

Winter 2010

# Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2010, Winter (Volume 44 No. 1)

Noel T. Manning II

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# Gardner•Webb

THE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2010 • VOLUME 44, NUMBER 1



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FACEBOOK, TWITTER, YOUTUBE  
**THE NEW WORLD  
OF COMMUNICATION**

GWU HONORS  
**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

Q&A WITH  
**US AIRWAYS CRASH SURVIVOR**



## ABOUT THE COVER

Social Networking technology is improving the way Gardner-Webb University communicates and relates to prospective students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University. The cover story on page 8 examines the impact of this new media explosion.



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# Gardner-Webb

## THE MAGAZINE

### Gardner-Webb The Magazine Credits

Volume 34 Number 1

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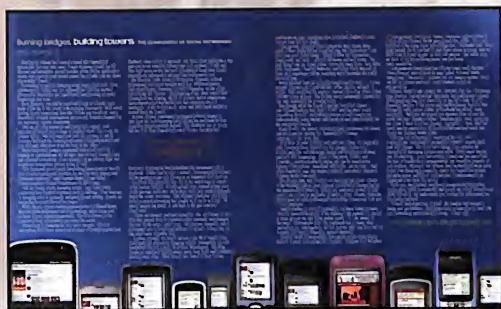
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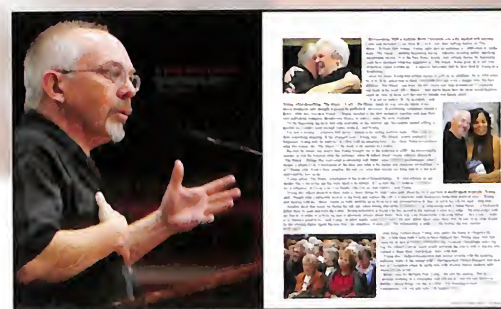
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## REFLECTING ON OUR MISSION

Two books that I am currently reading have in common — by sheer coincidence — a very important point that reflects upon the mission of Gardner-Webb University.

Three authors — Howard Gardner, a Professor of Neurology; Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, a Psychologist; and William Damon, an educator — describe their “struggle with the relationship between high-level performance and social responsibility, between excellence and ethics” (p. viii). In other words, what is the relationship between being highly competent in one’s work and highly moral as well? Their book is entitled, Good Work: When Excellence and Ethics Meet (New York: Basic Books, 2001).

The other book is by Derek Bok, former president of Harvard University, and is entitled Our Underachieving Colleges: A Candid Look at How Much Students Learn and Why They Should Be Learning More (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006). While Bok’s subject is accurately represented in the subtitle, he prefaces his discussion with an excellent and concise review of the history of higher education in America. Bok summarizes the most prevalent criticisms of American higher education, the most notable of which is represented by Alan Bloom’s assertion that “There is no vision, nor is there a set of competing visions, of what an educated human being is” (p. 2).

While Bok does not fully agree with the criticisms of higher education today, he does suggest that it is difficult “to find any period during the past century and a half when educators were united around a common unifying vision of liberal education” (p. 22). In fact, he continues, one must turn back to pre-Civil War days “when colleges united around a classical curriculum aimed at mental discipline and character building” (p. 24).

Though much different in context and approach, these books both cause us to reflect on Gardner-Webb’s mission: the discussion in *Good Work* of “high-level performance and social responsibility,” and Derek Bok’s reference to higher education’s role in building character as well as mental discipline. In Gardner-Webb’s mission, competence and character come together, as do mental discipline and character building. Our emphasis is on Faith, Service, and Leadership. We are “dedicated,” according to our mission statement, “to higher education that integrates scholarship with Christian life.” Thus we seek to prepare our graduates “to make significant contributions for God and humanity in an ever-changing global community” — to do “good work” in the fullest and finest sense of the term.

Whether or not that vision is clear throughout higher education, it is indeed at Gardner-Webb University.

*A. Frank Bonner*

Frank Bonner  
President, GWU





# A SURVIVOR'S STORY

Q & A WITH GERRY MCNAMARA

Interview by Paul Foster

*Gardner-Webb, The Magazine had the opportunity to speak with Gerry McNamara, a passenger on U.S. Airways flight 1549. This flight crashed into the Hudson River in New York City on Jan. 15, 2009. McNamara serves as a managing partner and international executive with Heidrick & Struggles (headquartered in Chicago, Ill.). McNamara was one of 155 people that survived the plane crash that was on route to Charlotte, N.C. He also played a significant role in helping to rescue his fellow passengers. Gardner-Webb, The Magazine had the opportunity to interview McNamara when he was on campus during a GWU Godbold School of Business event and during a telephone conversation. McNamara is also father to GWU student, J.P. McNamara, a December 2009 Godbold School of Business graduate.*

***Gardner-Webb, The Magazine: Are you a changed man from your experience on flight 1549? Do you value some things more than others now?***

**Gerry McNamara:** An event like this causes that (change) to happen — to take inventory of one's life. Why am I here? What is my purpose? I took a lot of things for granted. From a personal point of view, I think I'm now less judgmental and try not to jump to conclusions about things and others. It's also about how this event affected my family and how much my time with them is important.

***Gardner-Webb, The Magazine: When you heard the pilot come over the intercom that day and say, "Brace for impact," what happened from there and what was going through your mind?***

**Gerry McNamara:** I was shocked, because at the time the plane was under control. I remember he (the pilot) turned south over the George Washington Bridge and I was surprised. Sully (Chesley Sully Sullenberger, the pilot) said nothing else after those words (brace for impact) and that's when there was panic. People were crying, texting, praying, and I thought, "I'm going to die today." So I recited my favorite bible verse, the Lord's Prayer, and asked God to take care of my wife, children, and friends. I didn't know if we were going to sink or if the plane would explode when we made impact with the water. I envisioned a scene from the movie "Titanic" — the scene when water starting pouring into the belly of the ship. It was a violent hit — the water flew up over my window — but we popped up and were all amazed that we remained intact.

***Gardner-Webb, The Magazine: After the plane made impact into the Hudson and passengers started leaving their seats trying to exit the plane, you decided to help. Correct?***

**Gerry McNamara:** I thought, if we could just stay out of the water, we'd be okay because conditions were cold that day. However, I took my seat cushion with me because I wasn't sure once we exited the plane if we would have to jump directly into the water or not. We got into small groups, I introduced myself, and we started helping one another. Once we got out on the wings (of the plane), I thought we would be okay once the ferryboats arrived

minutes later. Myself, along with Eric Stephenson (of London, England Hewlett-Packard) and Casey Jones (of Bank of America, living in Jacksonville, Fla.) helped to board passengers from the wing to the ferries. Note: McNamara, Stephenson, and Jones have been called "The Three Amigos" for their heroic efforts that day.

***Gardner-Webb, The Magazine: Not long after your ordeal on flight 1549, you decided to write something about the experience. I heard what you wrote was meant for family and friend but somehow those writings touched the lives of others?***

**Gerry McNamara:** Yes, I was just journaling for my family when a girl from the office asked if I would share something for our next newsletter that was meant for internal purposes only. Someone in the firm sent it to someone outside, and then it became viral. I then received individual cards, letters, emails, and voicemail about my story and how it inspired [others]. It even made its way to *TIME Magazine* and *USA Today*, and I was then asked to speak on television and radio.

***Gardner-Webb, The Magazine: You've called what happened to you that day a miracle. Would you say God had his hand on you and flight 1549? Could you expand on that?***

**Gerry McNamara:** I am a believer of God. There are no accidents or luck. What happened that day happened for a reason. There are reasons why people on that flight lived. Maybe someone on that flight will have a child that comes up with a cure for cancer. I was even supposed to be on a later flight that day and the accident happened in broad daylight instead of at night. Only the Lord knows the master plan, but it was really a miracle. This was good news.

***Gardner-Webb, The Magazine: When you first spoke at Gardner-Webb about your experience, you said that this was the first time you had spoken about it in front of an audience. What has happened since that time?***

**Gerry McNamara:** I have spoken to several public groups and leadership teams. A number of book efforts are either already complete or underway by many of flight 1549's passengers. That includes Sully's book. I have been very careful and have turned down most projects that I have been approached about. I don't want my experience to be about notoriety or money. I do plan to take part in a future book about how my life has changed — a kind of Chicken Soup for the Soul type book.

***Gardner-Webb, The Magazine: What advice would you give others when something unexpected hits them right in the face?***

**Gerry McNamara:** No one knows for sure how they will react if they are facing death. We are not in control. It could be a car accident or anything. But there could be incredible opportunities in a crisis for leadership: a time to step up, to act for others, and for self-preservation. All things happen for a reason.



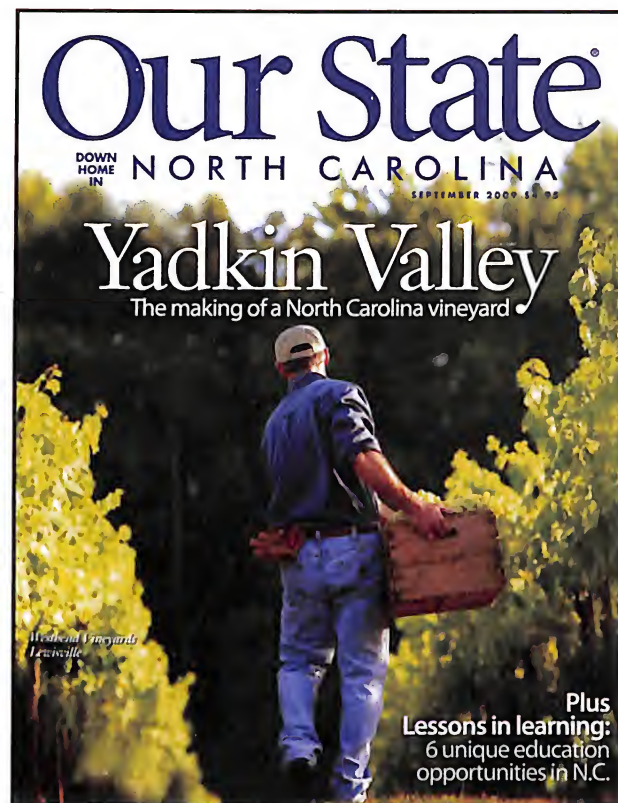
### GWU FEATURED IN OUR STATE MAGAZINE

In the September issue of *Our State Magazine*, Gardner-Webb University and the town of Boiling Springs are featured as an example of a true town and gown partnership.

Complete with pictures of campus and area businesses, the article focuses on the Gardner-Webb family ties of Boiling Springs residents, Allen and Sonja Jones. There are not many people who have roots planted as deeply in Gardner-Webb history as Sonja. Her grandfather, J.D. Huggins, was the first principal of Boiling Springs High School (the forerunner of Gardner-Webb) and the first dean of Boiling Springs Junior College. This feature story shares some memories and thoughts from Sonja (also a Gardner-Webb alumnus) about her family connection and 37 other relatives connected to GWU.

The article also shares how area businesses offer Gardner-Webb support on a daily basis. With business names like the Bulldog Quik-Snak, Bulldog Music and Dirt Dawg Laundry, it's obvious that the town of Boiling Springs believes strongly in the relationship with the University. In recent years, the Running Bulldogs of GWU have also been displayed prominently on the sides of the Turner Trucking trailers offering nation-wide traveling billboards for the University. As another example, last summer the new McDonald's in town decided to take on a complete GWU theme throughout the restaurant.

*Our State Magazine* has over 150,000 subscribers throughout the world. *Our State* celebrates the people and places that make North Carolina great. From the mountains to the coast, *Our State* features North Carolina travel, history, folklore and beautiful scenic photography.



### GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGE BUYS

Gardner-Webb University has been recognized as one of America's best college educations for the cost according to the annual report, "America's 100 Best College Buys."

The report is issued each year by Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc., an independent research and consulting organization. The findings are based on the analysis and review of the group's 19th annual National College Survey.

Only 100 colleges or universities across America are included in the listing each year. Four institutions from North Carolina were listed, two of which are private universities: GWU and Campbell University.

"We are delighted to receive this national recognition. This honor represents our desire to keep tuition affordable for our students, which is considerably below the national average, while ensuring our academic reputation is growing and vibrant," said Mark Hughes, vice president of enrollment management at Gardner-Webb. "There are not many Christian institutions in higher education that can offer their students even nationally accredited academic schools and programs, as well as division one athletics at such an affordable price."

To be considered for the designation, each school must be an accredited four-year institution offering bachelor degrees and full residential facilities including residence halls and dining services. In addition, an institution must have had an entering freshmen class with a high school grade point average and/or SAT/ACT score equal to or above the national average.





## THE DOCTOR IS IN ...

*Doctor of Nursing Practice to be introduced at GWU in 2010*

The Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing has taken another major step in placing itself as a leader in nursing education in the Carolinas with the addition of a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), headquartered in Decatur, Ga., recently approved the DNP program that will begin offering classes in 2010.

Gardner-Webb Provost and Senior Vice President Ben Leslie says the faculty of Gardner-Webb are gratified by this decision from SACS. "The doctoral level program will allow us to round out our offerings with an opportunity for upper level leadership training for the nursing profession," said Leslie.

Dr. Rebecca Beck-Little, dean of the Gardner-Webb School of Nursing, and Dr. Kathy Lindsey, director of graduate nursing programs at GWU, were instrumental in making the DNP program a reality. According to Lindsey, "Beck-Little's dream of offering a DNP program began four years ago when the GWU School of Nursing created a strategic plan to develop the program." Lindsey helped the dream to move forward after she acquired a DNP Degree from Case Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio. It was at that time she was appointed to the director of graduate programs in nursing.

The primary target audience for the DNP practice are nurses holding a Master of Science degree in nursing who are working professionals with expertise and experience in advanced practice nursing including nursing education, nursing administration, and advanced nursing practice in a specialty area. "Graduates of the DNP program will be prepared to improve outcomes for patients as they seek leadership roles as managers of quality initiatives, executives in healthcare organizations, directors of clinical programs, and nursing faculty," said Lindsey.

Just how significant is the DNP Program at GWU? Lindsey stated, "While other universities in North Carolina have indicated interest in offering the program, currently the only established DNP program is at Duke (Durham, N.C.)." The first group of students will begin studies in this year.

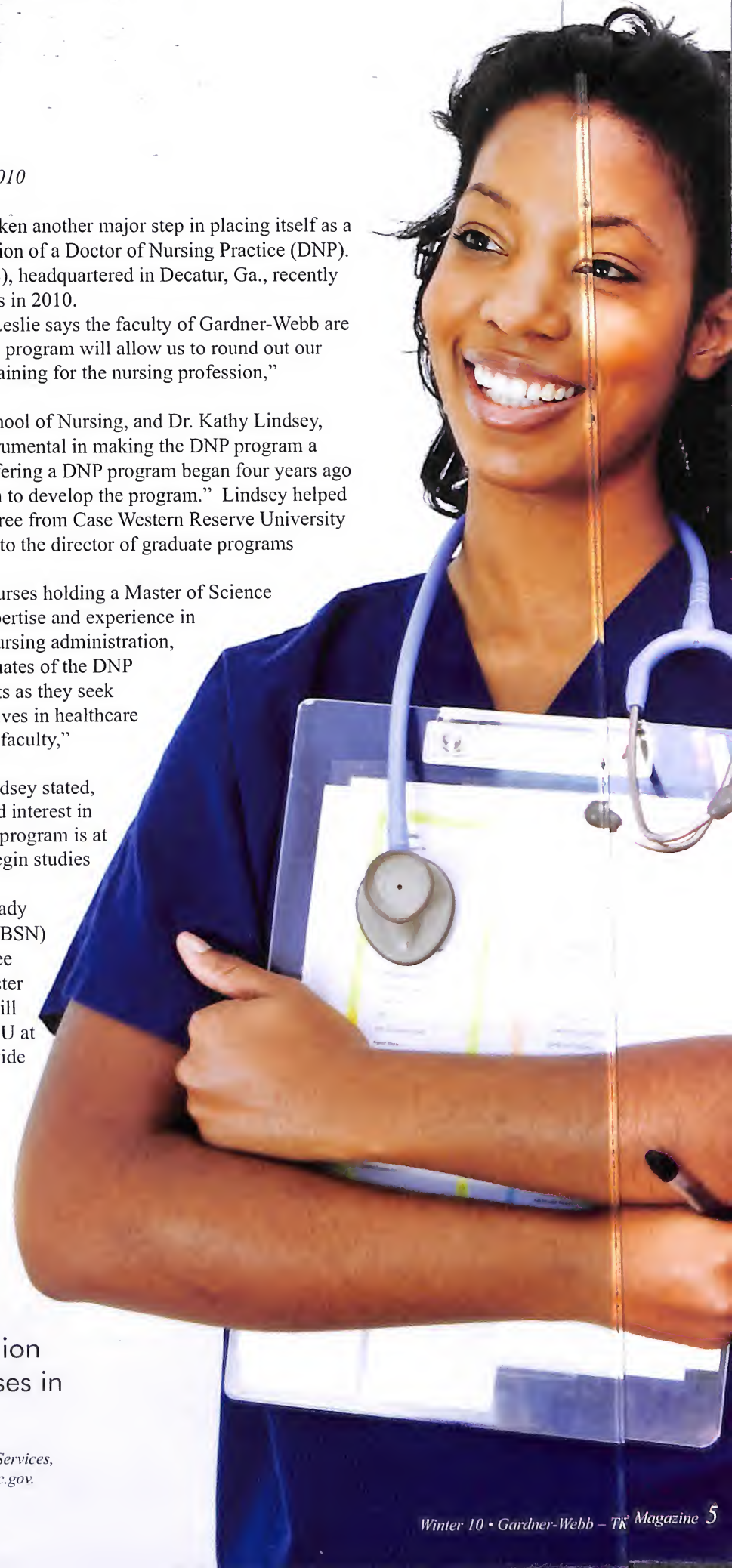
The GWU School of Nursing's long list of degrees already includes a new four-year Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) program (starting in the fall of 2010), the Associate Degree program, the Baccalaureate Degree program, and the Master of Science program. The addition of the DNP program will allow students to complete their nursing education at GWU at the doctoral level. "Our goal remains unchanged: to provide the best education we possibly can in a context of faith, service, and leadership preparation," said Leslie.



## Did you know?

There are almost 3 million licensed registered nurses in the United States.

*Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, 2009, [www.omhrc.gov](http://www.omhrc.gov).*





## ROLL ON...

*GWU cycling club rides to raise money for MS*

The Gardner-Webb University cycling club, The Hot Dawgs, participated in The Carolina Biketober Challenge 2009, an annual bike ride to raise money for multiple sclerosis, in Greenville, S.C. during the fall. The club consisted of students Taylor Doolittle and Justus Hawks, along with faculty and staff members Judy Hoff, Adam Fisher, Don Olive, and captain Kent Blevins. The club raised \$2,400 for multiple sclerosis research and treatment.

Captain Kent Blevins said, "We ride because we can, and for those who can't because of MS, we ride on their behalf." This year, the ride hosted over 1,150 riders and 300 volunteers at the events. Doolittle said, "It was very rewarding to complete such a challenging ride and, at the same time, know that we were doing it for such a great cause."

In preparation for the ride, they trained as a group 2-3 times a week for about a month and a half to get ready for the 2-day, 135-mile ride. According to Blevins, the club would usually try to ride about 30-40 miles during a training session. The club mostly tried training on hills since the area around Greenville is hilly and difficult to ride for inexperienced riders. The club had a great time, and some members are already looking forward to next year's bike challenge to Myrtle Beach, S.C.



## NEW APARTMENT STYLE RESIDENCE HALL OPENS

*Enrollment Records Making an Impact on Campus*

In the fall, a suite-style residence hall opened on the Gardner-Webb campus, housing over 80 students. In previous years, GWU has continued to see steady growth in the on-campus population of resident students, creating a need for more GWU housing. The new residence hall, located in the University Commons area of campus, has assisted in providing the additional housing, but more work is yet to be done. With the anticipation of even more resident students next fall, another residence hall is now under construction and will be ready for students in the fall 2010.

The listing below spotlights some of the record-breaking areas of growth at Gardner-Webb in the fall of 2009.

- Largest headcount of students in the traditional undergraduate program – 1,663
- Largest headcount of full-time students in the traditional undergraduate program – 1,542
- Largest Freshman Class – 449
- Largest Number of Resident Students (all programs) – 1,200
- Largest headcount for Doctor of Education program – 125
- Largest headcount for Master of Nursing program – 104
- Largest headcount for School of Divinity – 200





# GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



*Gardner-Webb established the Gallery of Distinguished Alumni to recognize and honor alumni who have made outstanding contributions in their career fields and in their service to community. Every year, alumni are selected from nominations by their peers and the Gardner-Webb community.*



## REV. ROBERT W. ABRAMS '42 – JUNIOR COLLEGE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Robert W. Abrams graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1942 with an Associate of Arts degree. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1944 from Wake Forest and his Master of Divinity degree in 1947 from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Abrams served as pastor to several churches, and 20 years after graduating from Gardner-Webb, he returned as an employee and served as director of promotion, director of development, director of admissions, director of church relations, and registrar. During that time, Abrams also served as interim pastor for several area churches before his retirement in 1985.

Abrams participated on the Board of Directors for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and on several committees for the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association. He has also volunteered with the Sylva Fire Department as firefighter and chaplain.

In 2007, a men's Sunday School Class at Boiling Springs Baptist Church was renamed in his honor where he taught for many years. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Abrams said, "Gardner-Webb University has been a vital factor in my life for 69 years, from my enrollment as a student in the fall of 1940 to the present. As a graduate alumnus of 1942, as an employee from 1962-85, and as a retired former associate of the university family from 1985-2009, I have benefitted greatly from my joyful association with all the personnel of the university."

*\* Editor's note: Abrams passed away on Dec. 31, 2009.*

## DR. PHILIP E. TURNER '61 – ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Philip E. Turner graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1961 with an Associate of Arts degree. After graduating from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1962, he completed his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1965 from the University of Tennessee Dental School. Since 1967, he has practiced dentistry in Shelby, N.C.



Turner is a lifetime member of the American Dental Association and previously served on the Cleveland County Board of Health. He also belongs to the North Carolina Dental

Society. He previously worked as a dental officer for the U.S. Navy and later for the Navy Reserves. He has volunteered with the Baptist Men, specifically the mobile dental clinic.

Turner attends Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Shelby where he is a Sunday school teacher and previously served as chairman of the finance, mission, and family life committees. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Dr. Turner remarks, "Gardner-Webb gave me an opportunity to learn with professors

who cared about their students and provided me a basic foundation to be able to continue my education which led to a degree in Dentistry."

## ROBERT S. HARRELSON '91 AND TRACY L. HARRELSON '92 – YOUNG ALUMNI OF THE YEAR



Master Sergeant Robert S. Harrelson graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He completed additional studies at Appalachian State University and Indiana University. Harrelson is a baritone vocalist for the Singing Sergeants of the United States Air Force. He is also the licensing manager for USAF Band and previously served as operations director

for the Singing Sergeants. Harrelson has received the Meritorious Service Medal as well as the Air Force Commendation Medal.

When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Harrelson remarks, "The presence of a God-centered institute of high learning was a powerful, positive influence on almost every aspect of life in the Boiling Springs Community. A large part of who I am today is a result of the foundations I formed growing up near and attending Gardner-Webb."

Flight Commander Tracy L. Harrelson graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1992, he also graduated from the Carolinas College of Health Sciences with a degree in Medical Technology.

Harrelson belongs to many professional organizations including the Society of Armed Forces Medical Laboratory Services and the American Society for Microbiology. She was named the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus for the Carolinas College of Health Sciences. She also received certification in Joint Biological Agent Identification Diagnostic Systems. She was awarded Lab Manager of the Year for the Air Force District of Washington in 2007 and the equivalent honor for her team for the last four years. She also serves as chief of the Homeland Defense Team at the Pentagon and is one of two Air Force representatives for the White House Medical Unit which responds to the medical care of the White House, including the president, the vice president, and their families. Among many volunteer efforts, Harrelson has twice coordinated a bone marrow drive.

When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, Flight Commander Harrelson remarks, "I felt the professors really cared about me as a person and for my studies, especially the staff in the biology department, which was where I spent the majority of my time."

*\* Editor's notes: Look for a feature story on Tracy L. Harrelson in the Spring edition of The Gardner-Webb Magazine.*



# Burning bridges, building towers: THE COMPLEXITIES OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

Written by Mary Katherine Leslie

This just in: iPhone has created a brand new application specifically for your little ones. Forget the pastel plastic toy of the past and behold the newest member of the iPhone application family that converts your mobile phone into a rattle with the shake of a toddler's hand.

Technology is quickly changing every facet of our lives. From childhood toys to the way we communicate with one another, advances in electronics are significantly transforming everyday happenings and tasks.

Quite honestly, I would be surprised if you, as a reader, have made it this far in the article without being interrupted. With email, texting, social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook, and a BlackBerry in hand, interruptions are not only bound to happen but are becoming socially acceptable.

"We are growing impatient and losing self control," said associate professor of sociology at Gardner-Webb University, Dr. Dianne Sykes. "We no longer wait until the evening to talk to someone but want the instant gratification of communication and just text each other even if we are busy at the office."

These innovative gadgets, combined with a new sense of urgency to communicate, are all signs that we have entered a new age of social networking. Convenience is at an all-time high, but traditional interactions are not faring as well.

"The increased use of social networking depersonalizes face-to-face communication and, in effect, we do a lot more impersonal communication now," said Gardner-Webb's Chair of the Communications Studies Department Dr. Bob Carey.

"We are losing words, beautiful words," said Sykes while explaining how modern communication is shifting. "Our language is changing even in academic and professional writing. Emails are beginning to sound like text messages."

While the art of conversation appears to have a dismal future because of the heightened use of technology, networking sites do have several redeeming qualities. The first of these is the impressive way information can sweep the world.

Technology is changing the way news spreads. "[Social networking sites] have opened up avenues of communication and

feedback when a story is reported... the news cycle used to be a day and now it has turned to minutes and even seconds," Carey said. This high turnover rate for news is helping to keep more people immediately informed of disasters and important events.

On March 6, 2009, locals of Melbourne, Australia noticed an alarming movement beneath their feet. Within moments, individuals began "tweeting," or micro blogging, on the social networking site "Twitter," investigating if any other natives had experienced the shaking. In the 15 minutes before mainstream media broadcasted that Melbourne had experienced a 4.7 earthquake on the Richter scale, more than 800 tweets had been posted about the tremor.

In June, Twitter experienced its biggest political impact to date from the overwhelming use of its site by protestors in Iran regarding the presidential election. The feedback was so strong that the U.S. State Department asked Twitter, based in San

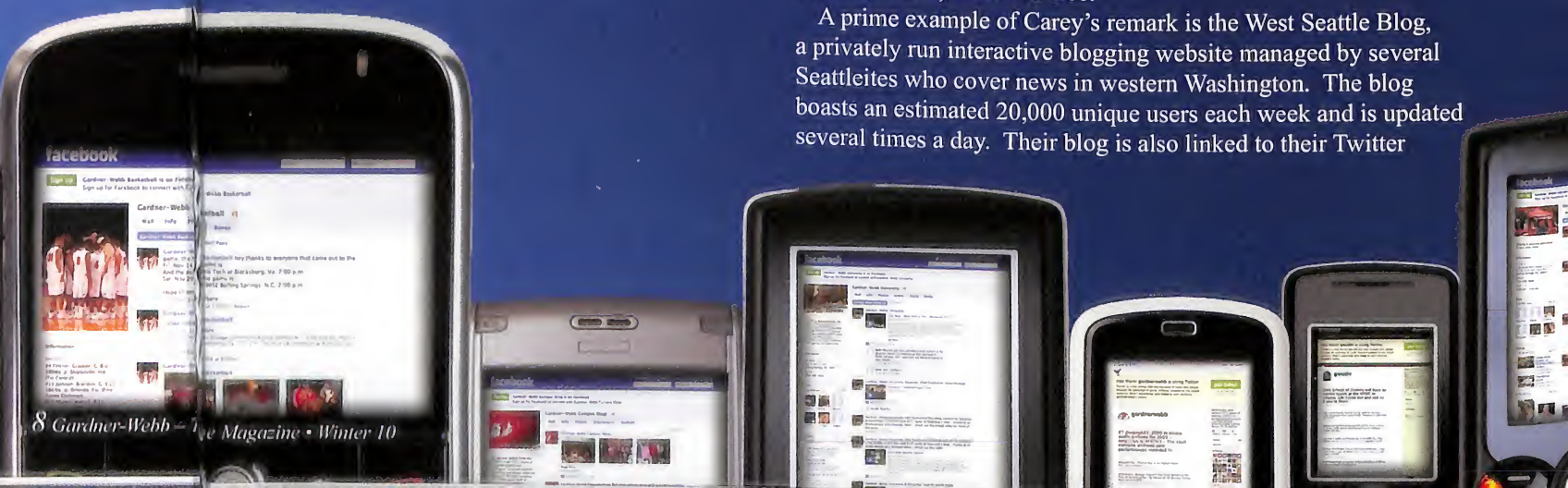
**"We are losing words,  
beautiful words."**

Francisco, to postpone their scheduled site maintenance for a weekend. Twitter had become a primary communication resource for the protestors and was serving as an important tool overseas.

Facebook also played a vital role in the technological impact of the Iranian election. Protest groups were created so that users could message each other about their views and create a dialogue about the events unfolding. This instance illustrates why Carey believes social networking has caught on as much as it has. "It allows people the ability to talk back to the government," Carey said.

"There are senators and representatives who use Twitter as well. This has opened lines of communication internally and changed the way we do news," said Carey. "If someone wanted to start a newspaper now it would cost millions of dollars. A blog site, on the other hand, would be free."

A prime example of Carey's remark is the West Seattle Blog, a privately run interactive blogging website managed by several Seattleites who cover news in western Washington. The blog boasts an estimated 20,000 unique users each week and is updated several times a day. Their blog is also linked to their Twitter





and Facebook page, supplying more interactive elements to their viewers than any newspaper.

I was quickly corrected when I asked the West Seattle Blog editor if their media format would become the “mainstream” way to present news in the future. “There will be no ‘mainstream.’ There really isn’t now — there’s old media and new media. The only thing I can say is that online will be the place to be. Very little print, eventually,” said Co-Publisher and Editor Tracy Record. It looks as if paperboys will be searching the e-classifieds for a new job in no time.

When Michael Jackson was pronounced dead on June 25, Twitter actually experienced a crash because of the copious amounts of tweets. Fans searching for answers churned out a total of more than 100,000 tweets an hour. The Twitter server temporarily crashed but was later restored in the evening hours.

But enough about the Aussie’s and the west coast hippies and Michael Jackson fans: how is GWU utilizing these social networking devices? Several departments around campus are enthusiastically using Twitter and Facebook and other websites for the university’s benefit.

Katie Fowler, the alumni communications coordinator for alumni and development, updates her department’s webpage, [supportgwu.com](http://supportgwu.com), every day.

“It is there in order to foster and cultivate a sense of community with communication. Alumni can stay plugged in that way,” Fowler said. The website keeps alumni and friends posted about current GWU happenings. Links to Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, a professional networking site, can be found at the bottom of the website. Interested web surfers can become a “fan” of the Facebook page that displays pictures and articles related to Gardner-Webb University.

The Twitter link, <http://twitter.com/bulldogClub>, sends viewers to the Bulldog Club account, a group committed to fundraising for the department of athletics. Tweets are sometimes posted several times a day to inform the public of athletic news. Finally, LinkedIn allows users to make professional networking connections with new or old colleagues.

Asked whether or not it is essential to use these online systems, Director Jason Diffenderfer of the Bulldog Club replied it is crucial to keep up with the rest of the online world. “It’s the nature of the beast,” Diffenderfer said. He explained that so many other institutions are utilizing these devices and the only way for GWU to compete is to have a frequently updated database.

Gardner-Webb Undergraduate Admissions is also using online tools to connect with prospective students. Assistant Vice President

of Undergraduate Admissions Nathan Alexander explained that it is essential for Gardner-Webb admissions to be online. “It is very necessary to be using social networking sites,” Alexander said. “Not many people can be reached on their home phone anymore, and we don’t want to bother people on their cell phones...the online sites are there so we are not being pushy, but just being easily accessible.”

Undergraduate Admissions has a Twitter page under the alias “FutureDawgs” and a Facebook page called “Gardner-Webb Admissions.” Prospective students can see campus updates, check out life on campus and meet current students to answer any questions.

Gardner-Webb’s radio station, 88.3 WGWG FM, has a Facebook page listed as “wggw dot org” that keeps fans and listeners posted about programming, new interviews or special events. Noel T. Manning, director of university and media relations, believes that having the radio station visible on Facebook has already been successful. “We have developed new listeners from around the world who have found us online,” Manning said. Also, [wggw.org](http://wggw.org) has a link to their YouTube channel, “wggw883.” Here, fans can watch special appearances by local and international artists that visited the Gardner-Webb studio.

Utilizing this technology is improving the way GWU communicates and relates to prospective students, alumni, staff and other groups. But social networking is also gaining the reputation of damaging interpersonal skills. Some argue that the use of technology, social networking in particular, has put to rest the days of handwritten correspondence and muted the practice of conversation. However, use of these same technologies helps news travel with alarming promptness, makes self-expression around the globe easier, and allows vast amounts of information to be displayed at the click of a mouse.

Sykes says her students sometimes disappoint her by texting during class, and it frustrates her that people are losing interpersonal skills. However, she understands new avenues for information are becoming explored.

“I know that technology is good...the Internet has opened so many new possibilities...but people need to learn how to deal with new technology and social networking,” Sykes said.

*It is as if technology is burning bridges but then building towers.*





## *Scenic Impressions*

"Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn."

*John Muir*



This section is devoted to the beauty of our campus. Landscapes, people, architecture, academics and athletics are featured in *Scenic Impressions*. The photos we spotlight here are taken by Gardner-Webb students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university. 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) for image specification requirements.



# On the Road Again

Written by Matt Theado, Ph.D.



Dr. Matt Theado

On Sept. 5, 1957, the world changed just a little bit. No, it wasn't the launching of the Soviet satellite Sputnik or the debut of American Bandstand on television. *On the Road*, a novel by Jack Kerouac, hit the bookstores, and that very day the *New York Times* hailed the book as "the most beautifully executed, the clearest and the most important utterance yet made by the generation Kerouac himself named years ago as 'beat.'" Today, the book is hailed as "the novel that defined a generation," and even after the initial counterculture quake, seismic effects of the book ripple through the American landscape.

Jack Kerouac came out of Lowell, Mass., a mill town on the Merrimack River in the midst of the depression. Major colleges recruited him to play football, and he decided on Columbia University because he wanted to experience New York City.

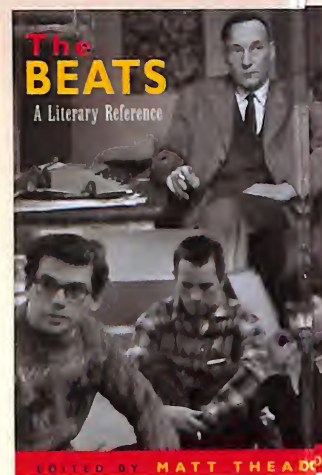
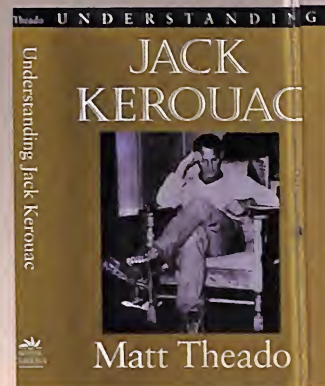
During his first semester, he wrote to a high school friend that he "roamed the vast and rich web of the city nightly." He was not wandering aimlessly, though; he was searching for like-minded spirits to share his romantic passion for poetry. He envisioned a brilliant future first as an all-star halfback, then as America's greatest writer. While injuries and World War II cut short his football career, literary notoriety greeted his work during his lifetime, more so than literary acclaim. He died in 1969 with very few tangible rewards for his decades of steady writing and with most of his books out of print.

Recent decades have been far more welcoming to his literary aspirations. Today, *On the Road* is recognized as an American classic, and more than 20 of his books are in print. I first discovered Jack Kerouac in 1979 while browsing my university bookstore. A biography had just been published, and I sat on the bookstore floor for an hour, intensely fascinated by this writer and his life.

On the school's library shelves, I found only a single copy of his books available, but I gave it a try. Once hooked, I read everything by Kerouac that I could get my hands on. Next thing I knew, I was majoring in English, and some years later, as I cast around for a master's thesis subject, I realized that there was only one writer for me: Kerouac. This resolution led to a Ph.D, and I wrote my dissertation on, ahem, Kerouac. Now, two books later, I find myself professionally linked to a guy who dropped out of Columbia in the 1940s to hitchhike the pre-interstate highways of the United States, a guy who crisscrossed the continent repeatedly in search of, as he tells it, "girls, visions, everything."

No exaggeration is needed to say that Kerouac and his opus, *On the Road*, changed American culture. At the least, his name summons the dusty bus stations of the Midwest, the big skies of Wyoming, and the sun-washed hills of San Francisco, where adventures await those plucky enough to get on the road.

Theado is a Professor of English at Gardner-Webb University and is the author of *Understanding Jack Kerouac* (University of South Carolina Press, 2000) and *The Beats: A Literary Reference* (Carroll & Graf, 2003)





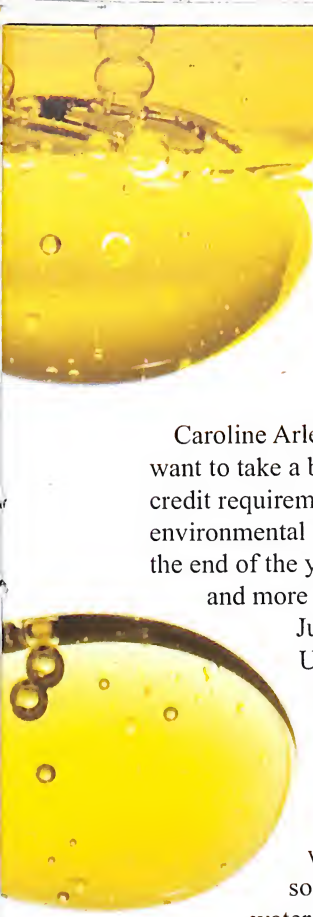


# Drivers Education

*Alternative Ideas Fuel Class Project*

*Written by Mary Katherine Leslie*





Caroline Arledge, a physical education major, says she did not want to take a biology, chemistry or physics class to fulfill her credit requirements. Instead, she signed up for Dr. David Judge's environmental science class to complete her science obligations. By the end of the year, however, the class became less of a prerequisite and more of a unique experience.

Judge, assistant professor of biology for Gardner-Webb University, gave his spring 2009 environmental science class the opportunity to complete a project that would serve the environment in a healthy and beneficial way. Students were required to write a proposal for their chosen undertaking and then work 40 hours outside of class to complete it. Projects ranged from interning with the Hickory Crawdad's and finding eco-friendly solutions for concessions, to volunteering at the waste water treatment plant and helping with their efforts — things that were “realistic and not ‘pie-in-the-sky’ to learn,” Judge said. But for a handful of students, converting a run-down car into a “veggie-mobile” became their exceptional assignment.

This was not Judge's first experience with a veggie-car. His father was also involved in vegetable oil recycling for alternative fuels at his company before retiring.

The vehicle looks like an ordinary 1980 Mercedes 300D, but a look under the hood reveals an impressively converted engine that runs on vegetable oil. Unlike the other projects, however, this one has been in the making for quite some time.

“The actual conversion in spring 2009 was the final step [of a multi-year process],” explains Judge, “Two prior classes were also involved. My class in fall 2006 came up with the idea, and our department purchased the 1980 Mercedes 300D car.” Money for the car and conversion process was raised by T-shirts sales, raffle sales and donations to the project.

The “science” of the car is attributed to a separate tank for the vegetable oil in the rear of the vehicle where the oil is heated to 160 degrees. First, the car actually runs on diesel and then transfers to oil power. Although the students used pure vegetable oil for the testing of the car, the conversion is capable and designed to support the use of oil from any cafeteria or fast food restaurant — a source that is usually free of cost.

After the conversion is complete, the environment begins to reap the benefits of the vegetable oil fuel system. The vehicle reduces emissions in the environment. According to *Biophile Magazine*, vegetable oil does not produce excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and as a result, is considered carbon neutral. The car the students completed is much less harmful to the environment and less toxic to people and animals than a typical vehicle.

“From my perspective, the project worked great, students had fun converting the car, and everyone in the class is now more aware of alternative fuels,” added Judge.

For more information about converting your vehicle to run on vegetable oil, visit [greasecar.com](http://greasecar.com), or check out *Biophile Magazine*.



## Did you know?

It takes less gasoline to restart your car than it does to let it idle for more than a minute. If all the cars on US roads had properly inflated tires, it would save an estimated 2 billion gallons of gasoline per year and improve your gas mileage 3-7%.

*University of Colorado Environmental Center, 2003*



## GARDNER-WEBB NAMES NEW CLASS TO ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

The Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame was created to honor leaders of the GWU athletic program. It is also intended to preserve an historical record of the contributions made by the participants to Gardner-Webb athletics. GWU has been selecting Hall of Fame inductees annually since 1991.

Each Hall of Fame inductee is presented with a commemorative plaque and Hall of Fame ring. The name and record of each Hall of Fame member is also on permanent display inside the concourse area of the Lutz-Welton Convocation Center.

During Homecoming 2009, GWU honored former standouts Delaina Adams Smith (basketball), Wes Gentry (baseball), James Harbison (football), and Jeff Parker (football) — along with Meritorious Service Award recipient Pam Scruggs.

**Delaina Adams Smith** competed at a very high level during her playing days with the Gardner-Webb women's basketball team, finishing her career with more than 1,000 points and 700 rebounds. A standout forward for the Lady Bulldogs, Adams averaged double figures scoring in all four seasons and was the team's top scorer in 1993-94 (19.1 ppg) and 1994-95 (19.4 ppg). She currently ranks fourth in Gardner-Webb history with 1,686 points and sixth with 737 career rebounds. Adams earned All-South Atlantic Conference honors during her career, and remains among the league's top-10 in several categories — ranking sixth in SAC history in scoring (17.1 ppg) and second in career field goal percentage (.577). The Roaring River, N.C. native shot a school-record 62.8 percent in 1993-94. Her leadership as a senior was evident, as she averaged 11.6 points and 6.0 rebounds to help the Lady Bulldogs to a 22-7 record and a berth in the 1996 NCAA Division II Tournament.

**Wes Gentry** completed his Gardner-Webb career as the top offensive catcher to ever play for the Diamond 'Dogs. During four seasons under Hall of Fame Coach Clyde Miller, Gentry was named All-South Atlantic Conference three times and posted a career .352 batting average, which still ranks third in school history. He ranks second in career home runs (35), RBIs (178), sacrifice flies (12), total bases (412), and played in more games (193) than any other catcher in school history. In 1998, he batted a career-high .391 with 15 home runs, 18 doubles, 29 walks and a school-record .716 slugging percentage. Gentry is the only player in school history who has more than one season with a batting average above .300 (minimum 150 at bats). His 15 home runs in 1998 remain the second-most in Gardner-Webb baseball history for a single season, and his .486 on base percentage that year is the second best in single-season history at GWU.

**James Harbison** enjoyed a tremendous career in the defensive backfield at Gardner-Webb in the early 1990s, and remains one of the program's best in several statistical categories. Harbison helped the Runnin' Bulldogs to a magical season in 1992, as the team finished with a 12-2 mark, a South Atlantic Conference championship, and a trip to the NAIA National Championship Bowl. Harbison was outstanding individually that season, registering 75 total tackles (47 solo), a school-record 12 interceptions, and a school-record 20 pass break ups. He returned those 12 interceptions for a team-high 162 yards and two touchdowns, part of a record-setting team defensive effort that produced 40 interceptions and 60 total turnovers in 14 games that season. Harbison's efforts were rewarded, as he was named NAIA National Defensive Player of the Year and a first-team NAIA All-American. Harbison also earned first-team All-South Atlantic Conference honors in 1992. Harbison finished his career with 17 career interceptions and 34 pass break ups, which both rank third in Gardner-Webb history. He joins his older brother, Charlie Harbison, in the GWU Athletics Hall of Fame.

**Jeff Parker** became the standard by which all other kickers at Gardner-Webb are measured, after enjoying a spectacular career from 1986-1989 in Boiling Springs. Parker remains the program's all-time leading scorer (278 points), regardless of position, and kicked more field goals (48) than any other man in school history. Parker's best season came in 1987, when he earned NAIA and Associated Press All-American honors after scoring a South Atlantic Conference and school-record 109 points during Gardner-Webb's run to a league title and berth in the NAIA national playoffs. The Runnin' Bulldogs finished with an 11-2 mark that season and posted a big early season win over Division I-AA Western Kentucky on the road. Parker boomed a school-record 19 field goals that season, which also set a South Atlantic Conference mark that stands 22 seasons later. His five field goals against Newberry in 1987 also remains a school record. Parker was a first-team All-SAC choice in 1986 and 1987, and earned second-team honors in 1989.

**Pam Scruggs** joined the Gardner-Webb University family in 1980, and has spent nearly 30 years as the backbone of the school's athletics programs. Scruggs currently serves the department of athletics as associate athletics director and senior woman administrator (SWA), overseeing all women's sports at Gardner-Webb and serving in several crucial capacities related to the athletics program. Scruggs currently ranks 16th among all Gardner-Webb faculty and staff in years served at the school. Her role within the athletics program has directly benefited the personal growth — on and off the field — of numerous Gardner-Webb student-athletes during her time with the program.

6 KODAK GC 400-8

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## GWU HONORS FALLEN SOCCER PLAYER

*Written by Richard Walker, The Gaston Gazette*

When Jordan Traylor died in December 2008 following complications from the flu, it shook up several local communities.

But his unexpected death has not been forgotten, especially within his Gardner-Webb University community.

Traylor's No. 16 soccer jersey was retired during the fall as part of the school's homecoming festivities. The inaugural Jordan Traylor Memorial Cup alumni soccer game was established to help raise scholarship money for future GWU students and help upgrade the current Bulldogs' soccer facilities.

"Jordan embodied what we want a men's soccer player to be," GWU Head Soccer Coach Tony Setzer said. "Jordan was loyal, hard-working, committed and just a quality student-athlete and person. He was, is, and will be held in high esteem throughout the Gardner-Webb University community."

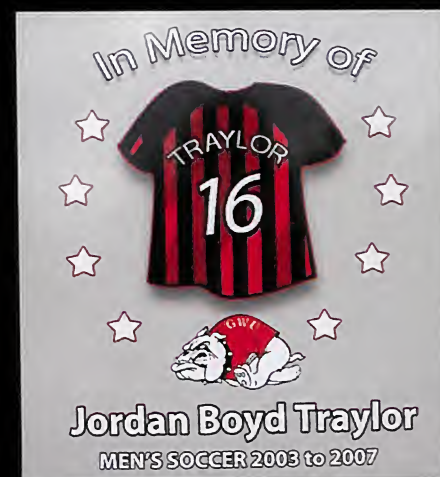
Traylor graduated from East Gaston High School in 2003. A four-year letter winner for East Gaston, he was selected as the team's most valuable player three of his four years. Additional accolades included All-Conference selections (twice) and All-Region selection following his senior season. Traylor excelled in the classroom as well. He was an honors graduate and member of the National Beta Club.

His academic and athletic success continued at Gardner-Webb, where he was selected to the Atlantic Sun Conference All-Academic Team on four occasions.

Jordan Traylor played on Gardner-Webb's first NCAA Division I tournament team back in 2006. That's when the Bulldogs celebrated their initial tournament appearance with a victory at Clemson of the ACC.

Jordan Traylor later graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and was pursuing a master's degree in business administration with an emphasis in health care at the time of his death.

"It's a big honor to have his jersey retired," Cliff Traylor (Jordan's father) said. "When something like that happens, one of your fears is that they forget. We'll always see Jordan's No. 16 jersey at Gardner-Webb. That's a pretty permanent reminder and says a lot about what they think of Jordan."







# A *Sound* INVESTMENT

*WGWG - Connecting the World to GWU  
through Music, Sports and More*

*Written by Mary Katherine Leslie*

In 1974, President Richard Nixon left office, Elton John released “Bennie and the Jets,” “The Godfather: Part II” hit theaters, and Gardner-Webb’s 88.3 WGWG radio began its existence as an FM station. What began as a radio club in 1960-61, WGWG has certainly stood the test of time and transitioned through the years as a station that people are talking about in many positive ways.

From 1961-73, WGWG operated as a radio club and collaborated with other area radio stations to present content. WGWG was also granted permission to offer programming throughout its campus and the town of Boiling Springs utilizing the electrical systems of the area. “Much of this early history has been lost, we would love to hear from anyone involved in WGWG during the ‘60s and have them share their stories about the station,” says Jeff Powell, operations manager and program director for WGWG.

For 19 years (1974-93) WGWG operated as a 5,000-watt FM station until it was given the opportunity to expand to 50,000 watts. The station also built a new 300-foot radio tower, enabling WGWG to broadcast the signal to 16 counties. But the biggest changes for the station were still yet to come.

WGWG has evolved into a variety of radio formats over the years. Different genres such as jazz, classical, country, and rock all graced the station with their unique sounds.



The station also featured syndicated shows like Christian talk radio, "Radio for the Blind," and a Spanish language show.

Helping to make all these programs possible were the time and energy of different GWU student workers, volunteers and key staff members.

In 1999, Jeff Powell and University & Media Relations Director Noel Manning said that the Gardner-Webb Administration felt WGWG was ready for a change. "We were not sure what that direction was, but we knew we wanted more community involvement and evidence of a bigger listening audience," Powell said. Surveys were sent out, calls were made and locals on the street were all asked the same question: What would your ideal music station play? The answer was an overwhelming plea for top 40-type artists, but not the top 40 songs.

Listeners were tired of the same mainstream music, so WGWG became something that no one else was. "We became an album-oriented station that played rock, bluegrass, country-crossover...deep album cuts, stuff that nobody else was really playing. And what we also did was reach out to the independent artists and told them, 'We want to give you a place for your music,'" Manning said.

The WGWG staff began to raid their own music collections, sign up for music clubs to get free CDs, and post advertisements welcoming local and regional artists to send in their music.

WGWG was also able to become a reporting station to some national music charts. This changed the station in monumental ways.

"Not long after that, we started having artists come to the station and perform for our radio audience and that was really exciting for us," Powell said. "When we played jazz and classical music, Bach didn't want to come by here and Beethoven wasn't traveling. In the past 10-years, we've had Grammy Award winners and legends of music come to the station and thank us for what we do."

Later, the station began connecting and building relationships with additional independent labels and promoters. More music began showing up in the mailbox, and more listeners began to tune in. Even though the station broadcasts from Gardner-Webb University, its main audience is not the university campus. Instead, listeners have contacted WGWG from as far away as New Zealand, New York and Texas — all of whom listen to online streaming from the station's main website, [wgwg.org](http://wgwg.org). Within this site are links to WGWG's Facebook page and YouTube channel. The Facebook page allows fans to stay up to date on radio specials, new artists and station playlists. The YouTube channel features archived videos of musical guests featured on the station.

Today, WGWG is a non-commercial station that specializes in an "Adult Album Alternative" (AAA) format that includes Americana and roots music. Roots music covers a wide range of styles such as bluegrass, alternative country, old time, folk, blues and roots rock. 88.3-FM also features Christian music, news, Gardner-Webb sports, and a variety of educational and inspirational programs.

WGWG is able to maintain its non-commercial status with businesses and community groups who sponsor the station by implementing underwriting on radio shows. "Underwriting is our way of thanking people on the air for their financial support," Powell said. Rather than their buying a 30 or 60 second commercial, a business receives on-air credit for their sponsorship of WGWG and the station's programming.

WGWG also partners with local non-profit groups to inform the community of events, activities and purposes of those organizations. WGWG has the unique opportunity to be a sponsor for area concerts and events. "This offers great visibility for Gardner-Webb, the station, and a connection to listeners," Manning said.

Manning considers the past decade, in particular, a pivotal time for the station. "I look at the last ten years as a turning point in a lot of ways. We have seen incredible support from the University, from the community, and from area businesses that I didn't know were there 25 years before," Manning said.

Although pleased with the current state of WGWG, Powell still believes there is room for improvement. "Our goal is keep doing what we're doing, but do it better. We will keep looking for good quality music and more ways to connect the surrounding communities with Gardner-Webb through the vehicle of WGWG."

For a detailed list of radio programming and audio archives go to [wgwg.org](http://wgwg.org).





A photograph of a man with short, graying hair, glasses, and a goatee, wearing a black shirt. He is speaking at a podium, gesturing with his hands. A microphone is visible in front of him. The background is dark.

## A HUG AND A SMILE

*Author of world-wide bestseller shares more at GWU than the story behind "The Shack."*

*Written By Paul Foster*





Homecoming 2009 at Gardner-Webb University was a day packed with exciting events and included a visit from *New York Times* Best Selling Author of “The Shack”, William Paul Young. Young captivated an audience of 1,000 when he spoke about “The Shack’s” humble beginning during a Saturday morning public speaking engagement on Oct. 31 in the Paul Porter Arena. And nobody during the beginning could have dreamed what has happened to “The Shack.” It has gone on to sell over 10 million copies worldwide — a success that could only be described by Young as a “God thing.”

Over the years, Young had written stories as gifts to his children. So in 2005 when his wife, Kim, asked him to think outside the box and write a deeper story for their children, “The Shack” was born. His first intent was only to hand out 15 copies he had made at his local Office Depot. Little did he know how his story would begin to touch the lives of those well beyond his friends and family circle.

“I’m not an author. It’s by accident,” said

Young, when describing “The Shack.” Soon, “The Shack” made its way into the hands of two movie producers who thought it should be published. However, 26 publishing companies turned it down. After this, two dear friends of Young decided to put their resources together and start their own publishing company, Windblown Media, in order to make the story available.

“In the beginning the book was only available on the Internet, and then copies started selling so quickly we couldn’t keep enough copies printed,” said Young.

The rest is history — a history that doesn’t appear to be ending anytime soon. “This book has done something amazing. It has changed lives,” Young said. “The Shack” is now printed in 22 languages. Young told the audience at GWU with an amusing tone in his voice, “I don’t even know what this means, but ‘The Shack’ is the book of the decade in Croatia.”

Beyond the smiles and laughs that Young brought out of the audience at GWU, he was certainly serious, as was the reaction from the audience, when he talked about various subjects shared in “The Shack.” Things like: a personal relationship with Jesus versus religious performance, what it means to please God, is God good all the time, and what is the nature and character of God that is in us? Young said, “God is love, laughter, fun and joy. God does not do one thing that he is not first motivated by love to do.”

Young called “The Shack” a metaphor of the heart of human beings. “It’s like a house on our insides that is decaying and the walls need to be rebuilt. It’s secrets that we hold on to because we’re ashamed. It’s your soul, your hearts, who you are that matters,” said Young.

Young also talked about how there were so many things he didn’t anticipate about his book and how it would speak to people. Young said, “People read a particular section of the book and replace the role of a character with themselves from their point of view.” Young said dealing with his “shack” meant no more running away from God and circumstances he had carried in his life for such a long time.

Another thing that stood out during his talk was when Young shared the importance of a relationship with a father figure — a biological father here on earth and God the Father. Young referred to a friend who has served in the judicial system as a judge. “He (the judge) told me that in 26 years of sentencing men to prison he always asked them, ‘how was your relationship with your father?’ Not a one of them ever shared a good story,” said Young. In other words, sometimes God is the only father figure some have. For the rest of us, God should be the ultimate father figure because that’s his intention. Young said, “My relationship is with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”



One thing evident about Young, who makes his home in Oregon City, Ore., is that fame hasn’t seem to have changed him. Young made sure that everyone he met at Gardner-Webb that day received a handshake and a big hug. He offered a smile, warm words and took the time to talk to anyone who wanted to share their “shack-type” story with him.

Young also conducted a question and answer session with the morning audience, spoke at the annual GWU Distinguished Alumni Banquet, and took part in a reception where he spent time with divinity school students who attend the university.

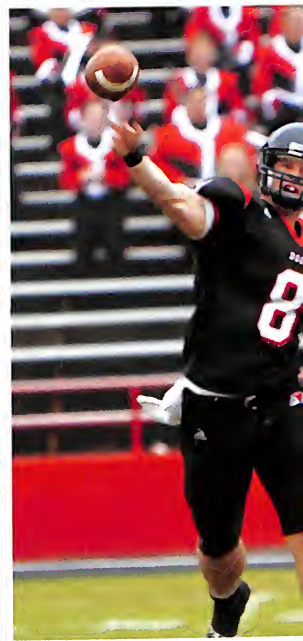
What’s next for William Paul Young? He told the audience that he’s currently working on a screenplay and told me in a one-on-one interview that he’s taking things one day at a time. “I’m listening to God. I don’t have expectations. I’m not sure what will happen next.”



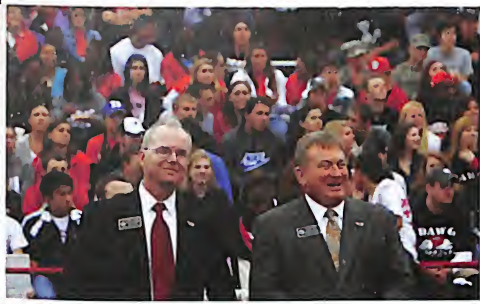




# 2009 Homecoming Scrapbook







2010  
Homecoming  
October, 23rd  
Save the Date!







# Class Acts

## 1940s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

**ALBERT CRISP '41 A.A.** passed away on Monday, May 18, 2009 at his home. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946 on the U.S. Naval Ship Destroyer. He worked for Southern Railroad, Hunter Paint Company, and Hanna Paint Company in Charlotte, N.C. Albert is survived by his wife, son, grandchildren, and two sisters.

## 1950s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

**JOHN THOMAS PAINTER '50 A.A.** died on June 16, 2009 at the Robin Johnson Hospice House. He was a U.S. Navy World War II Veteran and former teacher and coach at Belmont Senior High School. Painter was inducted into the Belmont Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church where he was a Sunday school teacher and a trustee. He also served as a trustee on the Board of Directors for Boys & Girls Home of Lake Waccamaw. Painter is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ellen, a 1951 Gardner-Webb alumna, and three sons, as well as one brother and six grandchildren.

### ALUMNUS PASSING

**JOSEPH KENNETT MAYE '51 A.A.** died on December 2, 2008 at Northern Hospital in Surry County at the age of 82. He was a psychology professor at Surry Community College for many years. Prior to his teaching career, he served as minister at several churches including Flat Rock Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Hillsville, Va. His wife, a son and brother survive him.

### ⊙ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

#### **ROBERT BLACKBURN '52**

Dr. Robert Blackburn graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1952 with an Associate of Arts degree. In 1954, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree from Erskine College. After obtaining a Master of Arts degree in Health and Physical Education from George Peabody College in 1961, Blackburn completed his Education Doctorate in 1968. Early in his career, he worked at Walhalla High School as teacher and coach. Later, Blackburn served as both professor and chair of the Health and Physical Education departments at Louisiana College and then Gardner-Webb. Blackburn is professor emeritus for Gardner-Webb University.



Since 1973, he has volunteered with the American Heart Association and currently serves on the Cleveland County Board of Health. He is also vice chair for the NC Local Health Department Accreditation Board and is president of the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health. Blackburn was recently appointed to the Healthy Carolinas task force by the Governor of North Carolina. In July 2009, Blackburn received the National Association of Local Board of Health's Everett I Hageman Award, and in 2008 the American Heart Association named the Robert Blackburn Advocacy Award in his honor.

Blackburn attends Boiling Springs Baptist Church where he is an ordained deacon. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience Blackburn remarks, "Dr. Phillip Elliott was the president at the time I entered college and his philosophy of leadership was always service to your community. This was ingrained in every student who studied and attended Gardner-Webb during this period, and I have tried to follow his leadership and service principles."

### ⊙ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

#### **CHARLES H. RABON '52**

Dr. Charles H. Rabon graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1952 with an Associate of Arts degree. In 1954, he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University, and in 1957, he completed his Bachelor of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where in 1970, he also earned his Master of Divinity degree. He holds basic certification in Clinical Pastoral Education from the South Carolina Baptist Hospital. He served as pastor to several churches before joining the South Carolina Baptist Convention as director of Church Ministry and Annuity, a position he held for 22 years.



Rabon participated in several mission crusades and preached in such places as Cuba, Panama, Alaska, Brazil, Kenya, as well as the Philippine and Bahamian Islands. As a member of the General Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention, he has created teaching material, led conferences, and counseled pastors. Rabon was given the Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award and was awarded a Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Charleston Southern University. He is a member of the Legacy Society at Gardner-Webb University as well as the Christian Service Organization.

Rabon attends Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Rabon remarked, "The Gardner-Webb experience confirmed a calling from God to ministry. At Gardner-Webb I was privileged to meet and fall in love with the girl I would marry, make friends who positively influenced my life, and gain knowledge and inspiration from faculty and staff in my pursuit to serve God and humanity."



## © DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CARL M. SPANGLER, JR. '52

Carl M. Spangler, Jr. is a 1952 alumnus of Gardner-Webb. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry in 1959 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He worked for Fiber Industries in Shelby, N.C., first as the manufacturing superintendent and then as industrial relations superintendent. Spangler later transitioned to Fiber's Fayetteville, N.C. location where he served as industrial relations superintendent until his retirement in 1990.



Spangler has previously served as president of several organizations including the Cleveland County Boys Club, United Way, Children's Home, Life Enrichment Center, Upper Cleveland Rescue Squad, and the Lawndale Historical Society. He was also a charter member of Cleveland County Hospice and previously served as chairman of the Steering Committee for Carolina Thread Trail. In a vibrant relationship with Gardner-Webb, Spangler has served as representative on several boards and committees. He has served three terms as trustee for the University as well as Chairman of fund raising for the C.O. and Eliza Greene Lecture Series.

Spangler attends Double Shoals Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Spangler affirms, "Gardner-Webb was life-changing."

## ALUMNUS PASSING

### HAROLD LLOYD LONG '56 A.A.

died on October 9, 2009 at the Hinkle Hospice Home in Davidson County, N.C. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War, where he received two silver stars, five bronze stars, and a purple heart. He served as pastor to Riverside Baptist Church in Cramerton, N.C., and later while attending Baylor University he served as Minister at Cego Baptist Church in Cego, Texas. In the early nineteen-sixties Harold was the founding minister

of the Gaston Baptist Church in Dallas, N.C., where he retired. His wife, three children, several grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as two brothers and one sister, survive him.

## © DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI COACH DON POOLE '57

Don Poole graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1957 with an Associate of Arts degree.

He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 1964 from Pfeiffer University. After graduation, he became teacher and coach at Asheboro Jr. High School, and in 1968, Poole moved to Lamar High School where he taught and coached baseball, basketball, football, and boys track for 40 years.



Poole previously served as president for the Board of Directors for the South Carolina High School Basketball Association. He participated in the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Basketball Classic, as well as the South Carolina North/South Football Game as coach. In October of 2000, the Lamar High School Athletic Program named the football and baseball stadium The Donald R. Poole Stadium.

He attends Lamar Baptist Church where he serves as Sunday school teacher for the Adult Men. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Poole declares, "The Gardner-Webb students and faculty have had a great impact on my life. My time spent at Gardner-Webb was some of the best years of my life. I shall always be grateful."

## ALUMNA PASSING

### MARIAN DAVIS PACKARD '58 A.A.

passed away on Friday, April 10, 2009 at Summit Place in Mooresville, N.C. She taught in the Cleveland County and Shelby School Systems for over 24 years. Marian was an active member of Sandy Plains Baptist Church and was involved in many community, state, and national organizations. Her son, daughter, their spouses, and several grandchildren survive her.

## ALUMNA PASSING

### CAROLE JACKSON PAINTER '59 A.A.

died at Magnolia Manor on July 3, 2009. She worked for Mary Black Memorial Hospital (S.C.). Two children, six brothers and three sisters survive her.

# 1960s

## ALUMNUS PASSING

### DENNIS W. JONES '61 A.A.

died on Sunday, January 4, 2009 at the age of 67. Jones was the Captain of the Gardner-Webb Tennis Team and also "The Voice of the Campus" for the Gardner-Webb radio station WGWG. Dennis maintained a successful sales career with Dixie Industrial Supply in Shelby, N.C. His wife and two daughters survive him.

## © DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### JERRY MCKINNEY '61

Dr. Jerry McKinney graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1961 with an Associate of Arts degree. In 1963, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Social Sciences



from Western Carolina University. He is a 1980 alumnus of the University of New Haven, having graduated with a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He received a Certificate of Advanced Study from Fairfield University and took additional graduate courses at the University of Connecticut. He holds an Education Doctorate from Montana State University.

Since 2004, McKinney has worked with the Opening Doors Mentoring Ex-Offenders program. He also completed the Correctional Internship at the Women's Correctional Center in Warm Springs, Mont. In 1999, he was awarded the College of Applied Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award from Western Carolina University, as well as the Who's Who Among American Teachers in 1998, 2000, and 2002. He attends the 19th Congregational United



Church of Christ. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, McKinney remarked, "Gardner-Webb and the faculty such as Lansford Jolley, Paul Stacy, and Norman Harris, implanted a stamp on my life that has always been kept near and dear to my heart."

## Ⓢ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI EZRA HEATHMAN MUNN '63

Ezra Heathman Munn graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1963 with an Associate of Arts degree. In 1965, he graduated from East Tennessee State University.



He completed additional studies at Winthrop University and the State College of Arkansas. Early in his career, Munn was physical education teacher and Coach for the York County School System. He later served as district sales manager for United Technology and then Thompson Ramo Wooldridge. Munn retired from the DANA Corporation as district manager.

From his roles as educator and coach to that of salesperson, Munn has been recognized for his commitment to quality service. As district sales manager, Munn was recognized as Top Performer for the DANA Corporation 13 of 15 years and was named Salesman of the Year for United Technologies, Inc. in 1975. He has previously served on the York City Council. Munn is a Mason and Shriner, and for three years, he was a shrine bowl escort for the South Carolina and North Carolina Football Team. Munn was awarded The Dave Thomas Service Award from the Wendy's Corporation. He currently is a member of the Alumni Association Board for Gardner-Webb and serves on the University Archives Preservation Committee.

He is a leacon at First Presbyterian Church in York, S.C.. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Munn said, "At Gardner-Webb, I met students with great values and solid goals for life. These values were enhanced by professors and coaches."

## Ⓢ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI THOMAS H. WATSON '63

Thomas H. Watson graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1963 with an Associate of Arts degree. He completed his A.B. degree from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1966. Watson holds



a Master of Arts degree and the Educational Specialist degree from Appalachian State University. Prior to his retirement, Watson served three different school systems in various positions including teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal, and principal.

Watson served as director for the Catawba Valley Classical Basketball Tournament for 11 years. He has also led the Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame Committee as chairperson and the Hickory Metro Sports Commission as vice chair. Watson assists the Foresight Committee, a public education initiative that assesses the needs of three public schools in Catawba County. He is a volunteer with United Way and Special Olympics of Catawba County.

He attends St. Luke's Methodist Church in Hickory, N.C. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Watson remarked, "St. Jude is the patron saint of hopeless causes. Gardner-Webb College was St. Jude for me. Gardner-Webb College gave me a second opportunity for a college education. The administration, faculty, staff, coaches, and student body at Gardner-Webb College gave me the guidance, direction, and support I needed to be successful and graduate in the Class of 1963."

## R. WAYNE TROUTMAN '66 A.A.

was recently reappointed as trustee for Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (N.C.). Former N.C. Governor Mike Easley first appointed him to the RCCC Board in 2003. Troutman is president and general manager of Troutman Motors Inc., and general manager and agent for Troutman Insurance.

## ALUMNUS PASSING MARVIN L. BISHOP '68 A.A.

died on July 8, 2009 at Upstate Carolina Medical Center (S.C.). He was the former owner and operator of Marvin Bishop Pontiac, Buick, and GMC. He was also the treasurer of the Buick Advertising Association. Bishop was a National Guard and Naval Reserve member. He attended Draytonville Baptist Church. In addition to his wife, three sons, their wives, several grandchildren and two sisters survive him.

## ALUMNUS PASSING EUGENE RAY SMITH '68 A.A.

passed away on December 15, 2008 following a nine-month illness. Smith worked as a probation officer and court counselor for the 17th Judicial District, serving Surry, Stokes, Rockingham, and Caswell Counties (N.C.). His wife, son and daughter survive him.

## Ⓢ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI R. SCOTT GOOD '69

Dr. R. Scott Good graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1969 with an Associate of Arts degree and in 1971 with Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. In 1974, he completed



his Master of Theology degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and in 1983, he obtained his Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University. Good has served as pastor to churches in Kentucky, Virginia, and North Carolina, and is currently an Agency Manager, Agency Field Consultant, and Agent with State Farm Insurance.

Good participates on the Gaston Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Committee and takes part in the Gaston Rotary Club. Good is also a board member for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He has volunteered with the Special Olympics Program in Burke and Gaston Counties. In 2007, Good was named State Farm's Mutual Funds Leader and received the Company's Golden Triangle Award in 2005. In addition to serving as president



*You pledged*  
**\$137,000**



### A THANK YOU TO ALUMNI!

During the fall of 2009, the GWU Annual Fund continued with a revamped Phonathon that produced impressive results. Thank you, alumni and parents, for your gifts to the University and your conversations with our Phonathon Student Development Officers (SDOs). Through the fall 2009 Phonathon, 32% of our alumni and parents have pledged more than \$137,000 to support Gardner-Webb University. We greatly appreciate the many gifts of all sizes that provide students with an excellent education. Your support makes it possible for Gardner-Webb to continue to improve each year.

More information on the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund is available online at [supportgwu.com](http://supportgwu.com) or by calling 704-406-2118.

of Gardner-Webb's Ministerial Board, he is also a board member for the Christian Service Organization.

Good attends First Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Good noted, "Gardner-Webb allowed me to see the need to have an education for my future. This knowledge has assisted me in my family, business and church life."

## 1970s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

**STEVE BYRON FULLER '70 A.A.** died on Saturday, April 11, 2009. He was first employed by the family business, Fuller Pulpwood Company prior to joining the U.S. Army. He later worked for Crown

Hosiery in Winston-Salem, N.C. and Stroupe Mirror Company in Thomasville, N.C. He was a member of West End United Methodist Church in Thomasville. His wife, mother, three sisters and one brother survive him.

**MILES MICHAEL ALDRIDGE '71 B.S.** was recently named football coach and athletic director for Mullins High School. He has more than 25 years of collegiate coaching experience having spent three seasons with the University of Central Florida Golden Knights as a defensive backs coach. His coaching experience also includes stints at Duke University, North Carolina State University and the University of Mississippi. Miles has previously served as Defensive Coordinator at Clemson University and the University of South Carolina.

**DOUGLAS "REAGAN" CLARK '75 B.A.** is a GOAL admissions counselor for Gardner-Webb University. He recently retired from the Rutherford County School System after 36 years. He served as principal for 22 of those years. Clark and his wife, Elaine, a fellow Gardner-Webb employee, are the proud parents of their son, Brian, an Associate Professor at Ohio University.

**JOSEPH SOUTHARDS '71 B.S.** recently retired after over 37 years with the State of North Carolina. He served just over 27 years with Cleveland Community College, and retired as the department head of math and science. He also served 10 years with Gaston County School at Cherryville High School. Joseph and his wife, Evelyn, reside in Cherryville, N.C.



## ❶ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### SANDY WASHBURN '71

Sandy Washburn graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. In 2007, she received the Golden Apple Award upon her retirement from 30 years of teaching.



Washburn and her husband, Jim, have three children: Jeremiah, Brady, and Jessica. They attend Family Community Church in Franklin, Tenn. where she serves as a Sunday school teacher. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, Washburn said, "Attending GWU certainly proved significant as I met my husband there. We are able to share many memories from our four years as students and eventually graduates."

## ❷ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### DAVID W. WHITE '71

David W. White graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

White is the president of the family businesses, White & Son Construction, Inc. and White Investments of Shelby, LLC.



White is an advisory board member for First Charter Bank, which was previously Carolina State Bank. White participates on the Board of Directors for Alliance Bank & Trust and serves as director of ABT Financial Corporation Holding Company.

He volunteers with Crime Stoppers, Abuse Prevention Council, the Keep Shelby Beautiful Initiative and belongs to the Shelby Appearance Commission. He was awarded YMCA's We Build People Award and the Civitans' Harold G. Pless Award.

White attends First Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. where he serves as deacon. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, he said, "Gardner-Webb University has served as a stepping stone in my life. I personally feel that the Lord has blessed my life and it gives me great satisfaction to give back to this wonderful university in hopes that someone else's life shall become equally blessed."

## ❸ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### MEL CAMPOS '72

Mel Campos graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Languages, and in 1978, he completed his Master of Arts degree in College

Administration from Western Carolina University. Campos has worked with Cleveland Community College as director of media services and Kauai Community College as a job training counselor. He has served as pastor to several churches including Eleele Baptist Church and Oak Ridge Baptist Church. Campos has also worked for Burke County's Child Protective Services and now serves as associate pastor to Crestview Baptist Church in Boiling Springs, N.C.

Campos has served as Disaster Relief Coordinator for Eleele Baptist Church and Hawaii's Garden Isle Baptist Association in response to Hurricane Iniki. He also served in this capacity for the Men's Missions



Response in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. While in Hawaii, Campos organized the West Maui Second Harvest Food Distribution and served as Executive Board Member and 2nd Vice President for the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. He previously participated in Burke County's Habitat for Humanity as a Men's Leader. Last Spring, he helped to organize a Baseball Reunion at Gardner-Webb for those who played under the leadership of Coach Jerry Bryson.

When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience Campos noted, "Gardner-Webb prepared me for more than my life's work and calling. The University not only expanded my knowledge of cultural diversities and human needs, but assisted my ability to understand God's love for all and to share it more effectively by serving others."

## ALUMNUS PASSING

### WILLIAM "RICHARD" WARD '72 B.A.

passed away on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at his residence. He taught English at Sumter High School (S.C.). Ward was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church. His mother, sister, and two nieces survive him.

### WILLIAM "MIKE" GOUDELOCK '73 B.A.

is the owner of Hidden Springs Counseling Center located in Lenoir, N.C. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist as well as a National Certified Counselor. He is in his 10th year of service on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council having been appointed by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners.

He previously served as the director of Substance Abuse Services for Universal Mental Health. Goudelock and his wife, Deborah, live in the Granite Falls area.

Follow Gardner-Webb on **Twitter** to find out about all the latest events that are happening.

<http://twitter.com/gardnerwebb>





**RONALD EDWIN GREENE '73 B.S.**

was joined by family and friends on Friday, September 25, 2009 for the dedication of the Ron Greene Stadium at Burns High School (N.C.) in honor of his years of service to the school and to the football program. Ron served as Head Football Coach for Burns High School from 1984-2007. His teams won 174 games, making him the second most winning coach in Cleveland County history. His team went to the postseason 13 times and brought home the 1994 State 3A championship.

**ALUMNUS PASSING****RICKY HOWARD JOSEY '74 B.S.**

died on Sunday, June 7, 2009 at his residence. He previously worked for Gold Toe of Newton, N.C. at the time of his death was presently self-employed as a videographer. His wife, two stepdaughters, step-grandchildren, his mother, father, and two sisters survive him.

**SHIRLEY TENNYSON SCRUGGS '75 B.S.**

and Stanley James Nordine were united in marriage on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at Gateway Baptist Church in Boiling Springs, S.C. Shirley taught for Spartanburg County Schools for 28 years and now serves as assistant principal at Cliffside Elementary School in Cliffside, N.C. Stanley is an accountant for Piedmont Farm & Nursery Supply Company in Spartanburg. The couple makes their home in Cowpens, S.C.

**PHILIP ALAN WEATHERS '76 B.S., '85 M.A.**

was recently inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame (N.C.). Weathers coached wrestling at Kings Mountain Junior High/Middle School where his teams had a record of 116-8 and a conference record of 97-1. His teams also won 13 consecutive conference championships. Weathers went on to become principal at Kings Mountain High School, director of student services for Kings Mountain District Schools, and most recently, director of safe schools for the Cleveland County School System.

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI  
SHERWIN JOHNSON WASHBURN '77**

In 1977, Sherwin Johnson Washburn graduated from Gardner-Webb with a Bachelor of Science degree, and in 1986, she graduated with a Master of Arts degree. For over 28 years, she taught for Rutherford County Schools at Cliffside Elementary. Washburn currently teaches at Chesnee Middle School.



Washburn previously participated in scholastic societies such as the Delta Kappa Gamma Society for Key Women Educators, the International Reading Association, and the North Carolina Reading Association. She received her National Board Certification in 1998 and renewal in 2008. She was twice named Outstanding Conservation Teacher by the Rutherford Soil and Water Conservation District. Washburn is a volunteer with the Cleveland County Special Olympics program serving the golf, softball, and basketball skills teams.

Washburn attends Boiling Springs Baptist Church where she serves as a Sunday school teacher. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, Washburn said, "With pleasure, I experienced every aspect of campus life. I met Harry, my husband, at GWU, and his family made me one of them. Many professors, classmates, and community members became lifelong friends, and we currently worship together at Boiling Springs Baptist Church."

**1980s****ALUMNUS PASSING****DAVID A. JONES '80 B.S.**

died at the age of 55 on December 9, 2008 at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, N.C. Jones was an Air Force Veteran and served as pastor to several Baptist churches including Bat Cave, Grays Creek, Smith Grove, Crestview, Lavonia,

Johnson Memorial, and Pilgrim Baptist. He was an interim pastor at Bills Cree Baptist Church. His wife, two daughters, five brothers and four grandchildren survive him.

**CATHY COGGINS RIMMER '80 B.A.**

was promoted to the director of Career Registry Services for Novant Health with responsibilities at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. and Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte, N.C. Cathy and her husband, Coley, are members of Aronore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

**GLORIA SHERMAN '80 B.S., '04 M.A.**

has been named Cleveland County Schools Principal of the Year for 2010. She is the Principal of Springmore Elementary School in Boiling Springs, N.C. She has been a scholastic servant for 29 years, fulfilling the roles of teacher and administrator for Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Rutherford, and Cleveland County Schools.

**ALUMNUS PASSING****JACK DEWITTE YOUNG '80 B.S.**

died on July 19, 2009 at UNC Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, N.C. He retired from the U.S. Air Force after more than 24 years of service, having served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He retired from Dixie Industrial Supply after 15 years as purchasing manager and sales tool after seven years as director of purchasing. He attended Boiling Springs Baptist Church and Boiling Springs United Methodist Church. A daughter, a brother, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren survive him.

**ALUMNUS PASSING****ROBERT LEWIS CONDREY '81 B.S.**

died on April 19, 2009. He was a retired master sergeant with the U.S. Air Force and also served three years in the Navy. He was the maintenance supervisor for Rutherford County for over 15 years. He was also a licensed contractor in addition to being a member of the Unity Center in Arden, N.C. Robert is survived by three daughters, three granddaughters, one grandson, several great grandchildren, and one sister.



**AUREY AWTREY DEVINE '81 B.S.** was appointed president of the Belmont Rotary Club. She is the principal at Foreview High School in Gastonia, N.C. and was 2008-2009 Gaston County Principal of the Year. She previously served as principal of Clover Junior High School and Belmont Middle School.

**ROBERT TODD ACHBERGER '82 B.S.** was recently named sales manager at The South Carolina Agency, a Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. He was previously a partner at New York Life following a vice president position at RBC Liberty. Robert is licensed with FINRA series 6, 63, 26, and 7. He is the president of NALFA, and is board member of the Urban Upstate League.

## ALUMNA PASSING

**CARLA RENEE DETTER '82 B.S.** died on Sunday, May 24, 2009. She was a National Board certified media specialist and worked in the Lincoln County School System (N.C.) for 28 years until her retirement. Her brother and two nephews survive her.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### DICKIE SPARGO, JR. '82

Dickie Spargo, Jr. graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1989, he completed his Master of Divinity degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He serves as pastor to Bethlehem Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C., which was recognized by Lifeway Christian Stores as one of the 100 fastest growing churches in America.



This year, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented Spargo with the Community Leadership Award just as the Gaston County School System honored him with the Business Partnership Award. He serves on the Board of Directors for several organizations including Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County, Fresh State, Center for Disease

Control and several more. Spargo and Bethlehem Church began Hope for Gaston, an inter-denominational, multi-cultural outreach program that seeks to meet the needs of members of the county as a catalyst for racial reconciliation.

When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Pastor Spargo said, "Gardner-Webb University helped shape my mind, my heart, and my soul. I am grateful to God for sending me to a school that not only shaped my intellect, but prepared me for life and helped me grow in my spirit."

### DENNIS CROSBY '83 B.S.

received the 2009 Gaston College Staff Excellence Award (Dallas, N.C.). He is the director of the Criminal Justice Academy and Basic Law Enforcement Training for the College. Dennis served over 25 years with the Gastonia Police Department and retired in 1999 as major/assistant chief. He and his wife, Vickie, reside in Dallas, N.C. E-mail Dennis at: [crosby.dennis@gaston.edu](mailto:crosby.dennis@gaston.edu).

### TIMOTHY GUEST '83 B.A.

is faculty clinician at Life University and was recently promoted to compliance officer for the University. This is a newly created position and his responsibilities will be developing the HIPAA compliance policies and security procedures for the campus. He is a part of the Office for Institutional Policy Accreditation and Quality Assurance. E-mail Tim at: [tguest@life.edu](mailto:tguest@life.edu).

### F. CRAIG MEADOWS '83 B.S.

was selected to serve as interim town manager of Red Springs, N.C. He was previously assistant city manager and director of finance for the City of Mount Airy, N.C. From there, he went on to become the director of finance and administration as well as assistant city manager for the City of Monroe, N.C., and the city manager for Bedford, Va. Since 2005, he has served as city manager for the City of Monroe.

### JULIE JONES MURRELL '83 B.S.

works for Triple J Enterprises, a family owned business, which includes Ford, Honda, Acura and Outback Steakhouse.

Julie is married to, Dan, the son of Dr. M. Vann Murrell, who served as professor and chairman of the Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy for many years at GWU. They have a son, and they recently adopted twin daughters from Russia. The Murrell family resides on the Island of Guam.

### JOANN ULLRICH '83 A.A., '01 B.S.N.

is a registered nurse and has recently been named the director of the Emergency Department at Rutherford Hospital (N.C.). She began her career at Rutherford Hospital in May 1982 as a nursing assistant in the Intensive Care Unit. She was then appointed to assistant director of the Emergency Department in 1998.

### EVANS P. WHITAKER '83 B.S.

is president of Anderson University (S.C.) and has been elected as a trustee to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He is one of a 77-member governing body elected to represent approximately 800 institutions that are members of the Commission on Colleges. Trustees determine Commission policy, forward proposed modifications of accreditation standards, as well as review and make decisions regarding the accreditation of higher education institutions in the Southeast that award bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees. Whitaker has been an institutional reviewer for the Commission for several years.

## ALUMNA PASSING

### ANNIE RUTH HILL '84 B.S.

passed away on Monday, June 15, 2009 at the Brian Center in Charlotte, N.C. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Spindale, N.C. Her son, sister, and brother, five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren survive her.

## ALUMNA PASSING

### GENA LISA PARKER '84 M.A.

passed away on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, in Gaffney, S.C. She was a teacher and formerly taught at Grassy Pond and Mary Bramlett Elementary Schools in Gaffney. She was employed by Anderson County School District Five as a teacher at Calhoun Academy of the Arts. Gena received



the 1997 Teacher of the Year Award in Cherokee County. She was a member of New Spring Church of Anderson, S.C. Her husband, two sons and brother survive her.

## © DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### GRADY C. "NEAL" STOCKTON '84

Grady C. "Neal" Stockton graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. In a dedicated and distinguished career in law enforcement, Stockton served with the Kernersville (N.C.) Police Department first as dispatcher and officer and later as sergeant and ultimately as chief, a position he held for 25 years.



Among his many honors, Stockton received the Medal of Valor from the Police Department and later the Medal of Commendation. He was previously named Employee of the Year for the Town of Kernersville and in 2008 was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by the Governor of North Carolina. Stockton participates on the Kernersville Medical Center Foundation Board and local YMCA. He was a charter member for the Mayor's Council for the Disabled as well as Kernersville Cares for Kids program. Stockton attends House of Prayer in Kernersville. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Stockton noted, "Gardner-Webb catapulted my career by providing the GOAL Program that allowed me to pursue a four year course of study while working. The dedication and commitment of the professors making this possible will always be a blessing in my life."

### SHARON ABERCROMBIE '85 M.S.

is the academic coordinator for the Performance Learning Center in Concord, N.C. and has recently been named principal of Forsyth Middle College. She began her career in 1980 as a teacher with Alexander County Schools and later moved to New Hanover Schools. Sharon later served as curriculum facilitator with Guilford County Schools and in 2003 became assistant principal at Cabarrus County High School and principal of Northwest Cabarrus High School.

### ILENE ALLINGER CANDERVA '85 B.S.

was recently named program director for Including Special Kids, an adaptive skills program for children with developmental delays based in an inclusive recreational environment. Drawing from personal and professional experience, Ilene helped to develop Including Special Kids in a collaborative partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County. She and her husband live in Monterey, Calif.

### GARY WAYNE LAFONE '85 B.S.

recently retired as Police Chief of Conover, N.C. He began his career in law enforcement in 1972 as an Officer and then became lieutenant of investigations at Hickory Police Department. He was later named sergeant at Conover before becoming Chief.

### JOHN BRYON SHELTON '85 B.S., '09 M.A. AND CARMEN EVANS SHELTON '09 M.A.

recently completed master degrees in School Administration together. John is currently athletic director at South Davidson High School and Carmen teaches math at South Davidson High. The Shelton family resides in Denton, N.C.

### RONALD GENE KAYLOR, JR. '86 B.S.

was named the director of the DMV License and Theft Bureau by N.C. Division

of Motor Vehicles. Since June 2007 he has been deputy director for Operations for the Alcohol Law Enforcement Division of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. He is a 20-year veteran of ALE, beginning in 1987 as a field agent in Charlotte. From 1994-95, Kaylor was assigned to the special operations team. He became a field agent in Hickory, N.C. in 1995 and, in 2003, was named assistant supervisor of the Elizabeth City district. In 2004, he became supervisor of the 19-county Asheville district, where he remained until being named deputy director.

## ALUMNA PASSING

### FRANCES PAGE JONES '86

died on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at her home in Winston Salem, N.C. after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. Her husband, mother, five sisters, and brother survive Jones.

## © DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### CINDY MCKINNEY '86, '89

Dr. Cindy McKinney graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education and in 1989 with a Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education. In 1997, she graduated with a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Clemson University. Early in her career, McKinney taught third grade for the Rutherford County (N.C.) School System. She is currently professor and coordinator of elementary education in the School of Education for Gardner-Webb University. She is also the director of student teaching and field experiences.



## 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!



McKinney has served as a national consultant providing innovative strategies to school systems across the nation having published articles and presented them at regional, state, and national conferences including the International Reading Association Conference. She has served on National Collegiate Association Education Committee as well as the Southern Association Accreditation Committee and North Carolina Association of Teacher Education. Currently, McKinney is involved in Raising Achievement and Closing the Gap as a Board Member of each group. She participates in Rotary International. In 2000, she was named Outstanding Professor of the Year for Gardner-Webb University.

When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, McKinney remarked, "Gardner-Webb University has afforded me an opportunity to share my love of teaching within a Christ-centered environment."

## **MELISSA LANFORD JONES '88 B.S.**

is a volunteer missionary serving with the International Mission Board. Jones, along with eight other members from Scotts Hill Baptist Church in Wilmington, N.C., travel to Ghana, Africa each February and September for a period of 10-14 days. Even though their mission is to share the message of the Gospel with a focus on a group called the Biss people, the volunteers do not neglect anyone who will hear the message. For more information on their travels, visit [www.bissamission.wordpress.com](http://www.bissamission.wordpress.com).

## **KIMBERLY IRENE PORTER '88 B.A.**

received the Early Childhood Professional Certification from the N.C. Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development. She is currently completing the birth to Kindergarten Licensure Program at Western Carolina University. Kimberly works for Hendersonville School for Little Folks Childcare Center.

## **DIANE BEANE '84 B.S., M.A. '89**

has been appointed principal of East Surry High School in Pilot Mountain, N.C. She has served Surry County Schools for 25 years as a teaching assistant, a teacher at the elementary and middle school levels, an instructional specialist at the middle school level and an assistant principal at

Meadowview Middle School and Copeland Elementary School. Most recently, she served as principal of Flat Rock Elementary School.

## **JENNIFER RICHARDS CLOONAN '89 B.A.**

and her husband, Kevin, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, a daughter. Molly Ann was born on March 30, 2009, weighing 10 lbs, 1 oz. Her brother, Jesse, is happy to have his little sister. The Cloonan family lives in Manassas, Va., where Cloonan is still employed with the U.S. Marshals Service. Kevin is a former college professor turned stay-at-home dad.

## **RANDY FULTON '89 M.A.**

has been named Wachovia Principal of the Year for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (N.C.) School System for 2010. He is the principal of Mineral Springs Middle School and has worked for the school system for 33 years.

## **MICHAEL "TODD" KNIGHT '89**

was recently named Newberry College's head football coach. He served for six seasons as defensive coordinator at Newberry. Before coming to Newberry, Todd served as assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Charleston Southern University, defensive coordinator at Lees-McRae College and was the secondary coach at Gardner-Webb University. The Knight family resides in Little Mountain, S.C.

# 1990s

## **ALUMNUS PASSING**

### **MICKEY GEORGE HEYWARD '90 B.A.**

passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at Hospice Cleveland County after a hard fought battle with Cancer. He was the pastor of Christopher Road Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. for 22 years. His wife, son, grandson, and granddaughter, brothers, and two sisters survive him.

### **SCOTT THOMAS SLAYDON '90 B.S.**

is a U. S. Navy chief petty officer and was recently selected for the Security Limited Duty Officer Commissioning Program. He was commissioned as an ensign in

February 2009 at Naval Air Station in Key West, Fla. After completing Officer Indoctrination Training in Newport, R.I., Slaydon will be assigned to the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as a navy expeditionary guard battalion assistant company commander. He is currently assigned as chief of police of the 120-person Air Station Police Department.

### **BOBBIE LOW HUNTSINGER '91 B.A.**

and her husband, Sonny, announce the birth of a son, Nathan Lane Huntsinger, who was born on June 28, 2007 and weighed 7 lbs. They served as missionaries with Youth With A Mission of Mont., from 2003-08 and have just recently moved back to Shelby, N.C. Bobbie is currently a substitute teacher with Cleveland County Schools and Sonny is working with Support Systems, Inc.

### **NINA SCHNIPPER '92 B.S.**

and Ronald Mark Dropcho were married on June 30, 2009 in Gilpin, Colo. Nina is a self-employed massage therapist and fitness instructor. She plans to return to graduate school soon. For over 10 years, she has hosted a weekly bluegrass radio show on KDNK Community Radio. Ron is self-employed as a sound engineer for music concerts and festivals.

### **DAWN CAMP TOLBERT '92 B.A.**

was recently promoted to the position of vice president for Public Relations at Shorter College. She has been a member of Shorter's administrative staff since August 2004, serving as head of the college's public relations efforts and as a member of the president's cabinet. Dawn lives in Cedartown, G.A. with her husband, Larry. They are active members of First Baptist, Cedartown.

### **INEZ EVANS '93 B.S.**

has been named president of the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA). She has been a member of NCRA since 1983 and has been involved in NCRA activities since 1998. She has worked at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center for almost 30 years, where she is the cancer registry manager. She is a certified CTR and a registered health information technologist. In 1994, Evans received the Luna M. Woods Award for professional



excellence from the Association of North Carolina Cancer Registrars:

### ALUMNA PASSING

**SAMANTHA LYNN WHITE '93 B.S.** died after an extended illness on November 17, 2008. White was a member of Hoffman United Methodist Church where she was a very accomplished pianist for the congregation. She also worked as a paralegal in Monroe County, N.C. Her mother, grandmother, and sister survive her.

**MELISSA LEIGH CARTER '95 B.S.** is principal of Tellico Plains Junior High School and previously served 13 years as a classroom teacher. She is in her second term as principal of the 5th-8th-grade middle school. Missy is married to Calvin and they have four sons: Bryce, age 13; Colton, age 11; Piper, age 9; and Major, age 6. They live in Madisonville, Tennessee. E-mail Missy at [carterm@monroe.k12.tn.us](mailto:carterm@monroe.k12.tn.us).

**KIMBERLY HAUSER CAUDLE '95 B.S.** and her husband, Dave, are pleased to announce the birth of their first son, Ryan Luke, who was born on January 23, 2009. Kimberly is a stay-at-home mom and Dave works with Lorraine Home Fashions in Charlotte, N.C. They reside in Marshville, N.C. Email Kimberly at [beachbound27@carolina.rr.com](mailto:beachbound27@carolina.rr.com).

### 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 Washington Redskins Safety, Leomont Evans. 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."

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

#### DONNIE O. CLARY '97

A 1975 graduate of the University of South Carolina, Donnie O. Clary holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He completed his master's degree in Business Administration from Gardner-Webb University in 1997. Clary began his career in college administration at Limestone College (S.C.) where he first served as comptroller and later as business manager. While at Gardner-Webb University, he was vice president for business and finance and now serves in that capacity at Chowan University.



Clary belongs to the National Association of College and University Business Officers. During his tenure at Gardner-Webb, Clary was named Male Staff Member of the Year for his dedication to the University and its students. Clary is a member of Macedonia Baptist Church. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Clary noted, "Gardner-Webb, as a place of employment as well as a source of education, played a significant role in both my personal and professional

growth and development. Many valued, long-lasting friendships were developed while at GW."

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### BRIAN RUSSELL LINDER '97 B.A., '04 M.A.

died on Sunday, August 23, 2009 as a result of a motor-vehicle accident. He was an assistant principal at Whitlock Junior High School and previously served at Fairforest and Burns Middle Schools. He was a member of Pacolet Mills Baptist Church and attended Cannons Baptist Church and Putnam Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. He was also a member of New Millennium Wrestling League. In addition to his parents, a brother and grandmother survive Linder.

**ANGELA DAWN CARSON '98 M.A.** was named principal of the new Pilot Mountain Elementary School in Pilot Mountain, N.C. by the Surry County Board of Education. She has worked in the Surry County School System for 16 years as teacher, assistant principal, and most recently, principal of Meadowview Middle School.

#### THOMAS "BRADLEY" CRADDOCK '98 M.A.

was recently named principal of Glen High School in Kernersville, North Carolina. His teaching career began in 1990 as a substitute teacher for Glen High School where he also served as Baseball Coach. He maintained the coaching position and began teaching at Mineral Springs Middle School, and later at Atkins Middle School where he taught physical education and health. In 1999, Craddock went to Carver High School as assistant principal, and in 2005, he became principal of the School of Computer Science at Atkins High School.

#### EDWARD V. WEISS '98 M.A.

was named principal of Mount Tabor High School (N.C.) by the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School Board. He was assistant principal at Mount Tabor for five years before becoming principal at Wey Middle School in 2004. E-mail Ed at [eweiss@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:eweiss@wsfcs.k12.nc.us).



## **LARRY BARNELL DURHAM, JR.** **'99 B.S.**

began a new position with Duke Energy in Charlotte, N.C. as manager of diversity and inclusion. E-mail Larry and Melissa at [Ldurh2920@bellsouth.net](mailto:Ldurh2920@bellsouth.net).

## **JASON RICHARD COLE '99 B.S.,** **'07 M.A.**

was recently named principal of Thomas Jefferson Classical Grammar School. He previously taught earth science and biology at Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy and during the 2008-2009 split time between teaching AP biology and serving as assistant principal at the grammar school.

## **JONATHAN KRISTIAN PRATT '99** **M.DIV**

was the 2009 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. He has taught at Palm Beach Atlantic University in the Adult Continuing Education Program.

## **MELISSA ROBSON '99 B.S.N.**

is a registered nurse and was recently named chief operating officer for Rowan Regional Medical Center. She joined Novant Health 14 years ago and served in numerous leadership roles, including director of patient care services and chief operating officer of Presbyterian Huntersville, N.C.

## **MATTHEW WYATT WEATHERS** **'99 B.A. AND CORIE BRANNON** **WEATHERS '99 B.S.**

Matthew was ordained and licensed as a minister after graduating with a Master's degree in both Counseling and Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. He is currently serving in Afghanistan as a U.S. Army chaplain and is due to come home June 2010. Corie works with the families of the soldiers deployed. Together, they have led marriage retreats, marriage enrichment workshops, and developed care teams for the families of fallen soldiers within the squadron. They are currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

# 2000s

## **JILLIAN EALY ANDERSON '00 B.A.**

and her husband, Sergeant Ashley Anderson, recently had the opportunity to travel to Ethiopia to bring home their newly adopted sons. Jillian graduated from Gardner-Webb with a degree in American Sign Language; therefore, many were not surprised when the Anderson's decided to adopt two deaf boys. The boys were not related, but were both classmates at the deaf school in Ethiopia. On January 30, 2009, they joined two younger sisters in Jacksonville, N.C., where Sergeant Anderson is currently working as an active duty marine. They both describe the adoption experience as "a mustard seed of faith adventure" and totally "a God thing." E-mail Jillian at [anj\\_anderson@hotmail.com](mailto:anj_anderson@hotmail.com).

## **LARISSA SNIDER BROWN '00 B.S.**

and her husband, Allen, are proud to announce the birth of their second son, Silas Anderson Brown, who was born on September 30, 2008.

## **MATT HANNAM '00 B.S.**

has received acknowledgement all over the country for his entrepreneurship. He started a sign making company in 2005, Bravo Signs, Inc., which has grown into a thriving small business.

## **CHRISTOPHER DANIEL MADDEN** **'00 B.S.**

and Ragon Kale were married on June 27, 2009 at El Bethel Methodist Church in Kings Mountain, N.C. They are both employed by Piedmont Community Charter School where he works as a middle grades social studies teacher, and she as a teacher assistant in Elementary Grades. They reside in Kings Mountain.

## **JASON KEITH NEILL '00 B.S.**

presented a workshop called "Spirituality: A Personal Construct" at the American Counseling Association's 2009 Conference and Exposition alongside Amy McCarthy Sifford '00. Jason has been accepted to the Ph.D. program at the University of South Carolina in counselor education &

supervision. He is a full-time therapist at Family Service, Inc. and also teaches religion courses at Cleveland Community College in Shelby, N.C.

## **BROOKE CODY ROBERTS '00 B.A.**

and her husband, Jason, welcomed their second little girl. Olivia Leigh Roberts was born on April 22, 2009. She joins her big sister, Annie Brooke. The family resides in Sylva, N.C. where Brooke is the senior assistant director of admissions at Western Carolina University and Jason is a high school social studies teacher and football coach.

## **AMY MCCARTHY SIFFORD '00 M.A.**

presented a workshop called "Spirituality: A Personal Construct" at the American Counseling Association's 2009 Conference and Exposition alongside Jason Keith Neill '00. She is a doctoral candidate in the Counselor Education Program at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. She is employed as a part time counselor at Family Works Inc. and a HALT group facilitator for Family Services, Inc., both of which are located in Gastonia, N.C.

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

was recently named assistant director of judicial affairs and Off Campus Student Services at Coastal Carolina University (S.C.). He was previously chief of public safety for the University. At Spartanburg Methodist College, he served as chief of campus safety, coordinator of student activities, and director of residence life where he facilitated judicial cases and developed programs for students and student organizations. E-mail Greg at [wweisner@coastal.edu](mailto:wweisner@coastal.edu).

## **ROBERT COREY BURTON '01 B.S.**

and Natale Wojciechowski were married on June 20, 2009 at the Savannah Rapid Pavilion in Martinez, Ga. Corey works for CSX Transportation as a conductor and engineer and Natale is a communicable disease specialist with the Richmond County Health Department. They live in Greenwood, S.C.



## © DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### **JOSH H. CASH '01**

Josh H. Cash graduated from Gardner-Webb University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2001. Since 2002, he has served as vice president for Southern Design Services, Inc., a family owned and operated contract-engineering firm that has been recognized as one of the fastest growing privately-owned businesses in the State of South Carolina as well as the United States.



Cash is a board member for the Spartanburg Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is an Alumni Association board member for Gardner-Webb University as well as a Bulldog Club member. In 2008, the Josh H. Cash Gate was unveiled at GWU's Spangler Memorial Stadium.

When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience Mr. Cash recalls, "My time at GWU was so special in so many ways. I treasure many relationships from the ones I was able to form and continue to grow with my teammates and coaches during my time on the football field...to the ones I was able to develop with many of my professors in the classroom. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Delores Hunt, who I will forever consider nothing less than a true blessing in my life during my time at GWU."

### **JOY MCMURRY CHAPPELL '01 B.S.**

graduated as part of the 2009 Inaugural Class at Charlotte School of Law completing the Juris Doctor Program in three years. She has worked as a paralegal

in Lincoln, Gaston, and Mecklenburg counties for the past 13 years while attending school.

### **JAMES CHRISTOPHER FOWLER '01 M.B.A.**

was recently named assistant vice president and banking center manager for Asheville (N.C.) Savings Bank.

### **REBEKAH KING PARKER '01 B.A., '05 M. DIV**

and husband, Greg, are the proud parents of their daughter, Laney Grace, who was born November 2008. Bekah is a stay-at-home mom and Greg works for Newell Rubbermaid in Huntersville, N.C. as a design engineer.

### **JEFFREY MICHAEL DIBATTISTO '02 M.A.**

and Dr. Caroline Hill were married on June 27, 2009 at the Daniel Island Club on Daniel Island, S.C. He is employed at Bishop England High School as a teacher and head basketball coach. She is employed as a fellow in developmental-behavioral pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina. They live in Johns Island, S.C.

### **SHERRI ELIZABETH GURLEY '02 B.S.**

and Michael David Suttle were united in marriage on September 27, 2008 at Lost Arrow Ranch in Ellenboro, N.C. Sherri is the owner of Bostic Florist and Michael is employed by All American Homes and is also a freelance photographer. They live in Duncan Creek.

### **CHRISTOPHER SCOTT HUFFMAN '02 B.S.**

and Shirley Nicole "Nikki" Hayes were married on April 4, 2009 at Oakwoods Baptist Church in Wilkesboro, N.C.

Chris works for the Wilkes County Government in the planning and zoning department and Nikki teaches second grade at Stony Point Elementary School. They live in Wilkesboro, N.C.

## © DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### **JAMES B. MAXWELL '02, '05**

James B. Maxwell graduated from Gardner-Webb University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and in 2005 with a master's degree in Business Administration. He has played in the National Football League (NFL) with the New York Giants, San Francisco 49ers, the Miami Dolphins and the Cincinnati Bengals. In 2003, Maxwell received the GWU Presidential Association Achievement Award and was named Big South Conference Top Student Athlete in football. Through the NFL, Maxwell has volunteered at schools, football camps, and supported local charities. He received special recognition from the NFL for completing his four-year and graduate degrees through the Continuing Education Program offered by the NFL Player Development.



**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)





## Are You a Bulldog Fan?

Then check out the GWU Sports Twitter page and see what your Bulldogs are up to by going to <http://twitter.com/BulldogClub>.

When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience Maxwell remarked, "The Christian influence and small-town feel of Gardner-Webb made my college years both enjoyable and memorable. I will always treasure the time spent here and the life-long friends found here."

### **TRAVIS LEE REEVES '02 M.A.**

received an educational specialist degree as well as a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he was recently recognized as a 2009 Distinguished Alumni. Since 2007 he has been principal at Eastern Guilford High School. In July, he began a new career as superintendent of the Ashe County Schools.

### **❶ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

#### **LAURA BOGGS THARRINGTON '02**

Laura Boggs Tharrington graduated from Gardner-Webb University in 2002

with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She

has worked for W.J.

Turkish and Company, Inc. as an executive assistant, inside sales leader, and office manager. She also served as an admissions counselor for Gardner-Webb and currently works for the Cleveland County School System (N.C.).



Tharrington has served as facilitator for the Parents Group for the Roots and Wings program as well as a remediation tutor for Cleveland County Schools. She is the parent representative on the Parents As Teachers Advisory Board. She has previously served as a mentor with the Youth Assistance Program.

She attends Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. where she volunteers with the children's ministry. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, Tharrington said, "I now realize that my time at Gardner-Webb University resulted in not only a wonderful college education but also life-long friendships and an enhanced Christian walk. I am grateful that I was able to receive all this without having to leave Cleveland County."

### **LISA LUANN BROOKS '03 M.B.A.**

celebrates her promotion to banking officer with the BB&T of the Piedmont Triad Region. She joined the Bank in 2008 and is a Senior Internal Auditor.

### **BRIAN DOUGLAS GWYN '03 M.B.A.**

was recently named Cleveland County Healthcare System's president and chief executive officer. He joined the CCHS Leadership Team in October 2008 as executive vice president and chief operating officer.

### **BENJAMIN "RUSTY" HALL '03 M.A.**

was named principal of Rural Hall Elementary School. He previously served as principal of Nancy Reynolds Elementary where he was named the 2009 Stokes County Principal of the Year. He has also worked as assistant principal of West Stokes High School and a math and science teacher at North Davidson Middle School.

### **JASEN LEON HOFFMAN '03 B.A.**

is an operations officer at Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Des Moines, Iowa. Captain Hoffman served two tours in Iraq in support of Iraqi Freedom and was awarded a Purple Heart in April 2006, the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal in January 2008, and the Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal in April 2008.

### **WENDY SHOCKLEY MCCARTY '03 B.A.**

is the owner of "Aphrodite Photography Inc." located in Pineville, N.C. and is happy to be using her degree to its fullest. She and her husband, Aaron, live in Rock Hill, S.C.

### **ALICIA RUTH VANHOY '03 B.S.**

and her husband, Chris, are excited to announce the arrival of their daughter, Emma Ruth Vanhoy. She was born on May 18, 2009 and weighed 8 lbs. 11.4 oz.

### **JENNIFER ANNE WALKER '03 M.A.**

was named the new principal of Shelby High School (N.C.) by the Cleveland County Board of Education. She has served as assistant principal of instruction since 2005 and is a former assistant principal of Burns Middle School. Walker also taught at Burns Middle and Crest High schools and at Millbrook High School in Wake County.

### **THOMAS ARNOLD ANDERSON, JR. '04 BS**

assumed the position of police chief in Statesville, N.C. He is an adjunct professor at Gardner-Webb and has served as a basic law enforcement training instructor at Montgomery Community College. Anderson is the N.C. state regional training chair, and is an executive board member for the N.C. Police Executives Association, as well as member of the National Tactical Officers Association.

### **ALUMNA PASSING**

#### **SUSAN WINGATE BRIDGES '04 B.S.**

died on December 31, 2008. Affectionately called "Susie Q" by her coworkers, Bridges was employed by the Partnership for a Drug Free NC as a Substance Abuse Counselor and at Group Homes of Forsyth, Inc. as a relief resident manager. She was the founder and director of Bridges Over Troubled Water, Inc.; a non-profit organization that addressed issues among those within a socially economic





# **GARDNER-WEBB**

## **RUNNIN' BULLDOGS**

**"SUPPORTING GARDNER-WEBB ATHLETICS"**

Gardner-Webb student-athletes are able to accomplish great things through your support. During the 2009 fall season, Gardner-Webb student-athletes were honored numerous times by the Big South Conference for their work on the field and in the classroom:

- 20 student-athletes were selected to an All-Conference.
- 16 student-athletes were selected as "Player of the Week."
- Six student-athletes were selected to an All-Academic Team.
- Three student-athletes were selected to an All-Freshman Team.
- Three student-athletes were selected as Scholar-Athlete of the Year: Jason Wenzel (Men's Cross Country), Mario Brown (Football) and Trent Kozman (Men's Soccer).
- Matthew Good (Football) was selected "Freshman of the Year."

**[www.supportgwu.com/bulldogclub](http://www.supportgwu.com/bulldogclub)**  
**704-406-4630.**



disadvantaged area. This organization received many awards for outstanding community service. Her five children and seven grandchildren survive her.

**MARK LEGRAND BROOKS '04 M.B.A.** recently graduated from the University of Louisville with his Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. He currently serves as captain of the Criminal Investigations Division at the Shelby (N.C.) Police Department and adjunct professor through Gardner-Webb's GOAL Program. He and his wife, Katherine, live in Boiling Springs, N.C.

**STEPHANIE CAROUTHERS KELLY '04 M.B.A.** worked for the Shelby City Government (N.C.) for 20 years, 17 of those years in the position of city clerk. Kelly recently became city clerk for Charlotte, N.C. She and her husband Charles, live in Union County.

**JENNIFER RENEE KNECHT '04 B.S.** and Nicholas Blake Grice were married on March 7, 2009 at the Ranson House in Huntersville, N.C. Jennifer works as a kindergarten teacher in Lincoln County and Nicholas is a lawn technician for Weed Man. They live in Denver, N.C.

**EMILY BECK POPLIN '04 B.S.** and her husband, Phillip, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Amelia Danielle, who was born on August 8, 2009. Emily works at Wingate University as a gift records coordinator and Phillip works with UPS in Monroe as a driver. They reside in Polkton, N.C. Amelia joins her big brother Ethan.

**CHARLES WINFRED DURRAH '05 B.A.** and Pamela Nicole Dawkins were married July 25, 2009 at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. He works with Outreach Management Services in Gastonia, N.C. and she is employed with Cigna Corporation of Charlotte, N.C.

**MORGAN K. TUBBS '05 B.A.** and Morgan Young were united in marriage on April 4, 2009 at Gardner-Webb University. She is a graphic designer with Erwin-Enland in Greenville, S.C. and he is employed by Black & Veatch.

**BRIAN NEWELL THORNBURG '05 B.S.** was recently named athletic director of Bessemer City High School. He comes to this position having been head junior varsity baseball Coach and an assistant football coach for one season at the school.

**CARLA MICHELLE TOBE '05 B.S.** married Tyrone Goggins on May 2, 2009 at The Lutheran Church of Redeemer in Newberry, S.C. She works at Citi Financial and he works at the Clinton Department of Public Safety. They live in Clinton, S.C..

**ROBERT BRADLEY WILKIE '05 B.S.** and Dana Nicole Brock were united in marriage on June 20, 2009 at the Preston Woodall House in Benson, N.C. He works for Chatham County Schools and she is employed with Asheboro City Schools. They live in Asheboro, N.C.

**CHRISTA SIMMONS DIBONAVENTURA '06 M.A.** was recently named principal of Friendship Elementary School in Winston-Salem, N.C. She previously taught at Northwest and Friedburg Elementary Schools before becoming assistant principal of Tyro and Reeds Elementary Schools.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### **EBONY D. FOWLER '06**

A 1996 alumna of North Carolina State University, Dr. Ebony D. Fowler graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology. In 2006, she completed her master's degree in Business Administration from Gardner-Webb University and in June 2009, she graduated from Xavier School of Medicine with Honors. In addition to several healthcare positions, Fowler has served as an adjunct professor in Health Education for Herzing University. Fowler is currently an intern in the Psychiatry residency program at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga. She is also a Ph.D student with Walden University.



Fowler is a member of the American Psychiatry Association and serves in the Health Ministry at Victory Wind Church in Norcross, Ga. as well as the Hands on Atlanta mission.

Fowler attends Victory Temple Christian Church in Boiling Springs, S.C. where she is a member and licensed minister. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience Fowler remarked, "My GWU experience is significant because it gives me a leading edge in the healthcare industry. This edge allows me to be able to contribute to the healthcare industry and provide multiple resources for my patients and the community."

**JAMES TRAVIS GARVIN '06 M.A.** was recently appointed principal of Cornelius Elementary School by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education. He began his career in education as teacher at Hidden Valley Elementary School. He also served at Oaklawn, Morehead, and Torrence Creek Elementary Schools before becoming assistant principal at Cornelius. E-mail James at: [j.garvin@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:j.garvin@cms.k12.nc.us).

**JEFF DEAN TAYLOR '06 B.A.** was recently named pastor of East Belmont Baptist Church. He and his wife, Debbie, reside in Gastonia, N.C.

### **TRACEY LEE TONSOR '06 B.S. AND MATTHEW MOORE BROWNBACK '07 B.S.**

were united in marriage on June 27, 2009 at Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. Tracey is employed as a physician's assistant in Danville, Va., Matthew is a teacher at Holmes Middle School in Eden, N.C. They live in Eden, N.C.

**CARRIE ELIZABETH COALSON '07 B.S.** and Brian Roth Utt were married on October 18, 2008 at Central View Missionary Baptist Church in Dobson, N.C. Carrie is employed at Surry Community College as an accounts payable technician and Brian is self-employed at Blue Ridge Ditching and Grading. They live in Cana, Va.





## Did you know?



that GWU hosted 1996 U.S. Olympic Cycling Trials-Women.

### **SHELBY CHILDRESS LAWSON '07 M.A.**

recently graduated from the Leadership Program for Aspiring Principals, a course of study offered by the Principals' Executive Program. She has been assistant principal at South Stanly High School for three years.

### **ANNELISE LEWIS '07 B.S.**

and Matthew Steven Martens were married on Saturday, April 11, 2009 at Summerton Baptist Church in Summerton, S.C. She is employed by Clarendon School District 2. Matthew works for McCall Thomas Engineering. They live in Summerton, S.C..

### **ALUMNUS PASSING**

#### **TIMOTHY EDWARD PHILLIPS '07 M.A.**

died on Sunday, August 16, 2009 at Lexington Medical Center. He was assistant principal at Ewing Middle School and had previously taught at Gaffney Middle School and Blacksburg Elementary School. He was a deacon and church training director at Crestview Baptist Church.

### **JAY M. TEMPLE '07 M.A.**

was recently promoted to the position of executive director of auxiliary services for the Davidson County Board of Education. Temple first joined the system in 1981 as a math teacher at West Davidson High School, and from 1990-99, he was the special populations coordinator for South Davidson High School until he became director of transportation.

### **MATTHEW TERRY TESSNEAR '07 B.A.**

was recently promoted from reporter to night editor at the Sun Journal in New Bern, N.C. He has worked for the Sun Journal, a Freedom Communications Newspaper, since May 2007.

### **SANDRA MICHELLE BLANTON '08 B.S.**

and Michael Thomas Bailes were married on April 25, 2009 at Gardner-Webb University's Lake Hollifield. Sandy is a GOAL advisor for Gardner-Webb and Michael is employed by Shaw Contractors. They live in Shelby, N.C.

### **ERIC HARDING BROWN '08 B.A.**

was recently named youth minister at Durham Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. E-mail Eric at: [ehb1125@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ehb1125@gardner-webb.edu).

### **LYDIA CAROL DENKLER '08 B.S.**

and Brandon Roberts were married on October 11, 2008 at Coggeshall Place, an oceanfront home on Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. Lydia works for Courtland Terrace in Gastonia, N.C. and Brandon is employed by Jeff Hall Sports in Belmont, N.C. They live in Gastonia.

### **LESLIE ANNE FARRINGTON '08 B.S.**

and Gerald Wayne Maury were united in marriage on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at The Pines. Leslie is employed by CB Richard Ellis in Charlotte, N.C., and Gerald works for the City of Rock Hill, S.C. They live in Rock Hill, S.C.

### **PAMELA DAWNE JOHNSON '08 B.S.**

and Justin Gregory Herold were married on November 8, 2008 at West Yadkin Baptist Church in Hamptonville, N.C. Pamela is employed as a social worker at the Yadkin County Department of Social Services. Justin works as a loss prevention supervisor at Kohl's Department Store.

### **JASON JOYCE '08 M.A.**

was recently hired as the new athletic director of North Henderson High School.

### **MEREDITH ANNE MARLIN '08 B.A.**

and Timothy Brad Cummings were married on May 24, 2009 at Buford Street United Methodist Church in Gaffney, S.C. Meredith serves as a director of youth

and young adults at Buford Street United Methodist Church and Brad is manager at Right Approach's Pro Shop in Gastonia, N.C. The couple reside in Gaffney.

### **MATTHEW LUTZ MCPHERSON '08 B.S.**

recently completed his basic law enforcement training at Gaston College and joined the Shelby (N.C.) Police Department.

### **JAMIE MECIMORE '08 B.S.N.**

was recently recognized as the CARE Employee of the month for Catawba Valley Medical Center. She is a Registered Nurse with the Birthing Center at CVMC. The CARE employee is one who embodies: Courtesy, Attitude, Respect and Enthusiasm for commitment to maintaining a positive guest relations atmosphere while demonstrating a sincere compassion and concern for patients and fellow staff members.

### **LEANNA ELLIOTT MOBLEY '08 B.A.**

recently began work at Scienceuticals, Inc. where she will be assisting with internal and external communications, including marketing, public relations, and branding. She was previously a Federal Business Development Executive

### **ANDREW BOLES '09 B.S.**

and Ashley Hunter were married on August 1, 2009 at Jessup Grove Baptist Church in Pilot Mountain, N.C. He works for Vitamin World, Gold's Gym, and the YMCA of King, N.C. She is a dental hygiene student at Guilford Technical Community College.

### **BETHANY LOUISE MARTIN '09 A.S.**

recently joined Central Michigan University's Athletic Program as an assistant volleyball coach. Her responsibilities include off-campus recruiting as well as team travel and practice video editing.



# Gardner-Webb University

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