from The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association honors Dr. Sam Raper*

June's annual Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association (EMBA) conference unveiled a groundbreaking scholarship in conjunction with Gardner-Webb University's School of Divinity: The EMBA Theological Endowed Scholarship Fund in Memory of Rev. Doctor Samuel Anderson Raper.

Raper was a pastor emeritus of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C., where he served 35 years. He was the first African American to serve on Shelby's City Council and was presented an honorary doctorate from GWU in 1998. Raper also earned the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine (2005) for his efforts toward racial unity, the highest civilian honor given by the state of North Carolina. Raper passed away July 16, 2009.

The scholarship honoring Raper was established through gifts from numerous members of EMBA, pastors and students/graduates of the GWU School of Divinity, as well as leaders in higher education and business. It will help cover tuition for an EMBA member to attend the GWU School of Divinity. During the event, Charles Turner, EMBA moderator and pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Bessemer City, N.C., presented GWU President Frank Bonner with a \$33,000 check. Contributions for this scholarship fund are still being accepted.

Pastor of Mount Calvary Church, Rev. Lamont Littlejohn, Jr., said Raper always inspired others and that this scholarship is a fitting tribute to him. "It (scholarship) is a stepping stone for education that will eliminate a barrier for someone to gain their desired education. It's a ministry preparation that will continue to honor Dr. Raper," said Littlejohn.



GWU President Frank Bonner receiving a check from Pastor Charles Turner

## GWU SIFE TEAM TRAVELS TO COSTA RICA

*Helps Kids and Construction Workers*

A team of GWU business students discovered first-hand that visiting a foreign country can have a lasting impact.

Last year, the SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team became aware that a number of children in Costa Rica were not able to attend public school because they could not afford school uniforms. To remedy the situation, the team coordinated an effort with the Christ in the City International Mission in San Jose, Costa Rica. The groups held fundraisers, gained financial support from local citizens, and were able to buy uniforms for over one hundred school children.



While visiting Costa Rica, the SIFE team was also able to hold educational sessions, teaching children business values while comparing and contrasting the monetary systems of the United States and Costa Rica. Students fluent in Spanish held a Bible study for middle school children during the visit as well.

During their stay, the SIFE team also noticed many new homes being built in the community and became aware that the construction workers did not have work gloves. The team was able to network with a glove making company in Hickory, N.C. and secured a donation of one hundred pairs of gloves to give to the workers.

The SIFE team discovered, through a multitude of projects, that the lasting impact of the rewarding experience was mutually beneficial.



## THE IRS HONORS GARDNER-WEBB FOR FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

*Trained Volunteers Assisted More Than 350 Families*

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recognized students, GWU, and Bulldog VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) for their tax services to citizens in two North Carolina counties. Refunds for those assisted totaled over \$187,000.

Bulldog VITA is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization led by Dr. Denise Smith, CPA and professor for the GWU Godbold School of Business. For the second consecutive year, IRS-trained volunteers made up mostly of undergraduate and graduate accounting students from GWU provided free income tax preparation for low-income qualifying citizens. This year, volunteers worked five service areas (expanded from two sites in 2009) to assist residents from Cleveland and Rutherford counties.

IRS Representative Bruce Putman, of the Charlotte, N.C. office, honored Gardner-Webb and Bulldog VITA's 14 volunteers for their efforts of assisting over 350 families with nearly 700 hours of service. It was noted that the volunteers were responsible for almost 300 federal returns, earned income credits of over \$49,000, child tax credits of over \$29,000, and education credits of about \$4,000—an estimated \$83,000 total credits.

According to Smith, IRS guidelines were taught to volunteers once they began duty. "We work closely with the IRS to provide high quality tax preparation and the volunteers are committed to high quality, community service," said Smith. This is a service that Smith and GWU plan to continue next year.

## THE CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT HOSTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*N.C. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Featured Speaker*

The Center for Innovative Leadership Development held its first annual educational conference last summer with nearly 100 participants. The primary focus of the event was to strengthen leadership skills and the development of action plans with educators. School system superintendents, principals, administrators, and teachers were all represented.

The conference targeted three separate areas: interactive curriculum in the classroom, the role of the assistant principal in building culture, and sustaining initiatives in organizations. Under these umbrellas were topics such as: virtual classrooms and expectations for high performance, dealing with diversity, servant leadership, social



Dr. Doug Eury



Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson

responsibility, and making connections to sustained initiatives.

Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson and Dr. Larry Coble were both featured speakers for the conference. Atkinson has served as the North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction since 2005, and is the first woman elected to this post. Atkinson manages the instruction of more than 1.4 million students in over 2,300 schools. Coble is known for his work with School Leadership Services, and is well-versed in directing school systems through a myriad of challenges. Coble has been the director of the Collegium for the Advancement of Schools, Schooling, and Education at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro (UNCG) since 1994.

Dr. Doug Eury, director for the center and associate dean of the GWU School of Education, said Atkinson's presence at the conference was a momentous occasion. "Most of her work is done with public schools. For her to visit a private school and the School of Education was a big deal and speaks well for our University," said Eury.

More information is available on the Center for Innovative Leadership Development by contacting Eury at 704-406-4402.

## FILM DIRECTOR GARY WHEELER VISITS GARDNER-WEBB

*His Latest Film, "The Trial," Debuts this Fall*

Movie Director Gary Wheeler visited GWU and shared his thoughts about Hollywood and Christianity, a marriage that he believes can work.

Wheeler is a multiple award-winning, North Carolina-based filmmaker who has directed a number of motion pictures and television productions around the world. He is the founder and president of Level Path Productions based in Huntersville, N.C.

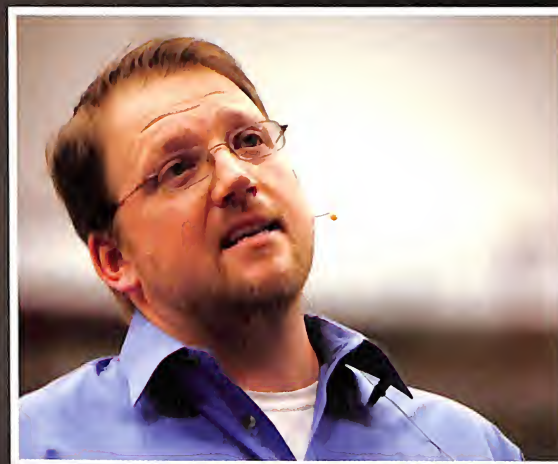
Wheeler's productions include the South African film "Final Solution." Other films include: "Midnight Clear," starring Steven Baldwin, and "The List," starring Malcolm McDowell and Will Patton ("Armageddon," "Remember the Titans"). His latest film is a courtroom drama called "The Trial." Based on the award-winning Robert Whitlow novel, "The Trial" stars Matthew Modine ("Memphis Belle," "Full Metal Jacket"), Oscar-nominated Robert Forster, Rance Howard (father of Ron Howard) and Bob Gunton ("Shawshank Redemption," "24").

Wheeler believes that Christianity and the Hollywood circle can and should work together. He's a living example of

that. Whenever given the opportunity, he openly speaks about his beliefs and how they impact his movies. Wheeler is also recognized as one of the leading directors in Christian filmmaking.

In an interview with "Christians in Cinema," Wheeler said, "For me the main thing is the Gospel represents the one kernel I've never forgotten: the ability of Jesus to take hopelessness and turn it into hope. God instilled in me at a young age to be a filmmaker. My profession, my chosen career, is a filmmaker and the Christianity portion permeates out of me."

Wheeler plans to visit Gardner-Webb again this fall with a special screening of "The Trial." He will also speak to select classes and offer opportunities for open discussion on filmmaking and Christianity.



Gary Wheeler



Gary Wheeler on the set of "The Trial."

## NEARLY 750 GARDNER-WEBB GRADUATES RECOGNIZED DURING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

*North Carolina Lt. Governor Walter Dalton Presented May Commencement Address*

Family and friends gathered for a time of celebration as Gardner-Webb University honored its 2009-10 graduates for a job well done during spring and summer commencement ceremonies.

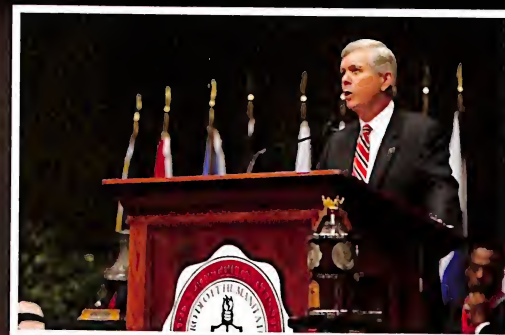
North Carolina Lt. Governor Walter Dalton, a native of Rutherford County, N.C. and a long time supporter of GWU and educational endeavors, delivered the spring commencement address. Dalton is known for authoring the Innovative Education Act, which is considered landmark legislation. It established cooperative efforts between secondary schools and institutions of higher education to reduce the high school dropout rate and increase high school and college graduation rates.

Dalton talked in his speech about the history of GWU. "Heritage and tradition have been established over the years at Gardner-Webb and it has paved the way for the vision and progress that continues today," said Dalton.

A significant milestone was reached during the summer 2010 graduation ceremony. The School of Nursing awarded its 2,500th degree (all types—ADN, BSN, MSN) since Gardner-Webb began as a senior college in 1971.

The following is a total number of degrees awarded during the spring and summer ceremonies:

- Bachelor of Science: 329
- Master of Arts: 85
- Bachelor of Arts: 63
- Master of Business Administration: 61
- Associate of Science in Nursing: 51
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing: 40
- Master of Divinity: 30
- Master of Accountancy: 29
- Master of Science in Nursing: 28
- Doctor of Education: 10
- International Master of Business: 8
- Doctor of Ministry: 4
- Master of Arts/Educational Specialist: 4
- Bachelor of Music: 3
- Bachelor of Fine Arts: 2



North Carolina Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton







## *Scenic Impressions*

*"Like music and art, love of nature is a common language  
that can transcend political or social boundaries." - Jimmy Carter*

*This section is devoted to the beauty of our campus. Landscapes, people, architecture, academics and athletics are featured in Scenic Impressions. If you have a photo to submit for consideration, please contact Noel T. Manning, II at [ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu).*

# Student Centered

*\$5 Million Gift to Pave the Way for Tucker Student Center*

*By Matt Walters*

*"They made me a student who could really do something with her life."*



Bob and Carolyn Tucker

When asked what's behind her family's recent \$5 million gift to fund the Tucker Student Center—the largest gift in Gardner-Webb's history—Carolyn Tucker could reasonably have called attention to her overwhelming kindness. She could have used the opportunity to advertise, to discuss the business strategy of Shoe Show, Inc., the hugely successful corporation she owns with her husband, Robert. She could have even called attention to her family's history of generosity toward Gardner-Webb. Instead, though, she recalled an infinitely more precious gift and a charge that she has received: the gift of her salvation and the biblical charge to actively love God and others.

Taking these as their mandate, the Tuckers have developed an intentional strategy of humility, faith, and service that they pursue both in their lifestyles and legacy. "A few years ago when it was obvious that God was blessing our company," Tucker remembered, "I knew that I needed to develop a philosophy of giving that I would hand down to my

children and grandchildren." But Tucker didn't just hand down a philosophy; she found a way to make her philosophy a tangible gift. Like the Israelites who were called to post the commandment to love God on their doorposts, Tucker made bronze plaques inscribed with Mark 12:29-30 for her grandchildren, as reminders of the truth and the charge that should characterize their lives.

In a sense, the Tuckers' most recent gift is like posting a plaque on Gardner-Webb's doorstep, a plaque that President Dr. Frank Bonner insists will keep the entire community grounded in the university's commitment to live Pro Deo Et Humanitate, "For God and Humanity."

"The Tuckers understand and fully support the Christian character and the foundation of Gardner-Webb, and they understand exceptionally well that this student center is far more than a student center," said Bonner. "It is a vital piece in accomplishing our mission

of bringing students in contact, on a daily basis, and getting students involved with various programs that will prepare them to make a significant impact on the world, 'For God and Humanity.'"

The Tuckers' relationship with Gardner-Webb began when their daughter Lisa, currently a GWU trustee and vice president of the family business, came to Gardner-Webb in the mid-1980s as a confident volleyball player but a less-than-confident student and person. Carolyn remembers Gardner-Webb having forever changed Lisa for the better.



Lisa Tucker, Carolyn Tucker and President Bonner

"I think that Gardner-Webb embodies the great commission, and the commandment to love God and their neighbor. I've seen so many instances of young people, including my daughter Lisa, who went to Gardner-Webb and were changed by being there," Carolyn said. Lisa credits the personal attention she received on campus, especially from her professors, as being instrumental in her personal and spiritual development.

"I wasn't just a student who could play ball," Lisa said. "They made me a student who could really do something with her life. But then it follows from Jesus's teaching, paying attention to the one sheep, to the people that no one else would give attention to. It all fits into the mold of what this university is about."

The Tucker Student Center itself will also represent what the university is all about: openness and relationship. As President Bonner said, "This student center will be a very open, very attractive, highly visible place. It will be a hub of activity." Set to open in 2012 and located adjacent to the beautiful Lake

Hollifield Complex, the center will house a variety of programs such as campus ministries, service learning, community engagement, social entrepreneurship, and leadership development. It will also feature a foodcourt-style student dining area, recreational facilities, coffee shop and lounge, book store, theater, post office, and perhaps even an outdoor center and climbing wall.

But the center is important for more than just its component parts. As GWU's Vice President for Advancement Steve Varley insisted, "In terms of student life, this will be not just geographically but philosophically the center of campus. The student center won't just provide 'stuff to do.' It will bring together a whole number of offices and resources that will help Gardner-Webb's work of developing the whole student. When we say a student development center, that's really what's happening there."

The Tucker Student Center will undoubtedly change much. It will set a substantial precedent for future donations. It will drastically improve retention and recruitment rates among students. It will even alter the physical face of campus. But for all it will change, the Tucker Student Center is perhaps most special for what it will solidify: the character of the university. "We want Gardner-Webb to continue to be an institution that glorifies God, and that's the ultimate purpose of this gift," Carolyn Tucker insisted. "It's not given lightly."



View a video news story about the new Tucker Student Center by scanning the QR code (on left) using a mobile phone equipped with a QR code reader app and the YouTube app or you can check out numerous Gardner-Webb videos online at [www.youtube.com/user/gardnerwebb1905](http://www.youtube.com/user/gardnerwebb1905).



# READY FOR THE CHALLENGE

*Chris Holtmann Named Head Basketball Coach at GWU*

*By Matt Walters*

Gardner-Webb men's basketball fans have much to remember about their teams from 2003-08. They remember shocking upsets, like toppling No. 20 Kentucky at Rupp Arena in 2007. They remember stifling defenses that swallowed up Atlantic Sun teams on a nightly basis. They remember dynamic players, like two-time A-Sun Conference Defensive Player of the Year Tim Jennings, 2008 A-Sun Freshman of the Year Nate Blank, and 2008 All American and A-Sun Player of the Year Thomas Sanders. Perhaps most of all, they remember winning a regular season A-Sun conference championship in 2004-05.

This season, the Runnin' Bulldogs will enter an exciting new era led by a new head coach who also remembers these moments—remembers, and wants more. In April, after a lengthy nation-wide search, Gardner-Webb hired Chris Holtmann, a former assistant coach during GWU's impressive run from 2003-08 and a man Foxsports.com senior basketball writer Jeff Goodman calls "one of the rising young coaches in the game today."

Holtmann's unrelenting tenacity and uncompromising integrity have earned him both success and respect in the national coaching ranks. In his 12 seasons as a college assistant coach—at Geneva College, Taylor University, Gardner-Webb, and most recently Ohio University—Holtmann has already been the catalyst of five conference championships. Now, the first-time head coach is eager to continue that legacy at Gardner-Webb.

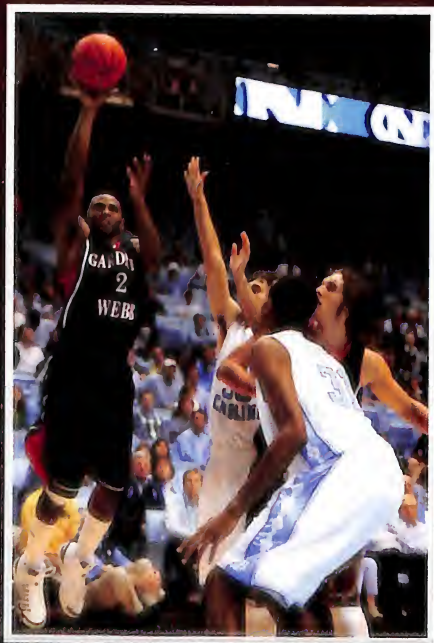
"As I have mentioned before," Holtmann said, "I don't just want to field a team, I want to build a program. That begins with recruiting, finding and developing good players and having them fit into a system that makes them successful."

Holtmann insists that developing a reputable program is about more than just X's and O's; it's about exemplifying the values of faith, service, and leadership at the core of Gardner-Webb's mission. "We want our players and staff to understand that our greater purpose, how we conduct ourselves in and out of the playing arena, is bigger than our success as individuals," Holtmann said. "We want our young men to be different as a result of their time here."

Teams tend to emulate the character of their coaches. With Holtmann on the bench, the Runnin' Bulldogs promise to be successful on the court and worthy of respect off it. As Taylor Head Coach Paul Patterson said after Holtmann's hiring, "This is a good day for Gardner-Webb University." It is a day when GWU fans dare not only remember, but also anticipate.



Chris Holtmann



## TYPICAL ROUTINES, *Atypical Results*

*GWU Swimmers Win National Academic Championship*

*By Matt Walters*

Their alarm clocks sound at 5:00 a.m., pulling them to the surface from dreams haunted, perhaps, by ticking stopwatches, fogged goggles that just won't clear, and little black lines stretching endlessly beneath them. By 5:15, they are in the pool for their morning workouts, churning laps for an hour and a half before most students have even stumbled to the shower. After a full schedule of lectures, exams, essays—the college academic experience—they dive back into the water for two more hours in the afternoon before logging a final hour in the weight room. They grab a quick dinner, study until bedtime, and succumb briefly to sleep before the alarm clock rings again—a typical day in the life of Gardner-Webb swimmers.

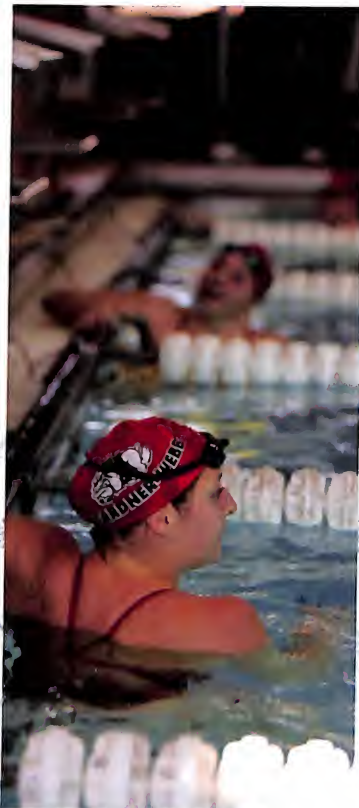
Given such a grueling regimen—one that has produced four women's conference championships—it's difficult to imagine how these student-athletes muster the energy to carry their books, let alone study them. Ask GWU professors, however, and you'll hear that GWU swimmers are some of their best, most reliable students. Judging from the team's GPA track record, they aren't kidding.

Last spring, the GWU women's swim team topped the College Swimming Coaches Association of America's (CSCAA) list of Division I Team Scholar All-American teams, logging the best cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all women's swimming programs in NCAA Division I. In only 11 years of existence, this is already the fourth time the women's team has won the national academic championship. The men, in only their third year of existence, earned the seventh highest GPA nationally.

Head Coach Mike Simpson insisted that this academic success is no accident. Constantly striving to be better, in both the pool and the classroom, is an integral part of the team's philosophy.

"In everything, from recruiting to coaching to swimming to being a student, we talk about doing things the right way," Simpson said. "We have incredible resources here [at GWU]. We have teachers who genuinely care about whether the individuals in their classes are learning. And as a group, they definitely help and motivate each other."

But the most important factor, according to Simpson—the factor that keeps them waking up to early alarms and swimming laps around their classmates: "I can minister spiritually to these student-athletes. We can talk about their relationship with Jesus, and about what God's word says about how to do things the right way. Christ is at the center of what we do."



# The Journey



Dr. Sheri Adams

*The role of women in the Bible is often overlooked or underemphasized. Dr. Sheri Adams, professor of church history and theology for the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity, has explored the significance of women in the ministry and the Biblical theology surrounding the topic. Her book, "What the Bible Really Says About Women," is an honest and unique approach to women's ministry studies as it speaks to the heart of women and their call from God.*

**Gardner-Webb, The Magazine:** Dr. Adams, where did you get the idea for this book?

**Sheri Adams:** This book grew out of a class I taught in Buenos Aires, Argentina at the International Baptist Theological Seminary. My first class had 12 women in it and explored all the passages in the Bible that dealt with women. I taught that class at least 20 different times while living in Argentina and Chile. Now that class has become a mix of theology, history and practical applications for women and ministry.

**Gardner-Webb, The Magazine:** Smyth & Helwys published your book in 1995 and it sold out. Why did it take so long before a second printing?

# of Woman

**Sheri Adams:** By that time, I was teaching here at Gardner-Webb in the divinity school, and I didn't really think about republishing the book until a few years ago. Catherine Allen, a WMU leader from Texas, really liked the book and shared it with others. She encouraged me to do a second printing. So a couple of years ago, my husband Bob and I started a publishing venture, A Pair of Docs Publishing, and we led out with a re-release of the book. We've been pleased that the market for this book still seems to be there.

**Gardner-Webb, The Magazine:** In your book (and class) you explore the historical culture of the Bible and what part that played (and still does) on the role of women. You also examine how that society treated women.

**Sheri Adams:** Yes, I think one of the things people often miss is the culture [of the Bible]. We read the Bible against our own culture, which has made 2,000 years of progress on the issue of women. I am convinced that if you look at the Bible as a whole, you will see that women are more than just wives and mothers.

You especially see this in the life of Jesus and his interaction with women. In his day, women were profoundly second-class citizens, but he treated each woman as a human being. This was radical thinking at that time.

Jesus broke too many cultural taboos. He made everybody uncomfortable. In Jesus' world, there were expectations for women, expectations for religious people, expectations for men, expectations for poor people, and Jesus didn't pay any attention to those expectations. He treated everyone he encountered with the same respect. I just think that made everybody nervous.

In my book, I say that the same dynamic is at work in the early church. I truly believe that Paul and the early leaders of the Church understood the ideal—that in Christ there is neither male nor female; everyone is "one" in Jesus.

When you look at the history of women in the church, you really get to feel part of a long story that is still evolving.

*More information on this book and others, offered by Sheri and Bob Adams, is available online at [www.apairofdocspublishing.com](http://www.apairofdocspublishing.com).*





*GWU Student Takes her Civic Responsibility Seriously*

*By Paul Foster*

Verhonda Crawford is not your average college student. Sure, she has a full plate of responsibilities, such as studying for exams, serving as junior class president, cheerleading, and working for GWU's Undergraduate Admissions. Despite that, Crawford carves out enough hours in her schedule to serve on the Chesnee Town Council. At 20 years old, she made history by becoming the youngest person ever elected to such a position. It seemed destiny was on her side, as Crawford beat her opponent in a runoff election by only a single vote. Chesnee is a quaint town of roughly 1,000 people in Spartanburg County, S.C. Crawford, a junior at GWU, is a public relations major with a minor in business.

Crawford, was inspired by her father, Ronnie (Chesnee councilman, 2003-2006), and she ran unsuccessfully in 2008 while still a senior at Chesnee High School. Crawford explained her determination to join the council. "I think actions speak louder than words. There are a lot of issues that need to be fixed. So I decided to fix the problems instead of complaining," said Crawford. Crawford's main focus when she took office in July included enhancing technology and assisting to manage a balanced budget for the City.

"Technology is an important part of advertising for tourism. Chesnee needs a professional website and to join sites like Facebook and Twitter because this is the age of social networks," said Crawford. She advocates utilizing Powerpoint presentations in council meetings to visually enhance the understanding of issues impacting the city. Crawford also plans to get feedback from Gardner-Webb business professors in regards to the city's budget and operations.

This is only the beginning for Crawford. Other political aspirations include: running for mayor of Chesnee, Spartanburg County Council, Congress, and even higher office.

Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner shared these words about Crawford: "Verhonda told me she has been going to council meetings since she was six years old. She is remarkable. She said she wants to become president, and she will probably do it."

"Being on this great campus has taught me I can be as great as I want," adds Crawford. "Gardner-Webb has changed my view of life from being half empty to half full. I have grown so much."



## HEART TO GOD, HAND TO MAN

*GWU Senior Explores Social Ministry*

*By Joseph Hamby & Alex Ellwood*

While many college students are soaking up their summer vacation, Gardner-Webb Senior Nikki Rice spends her time helping others. In the summer of 2009, Rice began working at a children's home as a chaplain intern—an enjoyable experience she decided to repeat this summer.

The Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina in Columbus County is a non-profit organization that seeks to provide residential and foster care/adoption programs for neglected, abused, and hurting youth. The youth are

*“You don’t understand the power of serving others until you put yourself out there and just do it.”*

educated, fed, housed and mentored by cabin “parents.”

Rice has ministered to the youth in a variety of ways, including leading worship songs, dance, and regular chapel services. She was also involved with “Teen Week,” a one-week camp for teenagers, similar to vacation bible school.

One thing that Rice really enjoyed was building relationships with the kids. “It was great to be able to mentor and minister to these kids, but they were able to do the same for me,” said Rice.

Some of the most rewarding moments for Rice were when the children opened up to her. “I’m honored by what some of them were willing to share with me. These kids are so amazing and strong in the face of adversity,” said Rice. “Serving them and loving them was more than I could ask for in a summer.”

“You don’t understand the power of serving others until you put yourself out there and just do it,” said Rice. “This work has opened my eyes to a lot of social issues and made me more aware of the struggles of children in the DSS (Department of Social Services) system.”

Rice is an English major from Hudson, N.C., and she believes that GWU fosters this service-minded environment daily. “Gardner-Webb encourages its students to get out in the community to impact others in a positive manner,” she said.

“Nikki took on the challenge of working with at-risk youth with what she had,” said Chaplain John Cobb, director of the internship program. “She is tremendously talented and dedicated. The Boys and Girls Home of North Carolina was blessed by the service that Nikki provided, and her impact on this campus is still being felt.”

“I think that the impact (of this experience) went far deeper than just making a difference to the children, because those children changed me,” said Rice.





# Heeding the CALL

*Baptist Leaders Share Common Ground*

*Written by Paul Foster*

Johnny Hunt ('79) and Frank Page ('73) have followed similar paths while pursuing their individual calls from God. Both attended Gardner-Webb, served as pastors, leaders, and servants for churches and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Page and Hunt were both two-term presidents of the SBC, respectively. The SBC, headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., is the world's largest Baptist denomination and the largest Protestant body in the United States with 16 million members and over 42,000 churches. Page's involvement with the SBC took on a new role when he was elected in June as the new president and chief executive officer of the Convention's Executive Committee.

"I'm honored to be in such a position. My prayer is that in some small way I might help in bringing unity to our convention. I want to make people realize that Baptists are loving, sharing people who care and will minister in Jesus' name," said Page.

Hunt says one of his major roles with the SBC is that he served as a faithful steward to all involved with the convention. "There's a great



Dr. Frank Page

"I have traveled to Washington, D.C. numerous times, and have been involved in many conference calls to develop policy recommendations for the president and address several areas of concern," said Page. Page has served specifically on the sub-committee on responsible fatherhood.

Hunt and Page have become good friends and supporters of one another throughout the years. The two men first met over 25 years ago. "I have a deep respect for this wonderful man of God. We have had many opportunities to communicate while I served as president of the SBC. He has, indeed, been a great source of encouragement to me," said Hunt.

Hunt and Page described how their time at Gardner-Webb prepared them for their roles in ministry. "I had an absolutely wonderful education from GWU and was influenced by professors like Dr. Robert Lamb, Dr. Alice Cullinan, and Dr. Van Murell. I feel that GWU not only prepared me for seminary, but prepared me for my life's work to preach the gospel," said Hunt.

Page said his Gardner-Webb experience prepared him for life and as president of the SBC in helping him develop precious relationships with many people throughout the years. "My education in psychology helps me as I deal with persons in various levels of society and understanding human nature. My minor in Sociology helped me understand culture to a far greater level than I had ever experienced before," said Page.

Both men were asked to offer advice to students preparing for the ministry. Hunt said to stay true to the foundation of Christianity. "There is a bottom line...people need the Lord. Prepare yourself well in the scriptures so that you will be a servant that is well-equipped to do the ministry no matter where you go."

Page said that while churches may change, one thing should be constant. "Waves of popular churches methodologies come and go and political movements will occur within any religious body as all churches are different. So, keep focused and use wisdom in order to stay the course of leading people toward a deeper relationship with Christ," said Page.

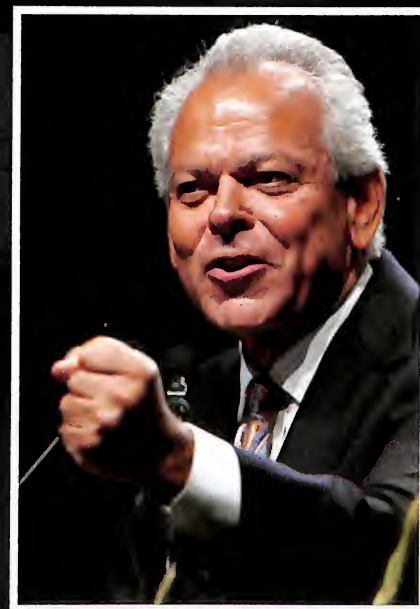
joy that God placed within my heart of a vision to see our convention become more effective and more faithful as it pertains to the Great Commission. I pray that the influence God has given me would lead pastors and lay-people across our convention in a way that God would receive the greater glory," said Hunt. Hunt hopes to see resurgence of the Great Commission through the SBC that would include the following:

- To plant more churches in North America
- To send more missionaries to the unreached people of the world
- To see unity from directors of missions, state executives, national leaders, and pastors across the Convention.

Hunt feels that his greatest role in the SBC is to continue to magnify the call of God on his life as the Pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., where he has served for almost 24 years. "I know of no greater calling in my life than to be a pastor," said Hunt. The church was averaging 250 when he started in December of 1986. Today the church is averaging over 7,000 in the morning worship service.

After serving as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C. for nearly a decade, Page served the North American Mission Board (NAMB) as vice president. The purpose of the NAMB is to assist Southern Baptists in their roles of fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ throughout North America by planting churches and sending missionaries around the world. "My role with NAMB was to lead the goal of sharing the gospel of Jesus with every man, woman, and child on the North American Continent by 2020," said Page.

Page has also served on President Barack Obama's Task Force on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. This is a select 25-member advisory panel that includes Christians, Jews, Muslims, and a Hindu, as well as representatives of secular organizations.



Dr. Johnny Hunt

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

- Page graduated from GWU with a B.S. degree in psychology and minors in New Testament Greek and sociology. He received his Master of Divinity degree and a Ph.D in Christian ethics from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- Hunt graduated from GWU with a B.A. degree in religion. He also has a Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and three Honorary Doctorates: (Immanuel Baptist Theological Seminary, Covington Theological Seminary, and Tennessee Temple).

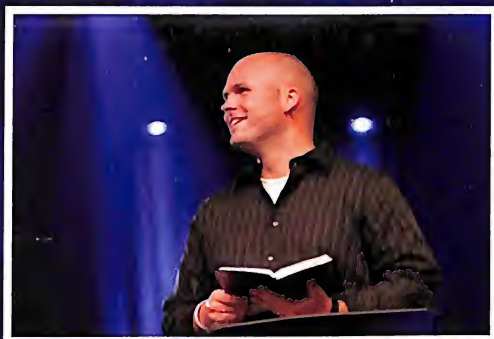
# Life at the CROSSROADS

*By Matt Walters*



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 30% of annual traffic accidents in the US occur at crossroads. That means that, by definition, crossroads are never safe. Crossroads force choices, they force changes in direction, and sometimes, even for the most careful, collisions happen.

Nobody knows that better than Clayton King ('95 B.A.), founder and president of Crossroads Ministries, which celebrated its 15th year hosting camps on Gardner-Webb's campus last summer. According to King, Crossroads began when he collided head-on as a teenager with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and with a vision for ministry and evangelism that forever changed his life. "At 15, I went to my first-ever week-long summer camp, and I felt that God had unfolded this life-long



Clayton King

vision for me to do a summer camp ministry," King said.

That vision has grown into Crossroads Worldwide, a non-profit organization based out of Boiling Springs that promotes evangelism and discipleship around the globe through a variety of ministries, mission trips and mentoring networks. Four weeks every summer, thousands of middle school and high school students converge on GWU's campus and collide with King's realized vision (more than 40,000 since the first camp when King was a senior at GWU in 1995), a dynamic crossroads experience of faith that instills truth, promotes community, and encourages change in their lives.

The emphases of Crossroads camps are sound biblical teaching and discipleship. "We're a simple ministry," King insists. "We preach the gospel. We teach the Word. We talk about practical issues that students deal with.

We want them not only to hear the gospel and be saved, but we want them to grow deeper in their

relationships with Christ as disciples."

Every summer, the camps revolve around a theme—this summer's theme: the "I Am" statements of Christ—and students enjoyed nightly teachings in a corporate worship service centered on that theme. They also attended breakout workshops that focus on the explication and application of the

central theme. A student might attend a workshop on how to better read the Bible, tracing some of Christ's "I Am" statements and discussing how to apply those practically to their lives.

But if you think the camp sounds too tame for teenagers voracious energy and appetite for action, you'd be mistaken. Campers enjoy a host of afternoon activities that promote community and relationships—everything from Dodgeball and Ultimate Frisbee, to rock climbing at Crowder's Mountain, to collaborative music recording sessions in Crossroads' Jam Studio. Ultimately, if a Crossroads camp week is successful, students will return home with a clearer vision of the gospel and a clearer purpose of service and discipleship in their local communities.



But there is a sort of danger in discipleship. It's the danger of being shocked out of complacency and into action by Christ's life-altering grace—the danger of the crossroads. King explores that danger in his latest book to be released in June. Called "Dying to Live," the book was inspired by an interaction King had with a college student after preaching a sermon on God's mission of redemption for humanity.

King remembers the student's calculated defiance unraveling into brokenness as he said, "Everything you said tonight made me angry,

made me mad, made me feel like my life wasn't mine, that it belonged to God. But I believed everything you said. I am dying to live because I'm not really alive."

The student asked King to elaborate on the mystery of feeling alive by dying, and his sixth book is the answer to that student's humble plea. "The title really sums it up," King said. "Dying to Live. It's a paradox. It doesn't make sense. But in Mark chapter 8, Jesus tells the crowds, 'If you want to follow me anymore, you must take up your cross and deny yourself and follow me.' I just feel like there are a lot of people existing, but they're not really living."

Fortunately, King and his ministry are alive and well, pressing on at the crossroads where doubt collides with faith, despair with hope, and where the lost are met head-on by a loving, graceful Savior.



# The Road Warrior

*Jacob Conley '08 Explores his Limits*

*By Paul Foster*



Jacob Conley in action

To someone who has never participated in a cycling race, pedaling 180-miles is a daunting task. Add to that a cerebral palsy condition and it appears nearly impossible. But that's exactly what one Gardner-Webb graduate did when he took on an excruciating ride that ignited an enduring passion.

*"Being at Gardner-Webb was one of the best experiences of my life."*

Since graduating from GWU, Jacob Conley '08 (English major and history minor) of Henrietta, N.C., has spent his time writing and cycling (or hand-cycling to be exact). Conley currently serves as a sports reporter for the Daily Courier of Forest City.



N.C., and in his spare time, he is a dedicated member of the competitive cycling community.

In April 2010, Conley participated in his very first event, Cycle to the Sea, a unique three-day race involving athletes with physical disabilities who cycle from Charlotte, N.C. to North Myrtle Beach, S.C. (180 miles in all) on hand-cycles or tandem bikes. Cycle to the Sea raises funds and awareness for the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program (ASAP), a program that celebrates abilities rather than disabilities.

"My therapist, Stan Alhadeff, not only recommended but challenged me to participate. I'm super competitive, so I went for it," said Conley. Conley tried a hand-cycle for the first time in January 2010 when he began training for the race. "I got to train with some of our cyclists here at GWU like Dr. (Matt) Theado and Dr. (Don) Olive. They were so patient and didn't rush me," said Conley. Conley said the race was arduous, but he never quit.

"The first day out of Charlotte, there were so many hills to go up and down. It was tough getting out of bed the next morning, but once on the cycle, I was ready to go again," said Conley. In the end, Conley not only finished the event, but also was the first with his type of disability to complete the race.

Over the summer, Conley participated in his second event, Up The Outer Banks (N.C.), with a team from Cliffside (N.C.) Baptist Church. The race featured both bike and hand-cyclists. Money raised for this event went to World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization providing services to children and their communities in poverty-stricken countries. Conley feels that these races are only the beginning of many roads he is willing to travel in his life. As he sets out on each journey, he says Gardner-Webb in particular has inspired him to take on new challenges. It was through friendships, faculty mentors and campus life that a foundation was paved for these amazing rides. "Being at Gardner-Webb was one of the best experiences of my life."



# Class Acts

## The 1940s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### JOHN WRIGHT BUTLER '43 A.A.

passed away on April 12, 2010. He was an Army Air Force veteran having served in Guam during World War II. He retired as a lab technician from the Federal Paper Board. Butler, an ordained minister, was a member of Elah Baptist Church where he formerly served as the chairman of the deacon board, church treasurer, as well as a trustee, Sunday school teacher, and member of the building and grounds committee. He was a clerk for the Brunswick Baptist Association and a past chair with the Brunswick County Board of Adjustment. He is survived by two sisters and several extended family members.

## The 1950s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### JONAS R. BRIDGES, SR. '50 A.A.

died on Feb. 1, 2010. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army having served in the Korean War. Bridges organized the original Kingsmen Gospel Quartet of Asheville and was a member of the Kings Mountain Rotary Club and the Kings Mountain Hall of Fame committee. Affectionately dubbed the "voice of Kings Mountain" for his time with WKMT radio, he sang in the choir at First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. He was preceded in death by his wife. One son, daughter, brother, sister, and grandson survive him.

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### JOE ABERNATHY '54 A.A.

died on May 30, 2010 at Trident Medical Center. He served in the U.S. Army during

the Korean conflict. He retired from USLife Credit Corporation and World Acceptance Corporation as a senior auditor. During retirement, he served as an independent auditor for different banks in Atlanta, Ga. He is survived by his wife, one son, one granddaughter, two great-grandchildren, three step-children, six step-grandchildren, and two sisters.

## The 1960s

### JEAN FALLS MOORE '68 A.A.

recently retired from Cleveland Medical Associates after 42 years in the field of nursing. In addition to serving at a hospital in Anchorage, Alaska, she has worked at Kings Mountain Hospital and Hendricks-Durham-Lee Clinic. She and her husband, Rick, have two children and three grandchildren.

## GRADUATE REMEMBERS GW ATHLETICS DURING WORLD WAR II

In 1944, the United States was deeply entrenched in World War II, a truly world-changing period in history that shaped the entire country. Gardner-Webb was no exception. The school allowed time for students to help farmers pick their cotton; others mounted the roof of the Shelby post office to report plane flights as to deter invasions from offshore. Many of the male students (less than 12) living in "The Barn" awaited their call to serve the military.

In wartime there were few opportunities for intercollegiate athletics at Gardner-Webb. Although the 1943 annual yearbook included pictures of boys in baseball and basketball uniforms, the uniforms were taken out of mothballs for photo opportunities. There were no athletic schedules, coaches, equipment or budgets, but there were two tennis courts on campus maintained by students. During 1944, I remember one basketball game played against an outside opponent. I was the sixth man on the team, but at 5 feet tall and 118 pounds, I was for emergency use only.



During the spring of 1944, students put together four baseball games. The baseball field was on the south side of campus, a relic from Boiling Springs College and unattended for years.

There was no fence, only a backstop and four bases. Equipment consisted of whatever students owned; outfielders typically played without gloves in ankle-high grass. A student from Cliffside, N.C. arranged for the opposition: a sandlot team from his hometown.

Another major athletic activity of 1944 was co-ed horseshoes. Students would form teams and play one to two hours before dinner (weather permitting). There were no long-term winners; no ribbon awards—just fun.

*Memories shared by Robert "Bobby" Crapps '44*



Robert "Bobby" Crapps

## GARDNER-WEBB ALUMNA NAMED AS FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

*Summer Hess '06 is the First Gardner-Webb Product to Earn This National Honor*

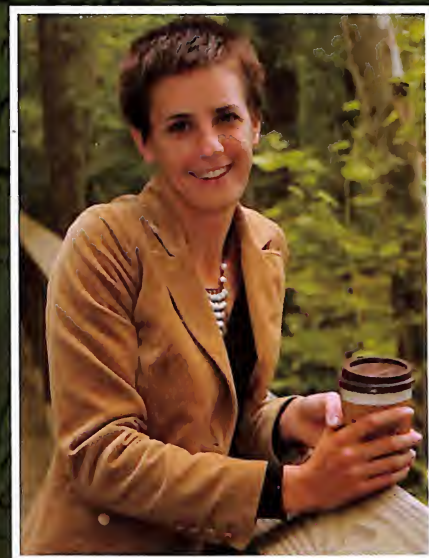
Summer Hess, '06 English honors graduate from Gardner-Webb, has been named as a prestigious 2010-11 Fulbright Scholar. Hess becomes the first GWU graduate to receive this award.

"Summer is one of the best students and the most gifted writer I have ever taught in almost 35 years of teaching," said Dr. Gayle Bolt Price, associate provost for schools at GWU. "Her approach to every assignment was original, her thinking was creative even when the assignment was cut-and-dry, her voice was fresh and distinctive, her style sang."

During her time at Gardner-Webb, Hess was honored with a host of accolades for her scholarship including the Professional Writing Award, Koontz Poetry Award and the Outstanding Female Graduate. "My Gardner-Webb experience was essential to helping me become who I am today," said Hess.

Hess will be traveling to Northern Chile for a 10-month study abroad as part of her Fulbright scholarship. She will work with Dr. Mark Hubbe, director of the Institute of Archaeological Research and Museum of the Catholic University of Northern Chile. While living in San Pedro de Atacama, Chile, Hess will be responsible for writing and archiving nonfiction essays concerning the Atacama region and its people.

"I look forward to living in northern Chile and writing a series of articles that explores the relationship between the indigenous culture and the explosive growth in tourism," said Hess. "San Pedro de Atacama is the perfect place to investigate the interpersonal effects of development because, despite its size, it attracts thousands of international visitors each year while supporting an indigenous population that predates Incan culture."



Summer Hess

## The 1970s

**LINDA "SUE" AUSTIN LAND '71 B.S.**  
retired from the Employment Security Commission (ESC) after 37 years of service. She served as manager of the Lenoir office during the loss of thousands of jobs in the furniture and textile industries in Caldwell County. Caldwell County has consistently had one of the highest unemployment insurance rates in the state. The Lenoir office routinely has had the largest or one of the largest Trade Adjustment Assistance programs in the state, often serving nearly one thousand participants. Sue lives in Cahah Mountain with her husband, Tommy.

## The 1980s

**DAVID M. TURNER '82 B.A.**  
received the Doctor of Ministry degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on May 14, 2010. His degree focuses on evangelism and church growth with a special emphasis on the personal

prayer life of Jesus Christ. He is married to Donna Harvey Turner, a 1982 alumna of Gardner-Webb, and they have two children. David currently serves as the senior pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in Elizabeth City, N.C., and Donna coaches the Pasquotank County High School swim team and serves as a swim instructor at the local YMCA.

**DENNIS CROSBY '83 B.S.**  
is the director of basic law enforcement training at Gaston College's Criminal Justice Academy. He was awarded the 2010 Altrusa Award for Excellence, which recognizes excellence among Gaston College employees. Crosby spent over 25 years with the Gastonia Police Department retiring in 1999 as major/assistant chief. He joined Gaston College six years ago to head the Criminal Justice Academy. In 2006, he assumed the additional responsibility for the Basic Law Enforcement Training program. During his time at Gaston College, Crosby has been responsible for providing in-service training to more than 700 sworn law enforcement officers, 133 detention officers, and nearly 100 telecommunication individuals in Gaston and Lincoln counties.

**TIMOTHY DAN GUEST '83 B.A.**  
was recently elected to a two-year term as president of the Sherman College Alumni Association.

**ALUMNUS PASSING**  
**BRUCE HUGH HAWKINS, JR. '84 B.S.**  
passed away on Jan. 28, 2010. He was employed as a regional sales manager with Sultan Healthcare of New Jersey for the past 10 years. Hawkins was salesman of the year for three years in a row. He was a member of Grassy Creek Baptist Church in Spruce Pine, N.C. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, parents, one sister, and two brothers.

**RUSSELL N. SHEAD '85 B.S.**  
is the drummer for the Clay Jarvis Band, an original Christian Rock and Blues group based in Fort Worth, Texas. The band headlined for the BriarWOODSTOCK Christian Music Festival on Aug. 1, 2010 in Argyle, Texas. The Band also performed on Aug. 11, 2010 at Six Flags Over Texas. Visit [www.clayjarvisband.com](http://www.clayjarvisband.com).

## GWU MOURNS THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JACK PARTAIN

*Award-winning Professor Dead at the age of 77*

Professor Emeritus of religion, Dr. Jack Partain, passed away on August 3 in Shelby, N.C., at the age of 77.

Partain served at Gardner-Webb University as professor of religious studies from 1983-1998. He was also vice chair of the faculty from 1986-88, and in 1996 was awarded the Fleming-White Award for Excellence in Teaching. That same year, Partain was honored with a national Templeton Foundation Award for his work in the academic course, Issues in Science and Religion.

A native of Texas, Partain earned a B.A. in religion and history from Baylor University, a B. Div. degree with a focus in New Testament (Greek) and missions/world religions from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and his Th. D from Southwestern Theological Seminary, completing his dissertation on African theology.

Prior to his time at Gardner-Webb, Partain served a number of churches as pastor in North Carolina and Virginia. He also worked as a missionary with his wife, Ruth, in Africa for 15 years and served on the faculty of the Baptist Theological Seminary of East Africa, teaching and preparing a generation of indigenous pastors. In 1980, Partain joined the faculty of religious studies at William Jewell College, Liberty, MO, as director of the Center for Christian Ministry.

He was also active in developing Swahili theological textbooks, and he wrote the commentary on Numbers for the Mercer Commentary of the Bible.

Partain was also active in NC Baptist life, serving two terms on the Convention's Council of Christian Life and Public Affairs and serving as an interim pastor. He was also an active member of Boiling Springs Baptist Church (N.C.), where he was a deacon, Sunday school teacher and member of various committees.

Dr. Randall Lolley, former Southeastern Seminary president, said: "His role as a professor and a colleague in Christian higher education was profound. He had both wisdom and knowledge. The former was God-given; the latter was earned the old fashioned way: he worked very hard and very long for it because he knew that the young minds he was molding deserved his very best disciplined scholarship."

Partain was awarded professor emeritus status at Gardner-Webb in 1999.

Partain was also known throughout the Gardner-Webb community as the "Keeper of the Rose Garden" on the campus. His dedication and commitment to the garden made it one of the most picturesque spots at Gardner-Webb.

Memorials can be made to the Jack and Ruth Partain Scholarship at Gardner-Webb. More information is available by calling Greg Poe at 704-974-1740 or [gpoe@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:gpoe@gardner-webb.edu).



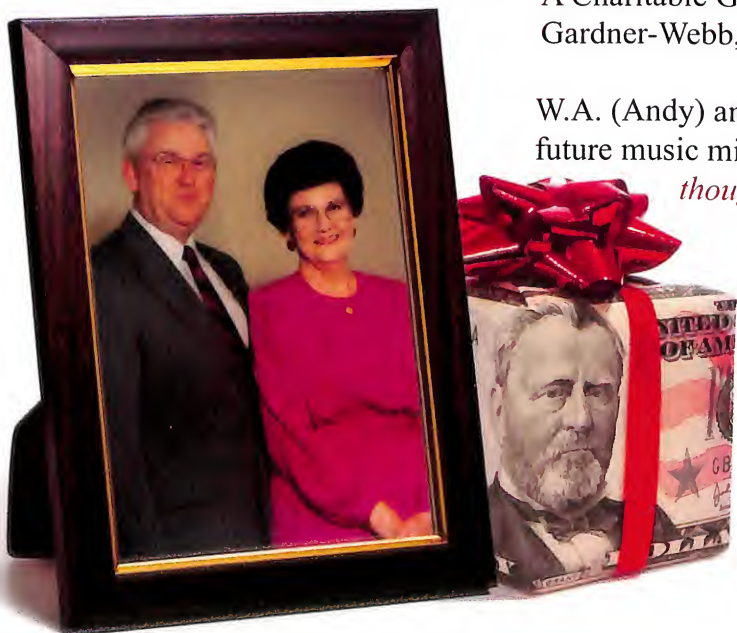
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A Charitable Gift Annuity is an excellent way for you to make an impact on Gardner-Webb, and you can also receive guaranteed income for life.

W.A. (Andy) and Shirley Blanton benefit from knowing their gift will assist future music ministers through the School of Divinity. Andy says, *"We both thought this could be the most likely place to put the funds – where we could provide tuition assistance for students who are trying to meet the challenges of their chosen field without having to worry about funding for their education."*

Greg Poe from Gardner-Webb's Office of Gift Planning would be glad to show you how you can make a significant and lasting impact.

Call or email for an appointment or request information (704) 974-1740 or [gpoe@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:gpoe@gardner-webb.edu)



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## The 1990s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### **KATHERINE (Kathie) R. BURGIN '90 B.A.**

passed away on July 13, 2010 at St. Mary's Hospital (Mayo Clinic) in Rochester, Minn. She was the manager of Malcolm Brown Auditorium for nearly 20 years. She was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church, Shelby, N.C. In addition to her husband, Kathie is survived by her mother, a daughter, a granddaughter and several other family members.

#### **ORLANDO JAMES EARLY '90 B.S.**

was recently named assistant coach for the University of South Carolina men's basketball team. He previously served as head coach for the University of Louisiana-Monroe, where he was named the Sun Belt Conference coach of the year in 2007 after leading his team to a division title. In addition, he was named coach of the year by the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches, Louisiana Sports Writers Association, and National Association of Basketball Coaches (District 8). Early began his coaching career here at Gardner-Webb. He went on to Western Carolina University as an assistant coach, and served as associate head coach during his final two seasons. He then served as assistant coach for UNC Charlotte, and later the University of Alabama. In 2004, Early was named the third-best assistant coach in the nation by Athlon Sports.

#### **DAVID ALAN DAVIS '93 M.A.**

was recently named men's basketball coach for Newberry College. He received his first head coaching position at his alma mater, Warren Wilson College. Davis previously

served as head men's basketball coach at Pfeiffer University. He later became head coach at Barton College before his 14 seasons with Pfeiffer.

#### **MARTY ROBIN CAUDLE '95 B.A.; '99 M.DIV**

and Kathy Buelin were married on Oct. 3, 2009 at Hull's Grove Baptist Church in Vale, N.C. They are presently ministering in a singles ministry and a senior adult ministry called S.A.G.E.S. (Senior Adults Going Everywhere Sharing) at Hull's Grove.

#### **HEATHER LYNNE BOLES '96 B.S.**

and Dr. Victor Enrique Ortega were united in marriage on May 7, 2010 at The Graylyn Estate's White Garden in Winston-Salem, N.C. She is a criminal magistrate judge in Lexington and a member of the North Carolina Magistrate's Association. He is a pulmonary and critical care physician at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem. The couple makes their home in Lexington.

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### **RAY AIKEN WILSON '96 B.S.**

died on April 1, 2010 at Gaston Memorial Hospital. He retired from Duke Energy as an IT Specialist. Wilson held the rank of Firefighter III and previously served as fire chief of Alexis Volunteer Fire Department as well as secretary of the Gaston County Firefighters Association. At the time of his death, Wilson served as secretary for the Stanley Volunteer Fire Department. He is survived by his wife, brothers, and several nieces and nephews.

#### **NICOLE BURCH JOHNSTON '98 M.B.A.**

is presently the executive director for the Yadkin Valley Sewer Authority (YVSA).

## The 2000s

#### **BRITTANY JARVIS CONNER '00 B.A.**

and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Addison Leigh Conner, who was born Oct. 1, 2009. The Conners reside in Richmond, Va. and can be reached at [theconners1201@gmail.com](mailto:theconners1201@gmail.com).

#### **JAIME BOYLES HONBAIER '00 B.S.**

and her husband, Stephen, welcomed their daughter, Riley Faith Honbaier, on Jan. 26, 2009. Jaime is a career development coordinator with East Lincoln High School in Denver, N.C. Jaime and her family reside in Mt. Holly.

#### **ASHLEY SIMS LEITHERER '00 B.A..**

and her husband, Jim, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Alexis Nicole Leitherer, born on Dec. 4, 2008 and weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces. Ashley and Jim share: "Although learning to be parents has been challenging over the past year, she has made our lives complete. We also celebrated our 10-year wedding anniversary on June 10, 2010."

#### **WILLIAM GREGORY WEISNER '00 B.S.**

was recently named director of environmental health and safety for Coastal Carolina University. He previously served as assistant director of judicial affairs and off-campus student services at the university. Prior to joining the staff at Coastal Carolina University, Weisner held the positions of chief of campus safety, coordinator of student activities, and director of residence life at Spartanburg Methodist College. He is an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) authorized trainer.

**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 online at: [www.supportgwu.com](http://www.supportgwu.com) or [alumni@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:alumni@gardner-webb.edu)



## ***We want your Thoughts and Comments ...***

*You are invited to take an online Gardner-Webb Magazine survey.*

The Gardner-Webb Magazine wants to know which specific areas of the Magazine interest you the most. Is it the Alumni profiles or the Class Acts section? Maybe you are more interested in the news briefs or athletic news.

Your feedback will help us evaluate and enhance future issues. It will also give you an opportunity to choose between an online version of the Gardner-Webb Magazine or a printed one.

Thanks for your participation in this short survey.

To take the survey visit the Webb Magazine Survey link online at

***[www.gardner-webb.edu/mag](http://www.gardner-webb.edu/mag)***

***\*\*If you ever have story ideas to share –please send to [alumni@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:alumni@gardner-webb.edu) or [ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu).***

**HANNAH WOODY HAWKINS '01 B.A.** and her husband, Matthew, are the proud parents of two sons, Phillip and Samuel. Hannah is blessed to be a homemaker and stay-at-home mom.

**BYRON KEITH BAGWELL '04 B.S.** and Ashley Marie Morris were married on July 24, 2010 at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens in Belmont, N.C. The couple co-owns Aviator Allstar Cheerleading in Gastonia.

**TAMARA GOFORTH '04 M.A.** was recently named principal of Boiling Springs Elementary School. She taught at Jefferson Elementary for several years before transferring to Marion Elementary in 1999 as a fourth-grade teacher. She served as an assistant principal at Marion Elementary since 2005.

**LAURA CHEREE' CLONTZ '05 B.A.** received her Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in psychology and counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on May 7, 2010. She is currently serving at First Baptist Church in Colleyville, Texas as a preschool

ministry assistant. She co-directs their specialized pre-k and kindergarten program.

**JORDAN GAITHER REICH '05 B.A. and TARA WEST REICH '05 B.S.** are pleased to announce the birth of their first daughter, Matilda Vivian Reich. She was born Jan. 23, 2010.

**KIMBERLY BARNETTE GREENE '06 Ed.D.** was recently appointed as principal of Marion Intermediate School. Greene worked for 10 years at Elizabeth Elementary School as a teacher and media coordinator prior to becoming an assistant principal at Shelby Middle School in 2004. She also taught third grade for two years at North Elementary School.

**ALAN CHRISTOPHER BEAM '07 B.S.** and Lacey Rosalee Fore were married on April 17, 2010 at Salem United Methodist Church in Ballentine, S.C. Alan is the senior web designer for Gardner-Webb University and Lacey is employed by Cook-Out. The couple reside in Boiling Springs, N.C.

**DONALD RICHARD NORRIS, JR. '07 B.S.**

qualified for District Three Commissioner in Athens, Ga. on June 29, 2010. Norris has volunteered with Republican and Democrat organizations that advocate bipartisanship, informing the poor and homeless of available resources, and reducing crime rates. He is enrolled in an online master's degree program in psychology at the University of Phoenix. Norris is a substitute teacher, a tutor, an actor, a songwriter, and a volunteer at Athens-Clarke County Police Department. He has appeared as an extra in over a dozen films and television shows including "Fast Track to Fame" as well as Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married Too?", "Meet the Browns" television series, and "For Colored Girls."



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**<http://twitter.com/gardnerwebb>**



## "SUPPORTING GARDNER-WEBB ATHLETICS" CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2009-2010 Student-Athlete Accolades

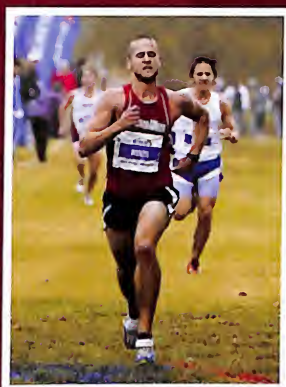
Each year more than 400 students compete in NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics at Gardner-Webb. The annual financial support of University alumni and friends to the athletic program provides the foundation for excellence in the classroom and on the playing field. Your gift to the Bulldog Club will support the continued development of GWU student-athletes and will provide you with exclusive privileges as a member.

*Below is a list of some of the highlights of the 2009-2010 athletic year:*



**Margaret Roundtree**

*Big South Conference  
Women's Basketball  
Player of the Year*



**Jason Wenzel**

*Big South Conference  
Track & Field  
Scholar Athlete of the Year*



**Scott Wheeler**

*Big South Conference  
Men's Golf  
Scholar Athlete of the Year*



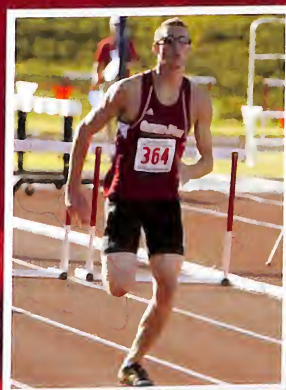
**Mario Brown**

*Big South Conference  
Football  
Scholar Athlete of the Year*



**Trent Kozman**

*Big South Conference  
Men's Soccer  
Scholar Athlete of the Year*



**Paul Steinke**

*Big South Conference  
Track & Field  
400 m Hurdle Champion*



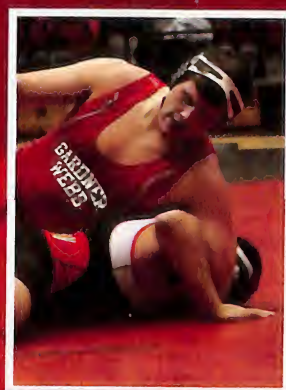
**Evgeny Slesarev**

*Big South Conference  
Men's Tennis  
Player of the Year*



**Erica White**

*Big South Conference  
Women's Tennis  
Freshman of the Year*



**Dustin Porter**

*NCAA East Regional  
Wrestling  
Heavyweight Champion*

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## **KATIE TROUT '07 B.A.**

was recently hired as the communications director at the John W. Pope Civitas Institute in Raleigh, N.C. She is also a current participant in the 2010-2011 Koch Associate Program, a year-long professional development program that seeks to advance free market ideas and liberty through various non-profit organizations.

## **NICHOLAS SHANE BENNETT '08 B.S.**

graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas on March 19, 2010.

## **JONATHAN MICHAEL CROCKETT '08 B.S. and LEANNA ELLIOTT MOBLEY '08 B.A.**

were united in marriage at West End Baptist Church in Rock Hill, S.C. on Nov. 7, 2009. Jonathan is a financial center leader for BB&T in Summerville, and Leanna is an account consultant with Benefitfocus in Charleston. They live in Charleston.

## **CHAD DAVIS '08 B.A. AND SARAH FISHER '09 B.A.**

were married on March 20, 2010 at The Manor House in Ashland, Va. Chad teaches

history and coaches wrestling at West Creek High School, and Sarah teaches English at Kenwood High School's STEM Academy in Clarksville, Tenn.

## **ALUMNUS PASSING**

### **CHRIS EDGE '08 M.A.C.**

died on July 12, 2010. He was employed by UNC Charlotte and was a certified public accountant. Edge was also a member of the Army National Guard HHC505th Engineer Battalion and an amateur radio operator with the call sign KQ4VN. He is survived by his wife, daughter, mother, father and several other family members.

### **JUSTIN GREGORY HEROLD '08 B.S. and PAMELA JOHNSON HEROLD '08 B.S.**

are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Nevaeh Avery Herold, who was born on Jan. 27, 2010.



## **JENA TREASA HUITT '08 A.A., '09 B.S.N.**

and Sandy Skipper Allen, Jr. were married on Friday, Nov. 6, 2009 at Castle McCulloch in Jamestown, N.C. Jena is a registered nurse with women and children's services at Cleveland Regional Medical Center. Skip is employed by the Dover Foundation YMCA as a sports coordinator. The couple resides in Shelby.

## **KOREY MICHAEL HINES '09 B.M.**

is currently a substitute teacher in Virginia. In addition, he serves in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and works for NCA (National Cheerleaders Association). Korey is pursuing a master's degree in music at Radford University.



## **13TH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT 5K RUN/WALK AND KIDS FUN RUN**

**NOVEMBER 25  
8:30 AM**

**RACE BEGINS ON GWU CAMPUS  
SPONSORED BY GARDNER-WEBB & THE  
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# GARDNER-WEBB

## HOMECOMING 2010

### OCTOBER 22-23

Make plans to attend ...

#### FRIDAY

- Homecoming Golf Tournament
- Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet

#### SATURDAY

- Pound the Pavement 5K
- Alumni Association Social & Meeting
- Alumni-Student Frisbee Tournament
- Pre-Game Street Party - Food, Fun and Live Music by the Embers
- Football - Bulldogs vs. Presbyterian Blue Hose
- Alumni Recognitions & Awards Ceremony

More information is available at [www.supportgwu.com](http://www.supportgwu.com) or 704.406.ALUM (2586) or 704.406.3824



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