

Spring 2010

# Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2010, Spring (Volume 44 No. 2)

Noel T. Manning II

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# Gardner Webb

THE MAGAZINE

SPRING 2010 • VOLUME 44, NUMBER 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

ANSWERED PRAYERS

**GWU LEADS RELIEF EFFORTS FOR  
HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS**

SLAM DUNK

**GWU'S LADY BULLDOGS SHATTER RECORDS**

HOMELAND SERENDIPITY

**GWU GRADUATE JOINS EXCLUSIVE  
WHITE HOUSE MEDICAL UNIT**



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# Contents



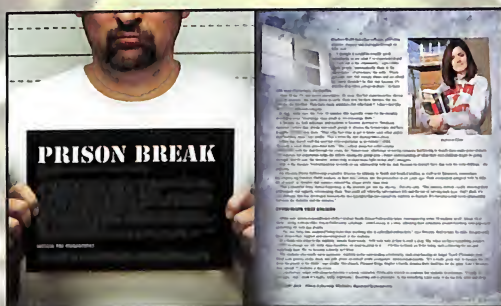
**6**

**OPERATION: HUMANITY FOR HAITI**  
*GWU Responds to Disaster Relief Call*



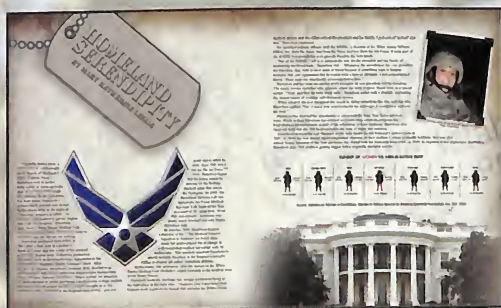
**8**

**Q&A**  
*GWU Art Professor Shares Her Passion*



**12**

**PRISON BREAK**  
*Student Takes Experience Into Prison*



**16**

**HOMELAND SERENDIPITY**  
*GWU Alum Serving in the Prestigious White House Medical Unit*

## DEPARTMENTS

**2**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
*Reflecting on Our Mission*

**4**

**NEWS & NOTES**  
*New Book on GWU School of Nursing  
GWU Earns Community Service Award Again  
O. Max Gardner Featured in Lecture  
GWU Hosts School Superintendents  
GWU Theatre Wins Awards  
Small Business Center Opens at GWU*

**10**

**SCENIC IMPRESSIONS**

**14**

**ATHLETICS**  
*GWU Women's Basketball Has Best Season Ever*

**18**

**ACADEMICS**  
*GWU Fine Arts Reach Out to Elementary School Students*

**19**

**CLASS ACTS**  
*Three-Time Alumna Earns Honors  
New Author Listens to Crickets  
Family Shares 90 Years of GWU History*

*Your Connections to GWU Classmates*

- Weddings
- Birth Announcements
- New Jobs
- Distinguished Alumni





## MAINTAINING MISSION AND MOMENTUM-CONTINUED

In a previous edition of *Gardner-Webb, The Magazine*, I wrote about our commitment to maintaining mission and momentum even in the face of the uncertainty surrounding the "Great Recession." Someone has said that you must not pull back on the throttle when flying into a headwind. Economic uncertainty remains all around us, but the financial condition of the university remains very strong, and, if anything, we are pushing forward on the throttle. The commitment to our mission is stronger than ever, and we are maintaining momentum.

In the academic arena, we have received final approval for our newest doctoral program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), which will begin next fall. The only other DNP program in the state is at Duke University. Also in the School of Nursing, a new aspect of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, the four-year or "generic" BSN, will begin soon and is currently accepting students. In the planning stages and looking very promising is a Physician's Assistant program. Finally, assuming all searches are successful, our faculty will be strengthened by nine new colleagues next fall.

Our students continue to make us proud as they excel academically and exemplify Gardner-Webb's commitment to service. The Gardner-Webb women's swim team once again achieved the highest cumulative grade point average of any women's team in NCAA Division I, earning national academic championship status. The publication of the national Prison Fellowship Ministries organization featured Gardner-Webb student Stephanie Gibbs, who leads GWU students in our prison ministry program. That story can be found in this issue on page 14. Also in this issue of *Gardner-Webb, The Magazine* on page 8 is the story of our university family's efforts to aid the people of Haiti. Among the various service projects of our student athletes is their participation in "Samaritan's Feet," a program working to provide shoes to needy children around the world. Our new Student Leadership Development program will enhance our students' preparation for leadership as well as service. For the third consecutive year, Gardner-Webb University has been named to the President's Honor Roll for Higher Education Community Service.

Momentum continues in the development of our campus as well. Our newest residence hall opened last fall, and another is under construction and scheduled to open next fall. The new John Henry Moss Baseball Stadium is under construction and will be ready for next season. A major development announcement was recently made and will be fully reported in the next issue of our magazine.

And so, we continue to push the throttle—maintaining mission and momentum.

Yours, For God and Humanity,



Frank Bonner  
President, Gardner-Webb University







## NEW BOOK PRESENTS THE HISTORY OF GARDNER-WEBB'S SCHOOL OF NURSING

Dr. Shirley Toney has brought a labor of love to the pages of a book entitled "Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing - History & Heritage."

Toney is dean emerita and professor emerita for the Gardner-Webb School of Nursing. She concluded 45 years of formal nursing education, primarily at GWU, in June 2008. Toney was dean of the GWU School of Nursing from 1978-2006 (after helping to bring the program to life in 1965). "Because I helped start the program and worked in it for so many years, I have lived the whole thing. It was my life," said Toney.

Toney shares in the book that Cleveland Memorial Hospital in Shelby, N.C. (today known as Cleveland Regional Medical Center) and Rutherford Hospital were instrumental in the foundation of the school.

Provost and senior vice president at Gardner-Webb, Dr. Ben Leslie, calls Toney "One of the University's most celebrated

educators" and is proud of what "GWU School of Nursing - History & Heritage" offers. "Dr. Toney's work is as much a tribute as a service to an educational undertaking that has shaped the health care communities of western North Carolina and beyond," said Leslie. Toney says with pride, "We've put so many students out in the world and they are doing marvelous things."

"GWU School of Nursing - History & Heritage" is currently available at the gift shops of Cleveland Regional Medical Center, Rutherford Hospital and the GWU Campus Shop. More information is available from the GWU Campus Shop at 704-406-4273.

## GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

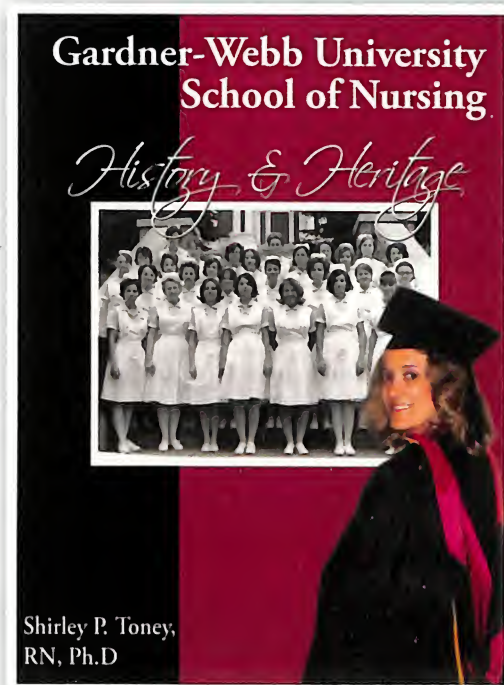


Gardner-Webb University has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the third consecutive year—the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual honor roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. On campuses across the country, thousands of students joined their faculty to develop innovative programs and projects to meet local needs using the skills gained in their classrooms. Business students served as consultants to budget-strapped nonprofits and businesses, law students volunteered at legal clinics, and dozens of others organized anti-hunger campaigns.

"Congratulations to Gardner-Webb and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities," said Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Our nation's students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service."

Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.





## IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

*GWU Hosts event for School Superintendents*

Gardner-Webb University's Center for Innovative Leadership Development held a special event for school system superintendents in the region. The event was facilitated by Dr. Doug Eury, director of the Center and associate dean for the GWU School of Education. In attendance were superintendents from at least 12 school systems from North Carolina and South Carolina.

Eury told the superintendents that the Center's efforts included three main initiatives:

1. How can we help school systems?
2. How can we help communities?
3. How can we use leadership skills to transform those around us?



"It's about building capacity and influencing leadership. If each individual teacher performs at their best level, others around them will perform the same way," said Eury. With input from these superintendents, the Center hopes to develop a model that would fit the needs of each school system.

The Gardner-Webb Center for Innovative Leadership Development is operated by the School of Education with assistance from the School of Divinity and the Godbold School of Business. The Center's vision statement reads, "The Center for Innovative Leadership Development will become an institution that supports the needs of the immediate community and region with vital significant programs aimed at spiritual, economic, and academic growth." More information is available by contacting Eury at 704-406-4402 or aeury@gardner-webb.edu.



## N.C. POLITICS AND A GWU CONNECTION

The Joyce Compton Brown Lecture Series presented a closer look at North Carolina politics and a man who is credited with changing the face of North Carolina government, O. Max Gardner (Gardner-Webb's namesake).

Rob Christensen, a political reporter for the Raleigh (N.C.) *News and Observer* and author of "The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics: The Personalities, Elections, and Events That Shaped Modern North Carolina," discussed "The Shelby Dynasty" and shared little known facts about N.C. Governor O. Max Gardner (1929-33). Christensen has covered N.C. politics for over 35 years at the *News and Observer*. "Exploring politics in North Carolina was like stepping back in history, and I saw all these little threads and I wanted to put it all together and answer some real questions about several political paradoxes," said Christensen in a UNC-TV interview.

Christensen's book navigates a century of political history in North Carolina, covering conservatives, liberals, Democrats and Republicans. According to Christensen, "It is a climate of competition and challenge that enabled North Carolina to rise from poverty in the nineteenth century to become a leader in research, education, and banking in the twentieth century."

Christensen explained that the most fascinating unheralded political figure he examined while writing his book was O. Max Gardner. "He (Gardner) was a textile plant owner and a lawyer who pretty much invented state government as it exists today. After leaving office, he moved to Washington (D.C.) to become one of the first of the super lobbyists. But for 20 years, he continued to run the state from his suite in the Mayflower Hotel," said Christensen.



O. Max Gardner

## THE BUSINESS OF HELPING BUSINESSES

*N.C. Lt. Governor Walter Dalton Announces GWU/Small Business Partnership*

North Carolina Lt. Governor Walter Dalton announced that Gardner-Webb University would serve as the location for a Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC) regional office.

With funding from the N.C. Rural Center, the SBTDC provides assistance to mid-sized businesses in eight of the state's most economically distressed counties. The project funds additional personnel and resources dedicated solely to these targeted communities to provide business counseling, technical assistance, and specialized services to mid-sized businesses with potential for short and long-term



job growth. The Gardner-Webb office will serve Cleveland and Rutherford counties.

Dalton believes this office has incredible potential to assist the area. "This national economic downturn has hit North Carolina hard and rural North Carolina has suffered in particular. I'm glad to see resources aimed at mid-sized businesses in rural distressed counties, and I'm confident the Small Business & Technology Development Center will be a great partner in delivering these services. The regional office on the Gardner-Webb campus will be a tremendous asset and will help us preserve and create jobs in a region that really needs them."

The SBTDC works closely with North Carolina colleges and universities across the state to provide opportunities for MBA, master's in accounting, and other graduate level students to gain real-world experience, and to help North Carolina's small businesses access valuable resources.

"This helps us as a business school to assist our own local businesses," said Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, dean of the Godbold School of Business at GWU. "But it also allows our students to practically solve business issues without leaving campus." The SBTDC has a long history of offering graduate students the opportunities to advance their business education while helping North Carolina's small businesses to effectively address key competitive issues.



N.C. Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton

**"The regional office on the Gardner-Webb campus will be a tremendous asset and will help us preserve and create jobs in a region that really needs them."**

**- N.C. Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton**

The SBTDC has three other university partners throughout the state, but Gardner-Webb was the first private university to be selected. GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner says the university remains committed to assisting economic development and growth throughout the region, and feels this partnership with the SBTDC is one more step in that process. "The existing GWU tuition credit incentive program for the creation of new jobs is an example of this commitment," said Bonner. "We are confident that this fine agency (SBTDC) will contribute significantly to economic development, and we are pleased to be a partner in this effort."

SBTDC counseling services include business, management and market development designed to help in such areas as technology, market and

research, and export financing. Clients of SBTDC credit them with saving revenues and jobs, an average of 4,000 N.C. jobs each year. Most SBTDC services are free of charge.

## GWU THEATRE RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

The Gardner-Webb University Theatre Program was presented with multiple awards during the fall semester at the Metrolina Theatre Awards (MTA) in Charlotte, N.C. GWU made an outstanding showing by winning six awards (13 nominations) including several key awards for "The Crucible."

The awards won by Gardner-Webb were:

- Outstanding Production - "The Crucible"
- Outstanding Lead Actor - Male - Ron Houser (John Proctor) - "The Crucible"
- Outstanding Lead Actor - Female - Amy Elliot (Elizabeth Proctor) - "The Crucible"
- Outstanding Lighting Design - Nicholas Laughridge - "The Crucible"
- Outstanding Set Design - Christopher Keene - "The Crucible"
- Outstanding Choreography - Kenzie Conner - "Li'l Abner - The Musical"

Gardner-Webb secured the wins against programs from Davidson College, UNC Charlotte, Pfeiffer University and Catawba College.

Since 2004, the GWU Theatre Program has won nearly 40 awards for the productions of "DOGFALL," "Waiting on Godot," "Martyr," "Gloria Dei," "Baby! The Musical," "Purging Mary," "The House of Bernarda Alba," "Li'l Abner," LEAR ReLoaded," and "The Crucible."

The MTA represents more than 50 organizations, along with hundreds of theatrical artists, directors, and producers in the Charlotte region. The MTA also votes every year on performances and creative elements in seven categories: dramas, comedies, musicals, companies in the northern region, companies in the southern region, colleges and universities, and special events.



# OPERATION:

## Humanity for Haiti

*Gardner-Webb Leads Relief Effort for Haitian Earthquake Victims  
By Matthew Renfer*

People from all over the world have answered an immediate call for help in the aftermath of the destructive Haitian earthquake. The Gardner-Webb community has been no exception. Faculty, staff, students, alumni and clubs are all doing their part to support the impoverished nation.

When it comes to donations, the Gardner-Webb Honors Association and Campus Ministries United have made it possible to support the Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders and Samaritan's Purse. These critical funds are used for supplying appropriate food, water and shelter, as well as allowing doctors and medical supplies to provide emergency care for thousands of survivors immediately following the massive quake.

Dr. Tom Jones, honors program coordinator, said, "This is an ongoing collection. People in Haiti still need our help even though it's not the main headlines in the media anymore."

Gardner-Webb students also took it upon themselves to organize and put on a Haiti benefit concert. Proceeds from admission tickets, t-shirts and baked goods were used to raise money for Haiti relief through New Missions, an organization started by Crossroads Community. The concert included recording artist Jeremy Current,

in addition to Gardner-Webb students.

"We are so glad that people came out to support the victims of the Haiti earthquake. It was amazing to see this community come together to make the benefit a success," said Gabriela Hooker, a junior at Gardner-Webb and one of the organizers of the event.

Gardner-Webb's Athletic Training Club has notably contributed to the cause, collecting medical supplies such as peroxide and band-aids, in addition to inviting other North Carolina schools to follow suite. Those invitations were taken up by East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina, amounting to a total of 300 pounds of medical supplies that were shipped to Florida's "Help for Haiti" organization.

**"The Gardner-Webb family  
always comes through when  
there is a need."**

"I was really impressed with all the supplies we were able to collect and send," said Maggie Lindsey, the club's student director. I didn't think we would get as much as we did, but people really pitched in and gave selflessly."

The giving doesn't end there. The Big South Conference has chosen to support Samaritan's Feet this year, a Charlotte, N.C.



organization whose mission is to collect 10 million pairs of athletic shoes in the next 10 years for children living in poverty around the world. Gardner-Webb's Student Athletic Advisory Committee is supporting the charity with a goal of its own: to collect 1,000 pairs of shoes.

Teresa Davis, secretary to the office of campus ministries said, "The Gardner-Webb family always comes through when there is a need; they always set a goal and meet it. I am never surprised when they go out of their way to help others in need."

## MISSIONS TO HAITI

Hundreds of volunteers from North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM) have served in Haiti since the earthquake struck, with more to follow in the months ahead. Gardner-Webb Alumnus and Director of NCBM Richard Brunson ('79) spoke about his direct experiences with the relief effort inside the country.

"It's amazing," explained Brunson. "I mean, they've saved lots of lives. There are lots of stories about lives they've saved...and those volunteers are making a big difference."

Multiple teams comprised of medical and non-medical volunteers have been sent to care for wounds and surgery, prepare food for hospital patients, and help with the upcoming reconstruction phase of the relief effort.

Brunson argues that an instinctive need to help people affected by a disaster is a trend that has grown dramatically over the years. "After Hurricane Katrina we had over 30,000 people who went with us down to Gulfport, Miss., and that wouldn't have happened 20 years ago," said Brunson.

Part of that growing trend, says Brunson, is increased accessibility to crisis-torn countries than in the past.

"But most of it is, I think, that people have done it, and they've caught the fever and saw that they can make a difference," said Brunson. "They want to make a difference. It touches them and they have to go."

NCBM anticipates staying in Haiti for a year or more. Anyone interested in volunteering can obtain more information by reaching Gaylon Moss at 1-800-395-5102 x 5605 or visiting [ncmissions.org](http://ncmissions.org).



NC Baptist Missionaries helping Haiti earthquake victims.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF A CRISIS

Freda Brown, professor in the School of Psychology and Counseling and co-author of "Crisis Counseling and Therapy," commented on the psychological impact that results from disasters such as the Haitian earthquake.

According to Brown, a victim of a crisis progresses through multiple psychological steps that begin with an initial shock and denial. The first question that is asked is usually "What is going on here?"

That initial response gives way to anger, which can also be used as a motivator. Brown cautions "people of supposedly religion" that claim disaster victims are being punished for their sins. "That is a horrible way to frame our response to people who are struggling with the 'Why?' question in the face of a crisis," said Brown.

As time goes on, anger gives way to depression. However, Brown stresses the positive changes that are made possible because of a crisis. "Resilience is a very, very important quality that we really want to try to teach as much as possible," Brown said. "And you don't learn resilience in a vacuum—you don't learn resilience unless you have to bounce back from something."

"When we're struggling, when we're facing loss, when we don't know what tomorrow holds, we start looking for something bigger than ourselves, and that's when our spiritual selves begin to be nurtured," said Brown.

Brown described her experiences on a Gardner-Webb trip to an African village. "They had some real strengths that we could learn from, and they were in community with each other. We're a lonely people here—technologically connected and yet cut off from each other. So a disaster, a crisis, a call for service allows us to connect in ways that really does feed our soul. I think that very few people go into that type of situation that don't come back changed," said Brown.

*\* Look for companion story on page 26.*





# Roots

# & Wings

*A conversation with artist Susan Carlisle Bell*

*By Paul Foster*

Gardner-Webb, The Magazine recently sat down with Susan Carlisle Bell, associate professor of Art at GWU. Bell has shared her passion for art with students for over 25 years. A native of Wytheville, Va., Bell grew up on her family's farm where she discovered a love for nature that has been a significant part of her paintings over the years. Her mother, Elizabeth Carlisle Jones, was also instrumental in developing her love for art.

Bell has witnessed visual arts at Gardner-Webb experience tremendous growth throughout the years and is looking forward to seeing more students take advantage of the opportunities offered by the major. We spoke with Bell about her academic sabbatical and the artwork that resulted from that experience, "Roots and Wings."



**Gardner-Webb, The Magazine:** You took a sabbatical during the spring and summer of 2009. How would you describe the experience of a sabbatical for you (an artist)?

**Susan Bell:** The main thing is it gives you time. To be creative, you need time. During my getaway (besides creating new artwork), I took two workshops: Experimental Media and Abstraction. I came away feeling painting was fun again. Having more time to paint means for me that you can build a new painting off the one you did before. Also, as an art historian, I valued the extra time to read, study and visit new galleries. The sabbatical was a time to rest, recreate, read, research and relate.

**Gardner-Webb, The Magazine:** Your sabbatical brought to life “Roots and Wings,” a variety of artwork that features watercolor paintings of old family photographs, collages, landscapes, flowers, birds, and seashells. How did you come up with the name “Roots and Wings?”



**Susan Bell:** “I continued to explore my roots through a series of paintings based on significant family subjects like my father’s Virginia farm, floras, treescapes, the N.C. Mountains, and Murrell’s Inlet. My sabbatical gave me the opportunity to explore new themes and techniques, which gave me wings. The abstract paintings symbolize both roots and wings. As an example, “Soul Windows” are loosely based on scripture reflections. A sense of history is implied by layering and scraping (the painting process), suggesting old walls or written texts. This process was the use of acrylics in a new way and it was experimental. Freed from recognizable subject matter, you start the painting without any conceived idea. You just lay down layer after layer and keep applying paint. I embraced the joy of moving paint around the canvas with color and brushstroke taking flight.

**Gardner-Webb, The Magazine:** Your family roots are evident in some of the paintings that have an old photograph feel.

**Susan Bell:** I tried to paint as if they were a photograph—very realistic. One painting features my father at his gas station in Spartanburg, S.C. My roots and my love for art also goes back to my mother. Mom was an artist. She painted and was also a musician. I grew up with stuff all around me to paint with and learn. Today, we have a scholarship in her name at the university (The Elizabeth Carlisle Jones Scholarship).”

**Gardner-Webb, The Magazine:** Your love for art history has allowed you to experience art around the world. Correct?

**Susan Bell:** Yes. I have had the opportunity to visit over 20 countries, including Greece, Italy, and Russia. I’ve also visited over 100 museums. This has always given me inspiration and new ideas.

**Gardner-Webb, The Magazine:** What inspires you to keep doing what you’re doing at Gardner-Webb?

**Susan Bell:** I simply love to teach Art Survey because it is a required course for all students. I realize some of them may not want to be there, but in the end I think they have an appreciation for the arts. In the classroom it is still always new for me because it’s new to them. The students help me see something new. That’s a blessing.

Learn more about Susan Carlisle Bell and view her art creations at [susancarlislebell.com](http://susancarlislebell.com).





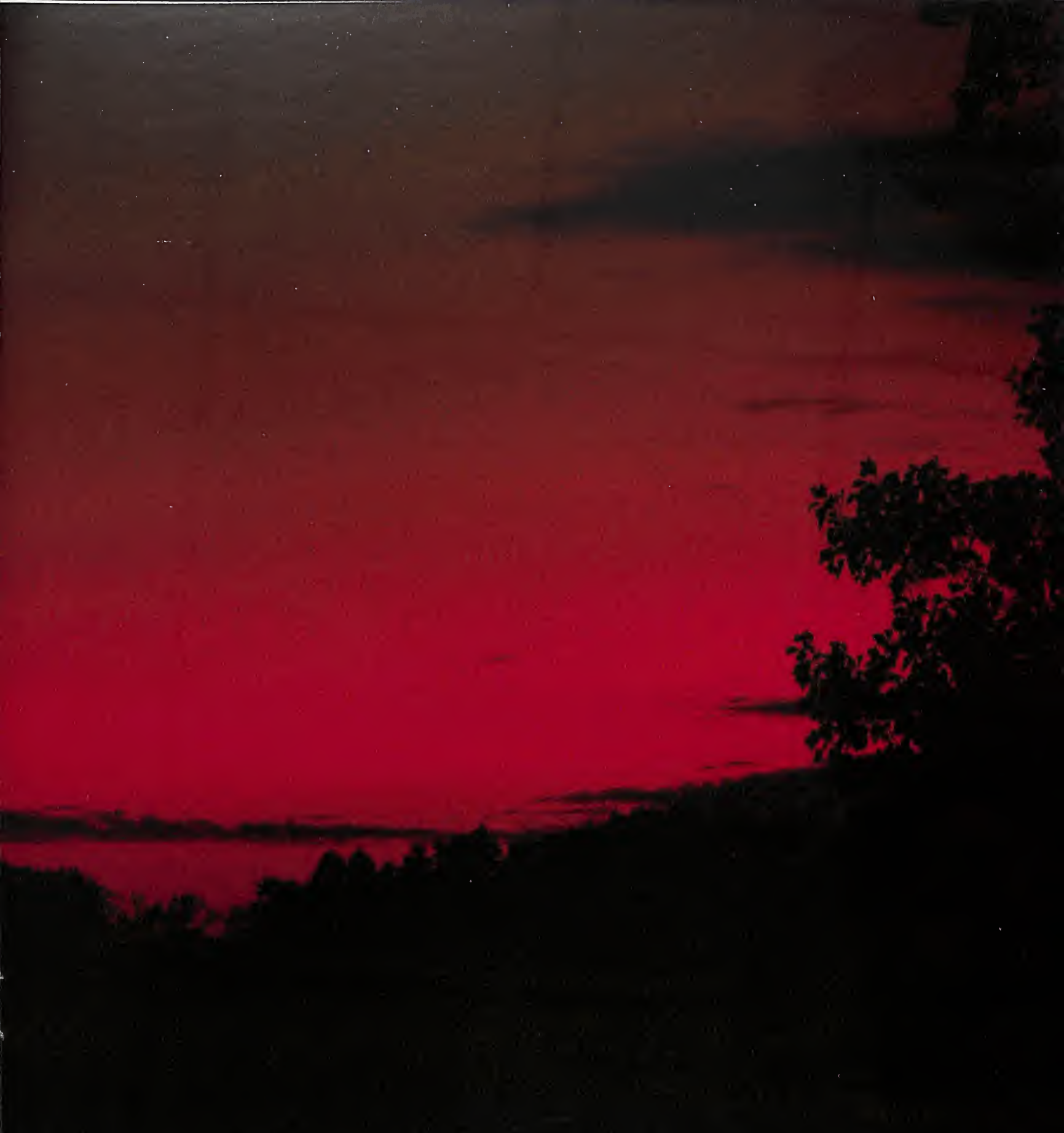


## *Scenic Impressions*

"A vision is not just a picture of what could be;  
it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to become  
something more."

*Rosabeth Moss Kanter*





*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).*





# PRISON BREAK

*GWU Student Brings Unique Perspective to Prison Fellowship Ministry*

*By Becky Beane*

A lot of the inmates don't know the lyrics to contemporary Christian songs, and some of them can't read the words in a hymnbook. "But everyone knows 'Amazing Grace,'" says Gardner-Webb University junior Stephanie Gibbs. "And that's when it sounds like we're going to knock the walls down!"

One Monday each month, Gibbs and her team of Prison Fellowship volunteers—all students at Gardner-Webb University—head across the state line into Spartanburg, S.C. to visit Livesay Correctional Institution, a minimum-security facility for men. The students cross the border because North Carolina prisons won't allow volunteers under the age of 21. Some of the Gardner-Webb students are only 18.

That's how old Gibbs was when she first went into Livesay (then called Northside) as a GWU freshman to participate in a worship service for interested prisoners. Having grown up on the criminal stereotypes of "Law and Order," "CSI," and the like, some of the students in the group contended with knotted stomachs. But Gibbs was already a seasoned veteran of real-life prison.

"Since I was young, my dad has almost always been in jail," she explains. Raised by her father's mother, Gibbs joined her grandmother on visits to whichever facility he happened to be in. "So it's comfortable for me."

## **DEFYING THE STEREOTYPES**

That comfort drew Gibbs to the Prison Fellowship exhibit at a campus ministry fair during her first semester at GWU. Seeking to reach "the next generation of volunteers," Prison Fellowship had formed partnerships with



Gardner-Webb and other colleges, providing ministry training and oversight through its field staff.

“I thought it would be a really good opportunity to use what I’ve experienced and to reach out to the community,” says Gibbs. Many people “automatically think of the stereotypes” of prisoners, she adds. “These guys are ones that society shuns and are afraid of, and it shouldn’t be that way because it’s not like that when you go in there.” At least

with most of prisoners, she clarifies.

Some fit the TV and movie stereotypes, she says. But her experience has shown that the majority “are more down to earth. They care for their families like we care for our families. They have made mistakes, but who hasn’t? I don’t feel like they’re in a different category.”

In fact, Gibbs says, the 25 to 30 inmates who typically come for the monthly worship service “encourage us as much as we encourage them.”

A favorite for both prisoners and students is the time devoted to “breakout sessions,” where they divide into small groups to discuss the lesson topic and how it applies to their own lives. “That’s the best time to get to know each other and to start building trust,” says Gibbs. That’s when the real sharing takes place.

Gibbs has shared with the men her own experience as an inmate’s child, “because a lot of these guys have kids.” She’s talked about her roller-coaster relationship with her dad through the years, the “bittersweet” challenge of loving someone but having to watch them make poor choices. She believes her experience helps the fathers among the group gain a better understanding of what their own children might be going through. And in turn, the inmates’ stories help to shed more light on her dad’s struggles.

One of the inmates “encouraged me to work on my relationship with my dad, because he doesn’t have that with his own children,” she explains.

Ed Privette, Prison Fellowship executive director for ministry in North and South Carolina, as well as in Tennessee, remembers accompanying Gardner-Webb students on their first venture into the prison five or six years ago. Their excitement mingled with “a little bit of angst” as students and inmates entered the chapel at the same time.

“But a beautiful thing started happening as the students got into the service,” Privette adds. “The inmates started vocally showing their enthusiasm and support, encouraging them. You could tell when the nervousness left and the joy of serving took over. And I think it’s that dialogue that has developed between the two [groups] that has caused the ministry to flourish. It’s become a real warm relationship between the students and the inmates.”

## ENTHUSIASM THAT ENGAGES

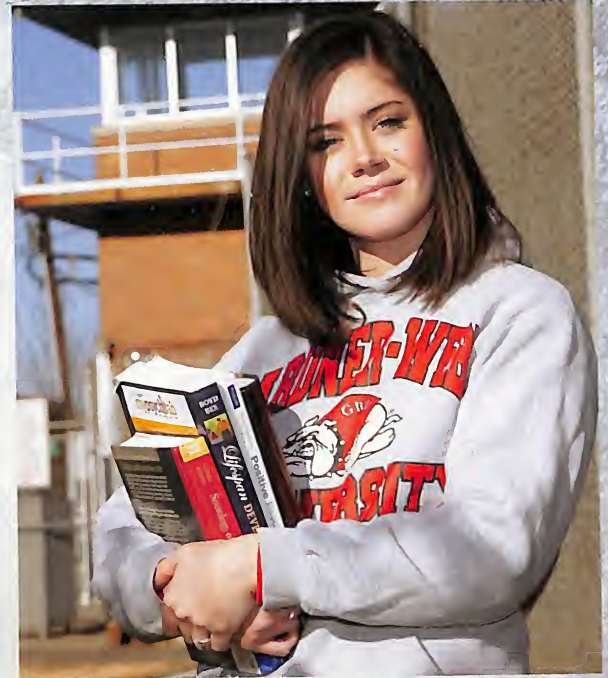
Gibbs now serves as coordinator of the Gardner-Webb Prison Fellowship team, encompassing some 30 students in all. About 10 of them—along with an older Prison Fellowship volunteer—visit Livesay at a time, adjusting their schedules around finishing term papers or cramming for next-day exams.

“The one thing [the students] bring more than anything else is unbridled enthusiasm,” says Privette. And in turn, he adds, the prisoners have shown their support and encouragement to the students.

In a thank-you letter to the students, inmate Scott wrote: “Our time here at first is such a drag. But when we have something positive to help us change our life from such shambles, we tend to jump at it . . . I’d like to thank ya’ll for being such a blessing for me and everybody here. We’ve become a family in Christ.”

The students also reach out to prisoners’ children in the surrounding community, each year hosting an Angel Tree® Christmas party filled with games, crafts, food, and gifts given on behalf of the youngsters’ incarcerated parents. “It’s a really great way to transfer the love from the parent to the child,” says Gibbs. Her church, Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, donates their facilities for the party. Last Christmas they served 75 children at the event.

A psychology major with plans to become a school counselor, Gibbs also intends to continue her ministry to prisoners. “I really love it,” she says, “and I think it’s really, really important.” Reaching out to prisoners “is not something I just want to do for four years and drop.”



Stephanie Gibbs

Lenn Long Photo





# SLAM DUNK

**GWU's LADY BULLDOGS SHATTER RECORDS ON WAY TO FIRST-EVER POSTSEASON BERTH**

*by Matthew Refner*



For the first time in Gardner-Webb history, the Lady Bulldogs basketball team won a conference title and advanced to a WNIT postseason appearance. Their 28-5 season (15-1 in the Big South) has set the bar to new heights for the university, tying the Big South Conference record for the most wins in a single season.

When asked about the team mentality of the Lady Bulldogs, Head Coach Rick Reeves had this to say: "Players off the bench have come in and done a great job, and we have a lot of team strength. I think our team strength is our versatility: we could play a fast-paced game, we can play a slow-down game, we can play a power game, we can play a perimeter type of game. And I think that's really helped us, that we can adapt, and when we face other teams we look at their weaknesses and we try to attack that. At times, we've had five players averaging double figures."

The notion that the Lady Bulldogs are a true team is not self-proclaiming. No less than five different postseason awards from the Big South were earned, including Coach of the Year (Reeves), Player of the Year (Margaret Roundtree), First-Team All Conference (Margaret Roundtree, Dominique Hudson), Second-Team All Conference (Courtney Epps), and Academic All Conference (Meranda Burnett).

Shared across the team's season stats are conference-leading rankings, new GWU records, and career highs.

Big South Player of the Year Margaret Roundtree became the 14th Lady Bulldog to join the 1,000 points club and GWU's Division I career made field goals leader this season. The senior forward scored 25 double figure games this season.

Junior guard Dominique Hudson became GWU's Division I career assist leader (385), reaching second in the conference in steals (78), also a team-high.

Junior Guard Courtney Epps led the team and was fifth in the league in scoring with 12.9 points per game and was second in the Big South in three-point field goal percentage, shooting 40.4 percent. She ranked third in the conference in field goal percentage at 49 percent and third in three-point field goals made with 60 total treys.

Senior Guard Meranda Burnett ranked third in the GWU Division I record book with 299 career assists and lead the team in free throw shooting this year, shooting 88.5 percent from the charity stripe. She's also never missed a game during her time at GWU, playing in 127 contests over her career.

Reeves himself owns some new records, becoming the third most winningest coach in the Big South with 169 wins in the conference. He also received his first Big South Coach of the Year Award this season while at GWU, the fourth in his career.





Reeves stressed the importance of academics while participating in school sports. "Every player that I've had here are all leaving with a degree, and that's very important," he said, explaining what he's dubbed as the "three A's of recruiting."

"When we recruit a young lady," said Reeves, "the first thing we look at is attitude—the type of character they have, their relationship with Christ. The second thing we look at is their academics and if they can be a success here, because Gardner-Webb is a very good academic university. Then we look at their ability."

"I look at everything as an educator," said Reeves, "and when you see that they finally understand the formula and you give them the test and they're acing the test, I think that that's really fun—the process to watch these kids overcome so much adversity."

While the Lady Bulldogs sustained just five losses, their season this year has been anything but easy. "We had the hardest schedule in the conference by far," said Reeves. For the first time, the Lady Bulldogs defeated a Big-10 team during the regular season, beating Purdue on the road.

"Playing at Purdue in front of 9,000 people and coming out with a victory and not letting the crowd rattle them...that was overcoming the odds," said Reeves. "I've watched them mature, as people as well as players that children would be proud to have as role models."

Those tough match-ups carried into the postseason with an exciting game against Liberty for the Big South Championship Game. The Lady Bulldogs, down by 20 points and with only 8:35 remaining in the second half, rebounded fully until Liberty made a shot with 4.2 seconds left in the game (68-66).

While their WNIT postseason run came to an end with a loss to Charlotte's 49ers (74-60) on March 18, Reeves is hopeful that this season is just the beginning of future success.

"We're not done yet," said Reeves. "We want to build a program and not just where we have one great year and then it's over. Next year, we have North Carolina and Purdue playing here. Both have won national championships. We also have Oklahoma on the schedule and Louisville on the schedule down the road."

"I'm real excited about bringing North Carolina in here, and I just tell our fans you better get your tickets early cause that game will be sold out," said Reeves.

## RECORDS BROKEN BY THE 2009-10 LADY BULLDOGS:

- Won the most games in a single season at GWU (28), shattering the previous record of 23 set in 1989-1990.
- Tied the most wins in a single season in the Big South Conference (28).
- Won the Big South Conference regular season title for the first time in its 35-year history.
- Won the most home games in a single GWU season (14).
- Achieved the longest winning streak in the history of women's basketball at GWU (16).
- Reached the 400th total win after defeating Charleston Southern on Feb. 27.
- Received votes in the ESPN/USA Today Top-25 Coaches Poll for the first time.
- Appeared in the first-ever postseason tournament since moving to the NCAA Division I level in 2000-01.
- Rick Reeves placed third overall on the top-10 winningest coaches in the Big South Conference (169 wins).
- Senior Margaret Roundtree is the 14th player in GWU women's basketball history to join the 1,000 career points club.
- Roundtree became the GWU Division I leader in career made field goals.





# HOMELAND SERENDIPITY

BY MARY KATHERINE LESLIE

Originally from Capac, a small town of 1,800 people in the thumb of Michigan's glove, Captain Tracy Harrelson took at least a mild winter to warm up to the idea of a school in the south like Gardner-Webb University. Far from home, Harrelson's culture-shock journey was fueled by the desire to be in the medical technology program at GWU. "At the time I just wanted to get my degree and work in a hospital," Harrelson said. Now a White House Medical Unit Air Force representative, Harrelson's story of success is one she did not see coming.

Harrelson graduated from GWU in 1992 after a final year at Carolina's Medical Center that was a part of the medical technology degree plan. Following graduation, she began work in the microbiology department at the University of Virginia's Health Sciences Center. After her time in Virginia, Harrelson's husband, Rob, decided to go back to school and receive additional degrees from Appalachian State, and later, Indiana University. "When we had our daughter, he [Rob] decided he better quit being a professional college student, and that's when he joined the Air Force that brought us to D.C.," Harrelson said. "I worked at the hospitals here in D.C., and five

years ago is when he said, 'Hey, why don't you try the Air Force?'"

First, Harrelson began her Air Force career by serving on the Bolling medical team that serves the Pentagon. In 2008, her Homeland Defense Lab was named the Air Force Medical Services' Lab Team of the Year in a pool of 347 other labs. "[Our lab] was ecstatic. Everyone was pretty much shocked and very happy," Harrelson said.

In October 2008, Harrelson became a member of the 779th Medical Support Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base. Here, her duties placed her in charge of a distinguished medical lab center with 50 technicians. This position required Harrelson to attend monthly meetings at the Surgeon General's Office to discuss lab policy, homeland defense, deployments, and education. She also serves on the White House Medical Unit (WHMU), which responds to the medical care of the White House.

Harrelson modestly attributes this unique position to being in the right place at the right time. "Andrews [Air Force base] just happens to be a part of the branch that includes the White House





medical agency and also takes care of the president and his family. I just sort of 'lucked' into this," Harrelson explained.

Six qualified military officers staff the WHMU, a division of the White House Military Office: two from the Army, two from the Navy, and two from the Air Force. A large part of the WHMU's responsibility is to provide blood to the first family.

"Part of the WHMU's job is to perform the task for the president and his family of overseeing the blood bank," Harrelson said. "Whenever the president or the vice president are traveling, they have to have units of blood because if something were to happen overseas they can't guarantee that he would have a type of stringent, a non-contaminated blood. These units are specifically cross-matched to him."

Harrelson and her team are alerted if the president or vice president will be traveling. The secret service visits her labs' quarters where the team prepares blood units in a special cooler. "Yeah, and they do wear black suits," Harrelson added with a chuckle, explaining the surreal nature of working with the secret service.

When asked if she ever imagined she would be doing something like this with her life, Harrelson replied, "No. Even if you were to ask me six years ago, I would have said you are nuts."

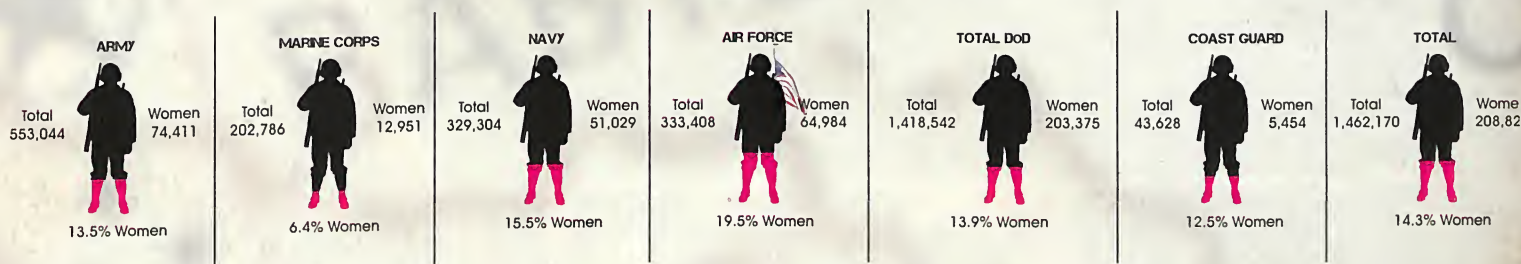
Harrelson has also had the opportunity to serve with the Iraqi Task Force advisory team. While in Iraq, Harrelson has worked on establishing a training program for Iraqi medical lab technicians as part of the rebuilding of Iraqi medicine. Harrelson also received word that she will be promoted to the rank of major this summer.

Harrelson received the Lab Manager of the Year Award for the National Capitol region in 2007. In 2009, she was named the Distinguished Alumnus of the Carolinas College of Health Sciences. She was also named Young Alumnus of the Year (an honor she shared with her husband) from GWU in 2009. In response to her impressive accolades, Harrelson said, "All of this is getting bigger than I originally intended it to be."



Tracy Harrelson

## NUMBER OF WOMEN VS. MEN IN ACTIVE DUTY



Source: Statistics on Women in the Military, Women In Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc. Oct. 2009





# THE SHOW MUST GO ON

*Gardner-Webb University Fine Arts Comes to the Rescue for Over 1,000 Kids*

*By Paul Foster*

When Lincoln County (N.C.) school officials learned an annual fifth grader event presented by the North Carolina Symphony wasn't going to take place due to lack of funding, the Gardner-Webb University Department of Fine Arts decided to save the day.

Gardner-Webb Alumnus Leanna Jones ('08), an elementary school music teacher in Lincoln County, mentioned the crisis to Dr. Patricia Sparti, chair of the GWU Department of Fine Arts. Sparti decided the children shouldn't miss this experience and was happy to get GWU musicians involved to offer the program, held at the James Warren Civic Center in Lincolnton. A small ensemble of 13 individuals, made up of GWU professors and students, performed a children's concert for more than 1,000 Lincoln County fifth graders (including charter schools, Christian schools, and home school groups). Doug Knotts, professor of the GWU Department of Fine Arts (Visual Arts Division), served as supervisor for the multi-media special effects projection display used as part of the concert.

The program featured *The Carnival of the Animals* by famous French Composer Camille Saint-Saens. Saint-Saens composed the production as a joke to entertain his pupils and to mock the styles of popular composers of his day.

"One of our goals is for the listener to recognize that music can be used to represent different effects," said Sparti, who directed and narrated. "The children were asked to listen carefully and identify sounds that represented animal characteristics as they were played."

Teacher for Lincoln County Schools, Peggy Buckner, said, "The visuals, combined with the music, excited the children. They were quiet and attentive. I heard many teachers say their children loved it. I think it had a lot to do with sight and sound."

"It was well worth it to bring great music and art to others so that every generation can have their lives changed for the better," said Sparti.







# Class Acts

## The 1940s

### ALUMNA PASSING GENEVA MARTIN '40 A.A.

passed away on Jan. 6, 2010 at Upstate Carolina Medical Center. She retired as director of Children's Weekday Ministries at West End Baptist Church where she was also a Sunday school teacher and member of the choir. She is survived by her two brothers, three sisters, son, daughter, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**ALUMNUS PASSING**  
**ROBERT WHITE ABRAMS '42 A.A.**  
died on Dec. 31, 2009. He served Gardner-Webb University for 23 years where he was an administrator. His roles included director of promotion, director of development, director of admissions, director of church relations, and registrar. In addition, Abrams served as pastor to several churches in the Carolinas. His son, three daughters, one brother, one sister, and five grandchildren survive him.

**ALUMNA PASSING**  
**AUDREY HARDIN '47 A.A.**  
passed away on Dec. 11, 2009 at Alston Brook Nursing Home. She was a member of Stoner's Grove Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband, brother, sister, two sons, three grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

**ALUMNUS PASSING**  
**ROBERT KENNETH WHITLOCK '49 A.A.**  
died on Nov. 29, 2009 at Carolinas Medical Center-Northeast. He was employed with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System where he was a teacher for four years and principal for 25 years before his retirement. Whitlock was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served during the Korean War. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Salisbury. In addition, Whitlock was a member of the Rowan Ramblers, National Blind Veterans Association, and the National Federation of the Blind. He is preceded in death by his wife, brother, twin sons, and daughter. His son, Robert

Kenneth Whitlock, Jr., as well as several grandchildren, brothers and sisters survive him.

## The 1950s

### © DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI: MR. JOSEPH THOMAS "J.T." DAVIS '56

Gardner-Webb University inducted J.T. Davis into its Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. The Gallery honors alumni who are making positive contributions in their careers and communities. Gallery members are nominated by their peers and chosen by representatives from the university. Gallery members represent the quality and depth found in the thousands of graduates produced by Gardner-Webb over the past 105 years.



Davis graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1956 with an Associate of Arts degree. After graduating from Catawba College in 1958, Davis received his certification in driver education first from Western Carolina University in 1966 and then from Appalachian State University in 1972.

Davis has belonged to several professional organizations including the National Education Association and the North Carolina Association of Educators. For quality years of teaching, he was awarded the Buncombe County Certificate of Merit. Davis was also baseball coach for A.C. Reynolds High School, where he was named coach of the year for several seasons. For his dedication to the role of coach, the baseball field was so named the J.T. Davis Field in 1987. He was also inducted into the Hall of Fame for A.C. Reynolds High School.

## The 1960s

**JEFFREY "SCOTT" PADGETT '67 A.A.**  
was recently reelected to a four year term as mayor of Concord, N.C. This will be his third consecutive term as mayor in addition to serving six years on Concord City Council. Scott and his wife, Teresa, have one son, Joel, and three grandchildren. His father is Max Padgett, '50, who served as director of endowment development at Gardner-Webb following a career in education in Rutherford County and Catawba County Schools.

**ALUMNUS PASSING**  
**R. LANE ALEXANDER '68 A.A.**  
died on Dec. 11, 2009 after a two-year battle with liver cancer. He formerly served as county manager for Cleveland County. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

## The 1970s

**MILES MICHAEL ALDRIDGE '71 B.S.**  
was named head football coach for Spring Valley High School in Columbia, S.C. His coaching career began in 1971 at Chase High in Forest City, N.C., where he served as assistant coach. He was an assistant coach at Newberry High School in 1972 before becoming an assistant coach at Clemson University from 1985-1989. He served as defensive coordinator for the University of South Carolina from 1990-1993. He returned to Clemson as defensive coordinator from 1994-1996. Aldridge coached in the NFL with the Buffalo Bills from 2001-2003.

**ALUMNA PASSING**  
**BRENDA POWELL CALDWELL '74**  
passed away on Jan. 26, 2010 after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. She was a high school English teacher for many years and tutored children as well. She was a member of Friendship United Methodist Church in Newton, N.C.



**E. STEVE SMITH '76 B.S., '01 M.B.A.** is the president of the North Carolina Society of Surveyors. This organization represents the professional land surveyors licensed in the state of N.C.

## The 1980s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

**MICKEY HUTCHENS '81 B.A.**

died on Oct. 12, 2009 in the line of duty. Sergeant Hutchens, who served the Winston-Salem Police Department for 27 years, was a member of Forbush Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon. He is survived by his mother, wife, two sisters, two daughters, as well as many other family members and close friends.

**MALINDA DUNLAP FILLINGIM '81 B.A.**

is a freelance writer and chaplain at Heyman Hospice in Rome, Ga., where she lives with her husband of 26 years, David. She has had over 100 articles published in various publications, including "Chicken Soup for the Soul," and Decision Magazine. She and David have two daughters in college, and they travel to various churches to sing and share stories of faith. E-mail Fillingim at: [fillingim@comcast.net](mailto:fillingim@comcast.net).

**BARBARA ROSE BLACKBURN '83 B.S., '87 M.A.**

and Peter Paul Hale were united in marriage on Dec. 19, 2009 at Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. She is employed by the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, and he is employed by Law Practice Solutions. They reside in Fletcher, N.C.

**JOHN ARTHUR ISENHOUR '83 B.S.**

has been named the new purchasing agent for Lincoln County. For 26 years, he worked for Regency Home Fashions, as purchasing agent and manager for 20 of those years. He also held the positions of facilities and equipment manager, construction manager and accounts payable manager with the company. Isenhour has been a purchasing agent for the city of Newton for the past six years.

**LANCE VERNON BARRETT '84 B.S.**

and Venus Masocol Arendain were married on Dec. 12, 2009 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Tyro, N.C. He is a social worker with Child Protective Services for Davidson County Department of Social Services.

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

*Four Generations of Women Call GW Home*

*By Mary Katherine Leslie*

Most schools worry about retention rates and recruiting future classes, but there is one family that Gardner-Webb University can always count on for coming back year after year. Meet the Kendrick/Biggers/Hastings family, a line of women that have resided in Cleveland County since 1895 and have been a part of the GWU tradition for four generations. Starting with the first generation, the late Ollie Rippy Kendrick graduated from the predecessor of GWU, Boiling Springs High School, in 1922.

Created on a Christian foundation, the academically demanding high school thrived until 1928 when the Board of Trustees recommended the school become a junior college. "[My mother said my grandmother] had such a positive experience with that and that carried on with my mother going to Boiling Springs Junior College and taking advantage of the two years there," said Lori Hastings, Kendricks's granddaughter and the third generation to attend GWU.

Elaine Biggers, Hastings' mother, graduated in 1946 and continued her education to later receive a degree in elementary education. "She taught at Kings Mountain district in Grover (N.C.) until she retired about 20 years ago," Hastings said.

Then along came Hastings. "I decided (GWU) was where I needed to be," Hastings stated matter-of-factly. Like her mother, she also majored in education; only this time, she graduated from the Gardner-Webb University we know today.

Now an active member of the community, she attributes her success to her outstanding education at GWU. Hastings was awarded the Cleveland County Teacher of the Year Award in 2008. She has been teaching in the Cleveland County school system for over 25 years and is still awed by the exceptional education program at GWU.

In spring 2009, Hastings' daughter, Laura Hastings, threw her cap into a sea of red and black, graduating with a degree in nursing.

I asked Hastings why these women in her family continued to go back to GWU. "I think the small traditional school, the moral emphasis that they place, the Christian example and being such a positive learning environment... and the small community also. I just think all of that plays into the roll of choosing GWU."



Ollie Rippy Kendrick, Laura Hastings, , Lori Hastings, Elaine Biggers



## WHEN THE CRICKETS SING

GWU Alumnus Writes New Work

By Paul Foster

David Putnam ('79, '86) has spent much of his life in a classroom as a student and teacher, sharing his passion to educate young people. Putnam also loves the rewarding experience of writing and recently released an inspirational novel entitled "*Crickets of the Silver Queen*." It has been referred to as a tribute to God's unending, unfailing, and relentless love for his children. This is Putnam's first published book and became a reality thanks to Crossbooks (a division of Lifeway). Lifeway is a Christian store retailer with locations in nearly 25 states.

"*Crickets of the Silver Queen*" is the story of a young pastor whose faith is tested when he is haunted by memories of an alcoholic and abusive father and a church that abandoned his family in their time of greatest need. The pastor must also find the strength to help a family that suffers the loss of a child. While Putnam says he cannot point to any one event that prompted the writing of the book, he realizes what might be his greatest influence: "My father's death and the subsequent realization of how God had orchestrated events in my life," said Putnam.

So where did the title of the book come from? Putnam says when the pastor in his book was a child his father would become drunk and violent, so the child would seek shelter from that abuse. "His place of refuge is a spot out in a field of silver queen corn beside his house where he goes to think, pray, and hide." Putnam explained that crickets are also symbolic to the novel as they are easily shaken, frightened by the least thing, and sing only in darkness. "Like the crickets need to hide, he (the pastor) also hides within the darkness of his own insecurity until God proves to him, that he (God) is divinely in charge," said Putnam.

Putnam's earlier writing experiences include his days at Gardner-Webb as an undergraduate when he edited Reflections, the University's literary magazine at the time. After completing his master's degree at GWU, Putnam wrote for the Shelby Star newspaper (Shelby, N.C.) as he chronicled education topics and events in the region.

Putnam hopes that readers of the book will realize that God always hears and responds to prayers. "We may not understand why things happen as they do, and at times we may not believe that God is even listening to us. But his love endures and is relentless, and his watch over us is constant," said Putnam.

"*Crickets of the Silver Queen*" is available through online retailers and bookstores in Gastonia, Hickory, and Boiling Springs, N.C.



David Putnam

### ORSTELL LAMAR BARNETT '85 B.S.

is now the vice president of sales/business development for Affiliated Computer Services. He resides in Winchester, Va.

### CHARLES "CHIP" EMERY OSBORNE III '85 B.S.

has been named the new fire chief of the Mount Airy Fire Department. In addition to working for the fire department for 24 years, he has served the Department of Community Colleges with Davidson County Community College as regional fire and rescue director, area IV since 1994.

### RUSSELL N. SHEAD '85 B.S.

solo classical guitar arrangement of "Mary, Did You Know?" and other Christmas songs have been published by Word Music, available on the Music Notes website at [www.musicnotes.com](http://www.musicnotes.com). His arrangement can also be heard on his guitar Christmas CD, "Strings of Christmas," available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and on his website at [www.russellshead.com](http://www.russellshead.com). Shead also has a CD of solo guitar hymn arrangements entitled "Strings of Faith."

### RANDALL CHRIS HALL '88 B.S.

graduated with a master's degree in business administration from Western Carolina University on Dec. 19, 2009. He is the executive vice president and chief financial officer for the Bank of Asheville, N.C. and its parent company, Weststar Financial Services Corporation. Randall resides in Asheville.

## The 1990s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### BENJAMIN A. HUMPHRIES, JR. '92 B.S.

died on Nov. 27, 2009 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. He was employed as a testing coordinator at Gaston College and was formerly a testing coordinator at Isothermal Community College. Humphries was a member of Cliffside Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, church pianist, as well as a member of the church choir and praise and worship team. In addition to his father, he is survived by his wife, two

daughters, one sister, maternal grandmother, and several nieces and nephews.

### RUTH SMITH MCKINNEY '93 B.S.

has been married to Carroll McKinney Jr. of Hildebran, N.C. for 15 years. They have three daughters: Angelica Rose, Ashlee Nicole, and Jennifer Ruth. They are living in the South Mountains of Burke County, N.C. where she was raised. Carroll works for his family at McKinney Metals in Hildebran. E-mail Ruth at: [craajmckinney@peoplepc.com](mailto:craajmckinney@peoplepc.com). She would love to hear from anyone that she knew back in college.

### ALUMNA PASSING

#### RITA PARKER '93 B.S.

died on Dec. 17, 2009 at Levine and Dickson Hospice House in Huntersville, N.C. She was a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte where she served on the usher board. She is survived by her mother, a daughter, two sisters, and several nieces and nephews.



## **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

### **CHARLIE E. HARBISON '95**

Charlie E. Harbison graduated with a degree in business administration from GWU. As a full-time football coach, Harbison has served with the Arena Football League, the World



League of American football, and on the college football scene with Gardner-Webb, Clemson, Alabama, Louisiana State, and Mississippi State. He is currently the co-defensive coordinator for the defensive backs at Clemson University.

Clemson's head football coach, Dabo Swinney identifies Harbison as one of the top secondary coaches in the nation. He has coached great players who have followed professional careers including Brian Dawkins, safety for the Denver Broncos; Super Bowl Champion Dexter McCleon; and Leomont Evans, safety for the Washington Redskins. In 2002, Harbison was inducted into the Cleveland County Sports Hall of Fame and then the Gardner-Webb University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

He attends Freeway Church in Clemson, S.C. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Harbison said, "GWU is like home to me. My foundation started there with my education and my career. I'll never forget how the school, faculty, and staff supported me throughout my career at GWU."

*Correction: In the last issue of the Gardner-Webb Magazine, the photo attached to the Charlie Harbison notification was not Harbison. We apologize for this error.*

### **CHRISTIAN HOPE JONES '97 B.S.**

and William Christopher Rice were united in marriage on Sept. 19, 2009 at First Baptist Church of Haw River. The couple lives in Cedar Point.

### **LESLIE STARR WILLIAMS '97 B.S., '09 M.A.**

recently received her master's degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb University. She is married with two children and lives in Trinity, N.C. Leslie is currently a business education teacher at West Davidson High School. E-mail Leslie at: [lwilliams@davidson.k12.nc.us](mailto:lwilliams@davidson.k12.nc.us).

### **JAMES HOLBROOK PASS '98 B.A. AND TARA ROEBUCK PASS '98 B.A.**

are the proud parents of a baby girl, Kylie Jenean, who was born on July 24, 2009. She was welcomed by her parents and big brothers, Carson and Tyler.

### **MATTHEW MICHAEL HAMRICK '99, B.A. '05 M.DIV**

has returned from a 15-month tour to Iraq and completed his time with 4-10 CAV in Colorado Springs, Colo. Hamrick and his wife, Jennifer Hyatt Hamrick, a 2000 Gardner-Webb alumna, along with their three sons: Hayden, Carson, and Bailey, have moved to Wiesbaden, Germany where he joined the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion. E-mail Matthew at: [matthew.m.hamrick@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.m.hamrick@gmail.com). E-mail Jennifer at: [jennifer.hamrick2@us.army.mil](mailto:jennifer.hamrick2@us.army.mil).

## The 2000s

### **CYNTHIA DIANE CAUDLE '00 B.S.**

and Eric William Smith were married on Oct. 24, 2009 at Greater Vision Baptist Church in Millers Creek. Cynthia works for BB&T Insurance in Greensboro, N.C. and Eric is a computer systems engineer with Mailco Productions in Kernersville, N.C. The couple resides in Kernersville.

### **JENNIFER HYATT HAMRICK '00 B.S.** (See Matthew Michael Hamrick '99)

### **KIMBERLY HOUSER BARLOWE '05 B.S.**

recently became associate vice president and regional practice manager for McLeod Physician Associates where she previously served as project coordinator. She is a member of the Medical Group Management Association and board-certified by the American College of Medical Practice Executives. Barlowe and her husband,

Scott, live in Florence, S.C. and have one son, Alex, and one daughter, Cora Beth.

### **LISA LANE DALE '02 M.A.**

was recently named principal at Hillcrest Elementary School by Dr. Arthur Stellar, superintendent for Burke County Public Schools. She began her career with Burke County Public Schools as a teacher assistant at Drexel and then went on to teach fourth and fifth grades at Drexel and Hallyburton elementary schools. In 2002 she became assistant principal at Ray Childers Elementary and served in that role for four years. For the past four and a half years, she has been the assistant principal at Heritage Middle School. She is married to Jason Dale and has a 2-year-old daughter, Peyton.

### **ELIZABETH RUTH THRASHER '02 B.S.**

was married to Russell Adair Wyndham on Aug. 8, 2009 at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington, Ky. Russell and Elizabeth currently reside in Lexington. Email Elizabeth at: [pthrasher@hotmail.com](mailto:pthrasher@hotmail.com).

### **HEATHER NICHOLE WALKER '02 B.A.**

and John Paul White Jr. were married on Sept. 26, 2009 at First Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. She is employed by Gaffney High School, and he is employed by Freightliner in Gaffney. The couple now resides in Mooresboro, N.C.

### **ADAM EBERT WILSON '02 B.S.**

and his wife, Haven, are proud to announce the birth of their baby girl, Channing Lucy Wilson, who was born on Dec. 7, 2009. She weighed 8 lbs. and 2 oz.

### **SUMMER CRISP SELF '03 B.A.**

achieved National Board Certification in 2009. She is an 8th grade social studies and science teacher at John Chavis Middle School in Cherryville, N.C. Self has been employed with Gaston County Schools for seven years.





# BULLDOG CLUB



**"SUPPORTING GARDNER-WEBB ATHLETICS"**  
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**Congratulations to the GWU Women's  
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## THE SOUND OF SUCCESS

By Joseph Hamby

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. is widely known for two things: first, being the nation's busiest performing arts center; and second, its internship program. That might not mean much for most people, but for Gardner-Webb graduate Sarah Huskey, it meant an incredible capstone to her undergraduate studies.

After hearing about the internship opportunity from a teacher and a friend, Huskey immersed herself into an extensive application process before being selected as an intern for the spring of 2009.

"These coveted internships are extremely competitive, with students applying from all over the world," said Dr. Patricia Sparti, professor and department chair for Fine Arts. "This is a huge honor."

Huskey, who studied music with elective studies in music business, worked with the Jazz Programming Department assisting with their day-to-day operations like arranging travel and housing for artists, as well as hosting artists at the center. The highlight of her internship was serving as program coordinator for the Jazz Ahead Residency Program.

"Jazz Ahead is a two-week residency program for jazz musicians/composers under the age of 30," said Huskey. "The majority of my work was before the residency: compiling contracts, arranging travel, answering questions, and other tasks that had to be completed." While the Jazz Ahead students were in Washington D.C., she served as the main contact for the 29 artists-in-residence.

Other highlights to her experience included meeting all artists that performed at the Kennedy Center, attending a birthday celebration for the late Senator Ted Kennedy, and getting the opportunity to attend the Oprah Show live from the Kennedy Center.

When looking back, Huskey found the opportunity to be one of great challenge but also of great growth. She was held to high expectations and, though it was frustrating at first, quickly began to see her academic studies in action.

For Huskey, the advantages of an academic internship were endless. "It's important to get real experience in your field [of study] for many reasons," said Huskey. "While you can learn a lot in the classroom setting, internships help you to gain the experience that gives you an edge above other graduates while creating connections and possible job opportunities.

Huskey graduated in the spring of 2009 as the first-ever music business major from Gardner-Webb University.



Sarah Huskey

## WORKING FOR YOU... THE ALUMNI

Gardner-Webb University recognizes the importance of providing its alumni opportunities to share actively in the Christian mission of the institution and to give of their time, talents, and resources for student growth and advancement of the university. The purpose of the Gardner-Webb University Alumni Association is to engage and provide opportunities for alumni and current students that stimulate interest, build loyalty, and increase support for the university and its community.

*The Gardner-Webb University Alumni Association works to ensure that its alumni are:*

- Connected to the university for their lifetime.
- Actively engaged in the life of the university.
- Ambassadors and advocates for the university and its mission.
- Contributing through service and philanthropic support.

*The Board is currently working on several key initiatives that require alumni support and involvement. Alumni are being asked to give back to their alma mater by:*

- Serving as a class agent/representative.
- Serving as a career mentor for a current student.
- Participating on the Alumni Speakers' Bureau.
- Providing internship or job shadowing experiences for students.
- Being a participant in networking workshops and career fairs.
- Participating in alumni-student recruitment efforts.
- Sponsoring campus and regional alumni events.

*Contact the Alumni Association board today and stay connected.*

***www.supportgwu.com - alumni@gardner-webb.edu - 704.406.3862***





**MARK LEGRAND BROOKS '04 M.B.A.** was recently appointed as police chief to Marion, N.C. by City Manager Bob Boyette. He has 25 years of experience in municipal law enforcement, including more than 21 years of service for the City of Shelby, N.C. Mark has served as captain over all three divisions of the Shelby Police Department at various times. He is married to Katherine and has two children, Collin and Ben, and three stepchildren, Austin, Erica and Sarah-Beth.

**JENNIFER LYN HOYLE '05 M.A.** recently earned her LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) Credential for the State of North Carolina as well as the National Certified Counselor and National Certified School Counselor credentials from the National Board for Certified Counselors. She is the high school counselor at Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy in Rutherford County, N.C. Jennifer resides in Forest City.

**DWAYNE "PLUTO" LANIER '06 B.A.** married Amber Renee Gordon on Sept. 20. He is a habilitation technician and assists mentally ill and handicapped children and adults to live more independently for People Helping People of N.C. She is a private nanny who currently attends Forsyth Technical Community College.

**JUSTIN WAYNE KEZIAH '08 B.S.** was recently named member service specialist at the Harris YMCA near Quail Hollow, N.C.

**CRYSTAL LEE LANE '08 B.S.** and Christopher Gray Jester were united in marriage on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009 at Mount Olive United Methodist Church in Yadkinville, N.C. She works for Cosmetic Dental Center and he works for Lewisville

Fire Department as a firefighter. The couple will reside in Yadkinville.

**TONY WAYNE REGAN '08 B.S.** is pleased to announce the birth of his baby boy, Cameron Alexander Regan, who was born on Nov. 25, 2009.



Cameron Alexander Regan

**EDWARD ALLEN SHIFFLETTE, III '09 B.S. AND LAURA ANNE BOWEN '09 A.A.**

were married on May 23, 2009 at Sedge Garden United Methodist Church in Kernersville, N.C. Eddie attends Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University and Laura is a Nurse at Duke University Hospital.

**CHAN WON CHO '09 M.A.** is now a strength and conditioning specialist at Sidewell Friends School in Washington, D.C. where President Barack Obama's daughters Malia and Sasha attend.

**RUSSELL HOBART CLEMMER, IV '09 MBA** married Sarah Lauren Harper on Aug. 1, 2009 in Atlanta, Ga. He is a physical education teacher in Huntersville, and she

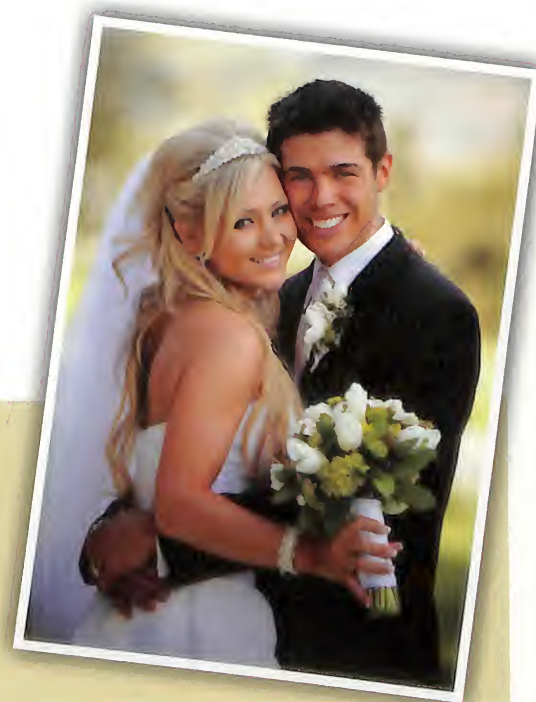
is a fifth grade teacher in Charlotte. They reside in Stanley, N.C.

**CARRIE KIBLER '09 B.S.** is currently pursuing her master's degree in physical therapy at Winston-Salem State University. She is also working as a long-term substitute teacher at West Forsyth High School in Winston-Salem and is coaching the Riptyde YMCA swim team.

**ARIK LEMMON '09 B.S.** is a physical and health education teacher at Crest High School in Shelby, N.C. He also coaches men's soccer and wrestling teams at Crest High School.

**BETHANY LOUISE MARTIN '09 B.S.** has accepted a graduate assistant position with the Department of Physical Education and Sports at Central Michigan University. She will coach volleyball and teach physical education activity classes.

**WENDY LYNN PETTYJOHN '09 B.S.** and Steven Poole were married on Sept. 26, 2009 at Wake Forest Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C. She works for BB&T in Raleigh and he works for National Coatings & Supplies, also in Raleigh.



**Share your news** If you have a personal or professional accomplishment you would like to share like 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)



## LINSEY RAE WATTS '09 B.S.

and Joshua Charles Stuckey were united in marriage on Aug. 8, 2009. She works as the store manager of Maurice's in Raleigh, and he is pursuing a master's degree in aerospace engineering at North Carolina State University. The couple resides in Raleigh, N.C.

## GWU DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

*\*The following are highlights of gifts to GWU in the last few months. It is only a small sample of the many gifts to GWU in order to show the special ways that Gardner-Webb supporters give to the university. Certain gifts may be publicized with special announcements at a different time or by other methods.*

- The Lehigh Valley IronPigs, the minor league baseball team affiliated with the Philadelphia Phillies, furthered the construction of Gardner-Webb's new baseball facility with a generous contribution.

- Kenneth J. Lentz helped aid Gardner-Webb's handicapped programs with his gift.

*Continued on page 28.*

## GWU NURSING GRADUATE TRAVELS TO HAITI TO GIVE HELPING HAND

On Jan. 17, 22-year-old Shannon Brooke attended a service at First Baptist Church in King, where an announcement was made that Baptists on Mission, also known as NC Baptist Men, needed medical groups to assist in Haiti after the January 12 earthquake.

That's when Brooke, a recent graduate of Gardner-Webb's nursing program, made the decision to do her part in Haiti.

"I let Baptists on Mission know that I didn't have much experience, but I was available," Brooke said.

Going to Haiti would be the first medical missions trip Brooke participated in. With little time to prepare, she received a call from Baptists on Mission on a Thursday and flew out Sunday morning.

"I had no idea what to expect other than what I had seen in the newspapers and on television," Brooke said, "When we arrived at the hospital, it was very chaotic."

Haitian Community Hospital, located in the small town of Petionville, had 25 beds throughout the facility. Brooke began working and providing medical attention in a makeshift ICU set up outside of the hospital. She quickly witnessed the anxiety that many of the people were experiencing.

"So many of them had lost loved ones, and they just needed someone to take a few minutes with them," she said. "I was able to pray with a lot of the people and they seemed very appreciative. They're very strong people. There were times that it was difficult to determine who was hurting because they didn't complain, and they didn't want to tell you if they were uncomfortable," Brooke said.

Brooke recalls a little boy, just over one year old, that had an injury to his arm. It had become infected, and the infection was spreading throughout his small body. He cried when anyone came near him. A doctor that passed Brooke in the hall said, "You're in charge of him." Throughout the week, the boy had come to trust Brooke and his once fearful eyes began to follow her everywhere she went. When she came close, he would play with her stethoscope, and she would share her food with him and his family.

Brooke later learned that his recovery was going well but that he and his parents were homeless and the hospital could no longer house them. It was a story that was all too familiar in Haiti. Families left with nowhere to go.

Brooke was deeply impacted by the trip—so much so that when she returned, she went back to Haiti three weeks later. She had been told of a need for nurses through Baptists on Mission that was scheduled to go within the month.

"I'm surprised they even wanted me to go the first time. I mean, a brand new, inexperienced nurse working in a third-world country after a major earthquake? Sounds pretty crazy, right?" Brooke typed in a blog she began for friends and family back in the States, letting them know how she was doing and what they could be praying for.

She was hesitant to apply, because she was beginning a job at Forsyth Medical Center. However, the nurse recruiters at the hospital encouraged her to go and delayed her two-week orientation until she returned home.

"The whole experience has made me realize in our society we value so much stuff that really isn't important," said Brooke. "I always knew that, but really seeing it through people who had nothing and still had a joy about them; it was life changing. There's a lot we can learn from these people."



Shannon Brooke

*Gardner-Webb University would like to thank The Stokes News and writer Amanda Dodson for contributing this article.*



## Calling All Dogs...GWU Bulldogs, That Is!



Thanks to an incredible show of support from our alumni last year, Gardner-Webb reached an unprecedented participation rate of giving (16.7%). Our university family, in which alumni play a huge role, have much to celebrate with this new record.

This year, we have the opportunity to again reach new heights and we need your help. Your participation in giving back to Gardner-Webb, whether by a small, one-time gift or by a plan to give multiple times over the next few years, is immensely important. It is your generosity that make such a difference in the lives and experiences of the university's current students. In addition, your support proves to our community and other potential donors that Gardner-Webb University is constantly moving forward and striving to provide the best education possible.

To help reach our goal of 18.5% alumni participation, please join your fellow alumni with a gift to the University by June 30. Thank you for the support you've given your alma mater. Together, we can continue to have a remarkable impact on the future of Gardner-Webb University.

*For details on how you can make a difference, visit [supportgwu.com](http://supportgwu.com).*

## MAKING THE GRADE

*Three-Time Alumna Honored for Educational Leadership*

Gloria Sherman ('80 B.S., '85 M.A., '04 M.A.) of Springmore Elementary School (SES) was selected as the 2010 principal of the year for Cleveland County schools, N.C. Sherman said she was honored by the nomination and recognition.

"It is wonderful to get to work with such a caring and dedicated group of principals who strive to do what is best for our children each day," she said. "I feel very lucky to have the support of Dr. Boyles (Cleveland County school superintendent) and our central office administration, along with a top-notch staff, supportive parents, and wonderful students who help me to do my job each day."

Principals within the district nominated candidates for principal of the year, and a committee of parents and community representatives selected Sherman.

Sherman has worked for three decades as a teacher and administrator. She taught various grades from kindergarten through seventh for more than 20 years, working at schools in Mecklenburg, Rutherford and Cleveland counties. During her teaching stint, she was named teacher of the year at both Graham and Jefferson schools (Shelby, N.C.). She earned her National Board certification in 2002.

Sherman served as assistant principal at Jefferson for a year before becoming principal in 2004. Under her leadership, Jefferson School received two prestigious awards—the No Child Left Behind/Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education and the Real D.E.A.L. Award from the governor's office—and was named as an Honor School of Excellence and among the top 10 performing schools in the state's accountability program. She also was named as national runner-up for Time-Warner Cable's 2007 Champion Principal Award for her encouragement and support of technology to maximize teaching and learning at her school.

"We place a strong emphasis on graduation from high school and moving on to higher education," said Sherman.

Since the beginning of her time at Springmore, Sherman has marveled at the strong partnerships that are evident between her school and the GWU community. A few of those partnerships include volunteers from GWU serving as lunch buddies and classroom support and athletic teams getting involved with SES activities as well. She points out that 30 staff members at SES hold degrees from GWU.

"I am very proud to say that I graduated from Gardner-Webb University," said Sherman. "I have seen the positive impact that GWU has on the community, as well as the difference it has made to the students at Springmore."

Sherman is a member of Gardner-Webb University's Educational Steering Committee and the Principal Curriculum Advisory Council of Cleveland County schools, as well as the CCS Close the Gap Planning Committee.

Sherman and her husband Steve make their home in Boiling Springs, N.C. and have two sons (Daniel and Kevin).



Gloria Sherman



# 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 are 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!



## GWU DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation continued their support of Gardner-Webb students by funding annual scholarships.
- Mr. and Mrs. Billy May and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rouse all contributed to the Huel E. May Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of Mr. May's brother and Mrs. Rouse's late husband.
- Charles B. Sigmon supported an annual scholarship for students.
- Dr. David Shellman donated to Gardner-Webb's School of Education.
- Stephen L. Henderson added to the Dr. Rance and Betty Henderson Endowed Scholarship Fund.
- OrthoCarolina supported an annual scholarship for students.
- Cline B. Hamrick made a contribution to the construction of Frank Nanney Hall, the home of the Noel Program for the Disabled and the social sciences department.
- Mary E. Burnette continued to support the Mary McGrady Burnette Endowed Scholarship Fund.
- The Broyhill Family Foundation donated to the Technology Fund of the Godbold School of Business to establish a "Smart" classroom in Hamrick Hall. The classroom will facilitate distance learning and classroom interactions.
- Randall J. Greene generously contributed to Gardner-Webb's Men's Basketball Program.

• The South Atlantic League of Minor League Baseball helped construct Gardner-Webb's new baseball facility.

• Dorothy M. Pittman increased the endowment of her Dorothy Pittman Sacred Music Endowed Scholarship Fund to help more students.

• Nationwide Insurance's, Georgia Power's, Merck's, and Metropolitan Life's Matching Gifts Programs contributed towards the construction of Gardner-Webb's Student Development Center, the football stadium, and Frank Nanney Hall.

• Carroll M. Lowder directed his donation to Gardner-Webb's Athletic Training Program.

• Bonnie R. Price generously supported Gardner-Webb's School of Divinity.

• Paul M. Carroll added to Missions Possible, a program that offers numerous opportunities for missions work every year for students, and provides information on external missions opportunities.

• Darlene J. Gravett supported the Joyce Compton Brown Lecture Series, a regular program offered by Gardner-Webb's English Department to present regional and national speakers to the university community.

• Dr. James Herman donated an exceptional new telescope and equipment to Gardner-Webb's observatory to help students further their interest in astronomy.

• The Cleveland Industrial Relations Association established an annual scholarship for 2010 for GOAL students majoring in business.

• Sue H. Rash donated towards Gardner-Webb University's Art Awards.

• The Robert Pittenger Company helped enhance Gardner-Webb's academic offerings through their donation.

• Providence Baptist Church supported Gardner-Webb's School of Divinity with their gift.

• Capital Group Companies choose to support Gardner-Webb's Men's Soccer Program.

• The Glaxo Foundation increased their support to the Women in Science Scholarship at Gardner-Webb by supplementing their annual donation.

• Gary M. Carraux, Matthew Klabnik, and A. Scott Harris donated to the Jordan Boyd Taylor Men's Soccer Scholarship in memory of Gardner-Webb student and soccer player Jordan Taylor.

• The Mary Washburn Wilson Visiting Scholar Endowment was established, which will help underwrite the expenses of a visiting scholar, on an ongoing basis, beginning in Fall 2010.

• Gardner-Webb University Trustees William K. Gary, Gene H. Washburn, Anthony N. Strange, Grady S. Duncan, and C. Neal Alexander all generously supported the Gardner-Webb Student Development Center.



**Follow Gardner-Webb on [Twitter](#) to find out about all the latest events that are happening.**

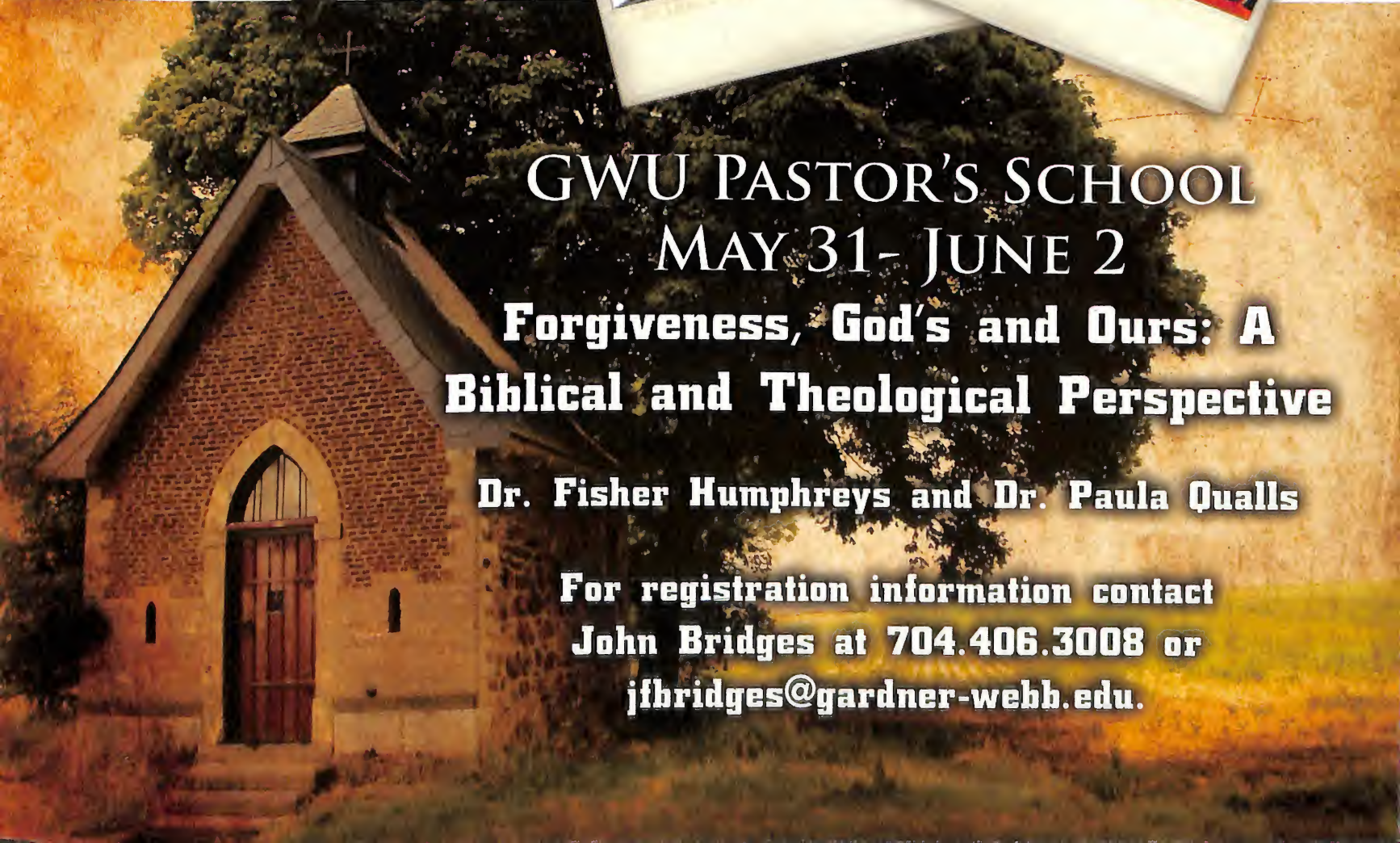
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# HOMECOMING OCT. 22-24

SAVE THE DATE!  
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GWU PASTOR'S SCHOOL  
MAY 31- JUNE 2

**Forgiveness, God's and Ours: A  
Biblical and Theological Perspective**

**Dr. Fisher Humphreys and Dr. Paula Qualls**

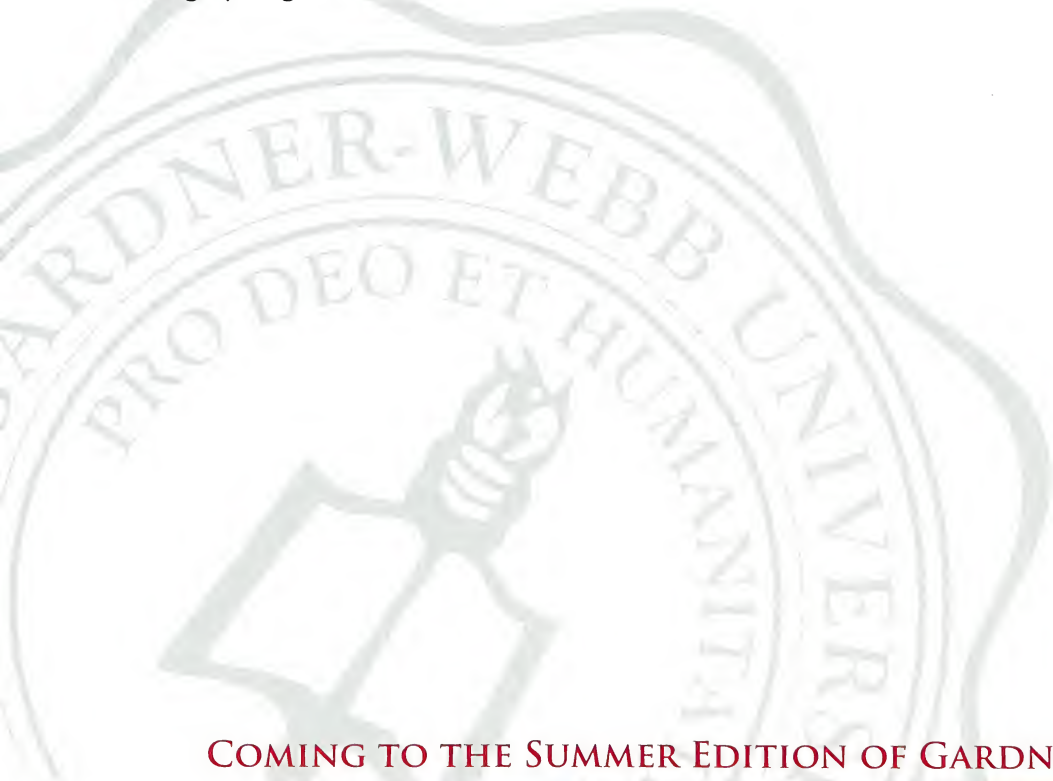
**For registration information contact  
John Bridges at 704.406.3008 or  
[jfbbridges@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:jfbbridges@gardner-webb.edu).**



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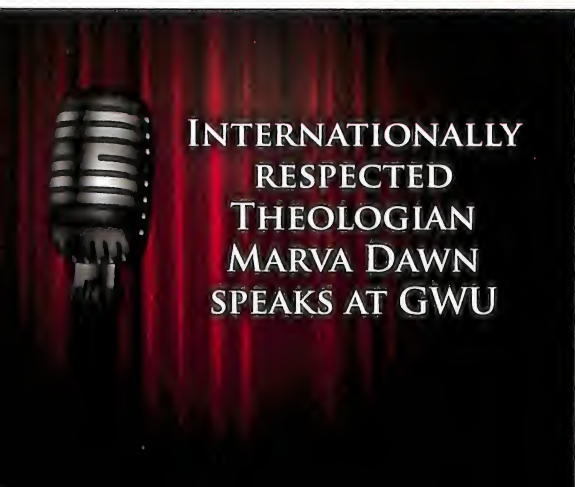
**GRADUATION 2010**



**GWU SWIM TEAM EARNS ACADEMIC  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**



**INTERNATIONALLY  
RESPECTED  
THEOLOGIAN  
MARVA DAWN  
SPEAKS AT GWU**



**TITLE**

**AWARD WINNING FILMMAKER VISITS GWU**

**DIRECTOR**

**CAMERA**

**DATE**

**SCENE**

**TAKE**