

Summer 2011

Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2011, Summer (Volume 45 No. 2)

Noel T. Manning II

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Gardner-Webb

THE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2011 • VOLUME 45, NUMBER 2



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\$2 MILLION GIFT FROM
TRUSTEE FRANK STEWART
TO ENHANCE NEW STUDENT CENTER

GWU CELEBRATES
CLASSES OF 2010-11

LADY BULLDOGS BASKETBALL TEAM
**WIN CONFERENCE AND DANCE
TO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT**

STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND GWU FAMILY
**FIND UNIQUE WAYS TO
SERVE GOD AND HUMANITY**



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Gardner-Webb

THE MAGAZINE

Gardner-Webb The Magazine Credits

Summer 2011
Volume 45 Number 2

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The Gardner-Webb Magazine is the official magazine for alumni and friends of
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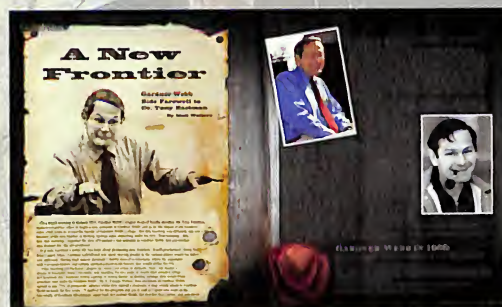
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Running the Race

"Higher Ground" is both the name and central metaphor for our campaign for the future of Gardner-Webb University. It suggests three things: First, the University's purpose, to advance the kingdom of God through Christian higher education, places us on higher ground in the realm of educational endeavor. Second, Gardner-Webb occupies with few other institutions the higher ground of a positive Christian foundation, a commitment to intellectual freedom, and genuine academic excellence. Third is the intent of the campaign to raise Gardner-Webb to an even higher level of excellence in all parts of the University's life.

Another metaphor has come up as we have discussed and planned the campaign. It has been compared to a relay race that requires character, discipline and perseverance to complete. One staff member likens the campaign to the passing of the baton from one generation to the next as the University grows and advances: "Just as those who ran before us had to finish their leg of the journey in order for us to take the baton, so do we have to finish our leg and pass the baton onto the next generation of runners. Their success depends on us."

Indeed we are running strong, and the University is making great strides. Major enhancements to the campus were completed last summer and fall. The Tucker Student Center and another residence hall are under construction, and we anticipate soon breaking ground on a new wing for the Withrow Science Building. We will soon open the Gardner-Webb University Charlotte facility. The Higher Ground campaign will provide greater support for faculty and several academic and student life programs, much-needed scholarship funding, and further enhancements to campus and facilities.

We are running strong and the immediate goal is ahead, but we must not tire or let up. I encourage all members of the greater family of Gardner-Webb University to join in this important and exciting race, and help us ensure that we pass the baton to future generations.

In God's Service,

A. Frank Bonner

*Dr. A. Frank Bonner
President, Gardner-Webb University*

THE HUNT IS OVER

Gardner-Webb Names Dr. Delores "Dee" Hunt and Monte Walker New Vice Presidents

Gardner-Webb is pleased to announce that Dr. Delores "Dee" Hunt and Monte Walker have been named vice presidents of the University. Hunt, who had been serving as interim vice president and dean of student development, has accepted the invitation to assume that position on a permanent basis. Walker, a '78 Gardner-Webb graduate and former Runnin' Bulldogs football standout, has been named as the University's new vice president for advancement.

Hired in 1978 as a professor of Health and Physical Education, Hunt has since worn a variety of hats. She served several terms as chair of her department. She logged two stints as GWU head volleyball and softball coach. Most notably, she was the University's first dean of the School of Education, overseeing that program's inception and accreditation in the mid- 90s. But beyond the titles, Hunt is best known for her passion for teaching, for students, and for Gardner-Webb. "This place is my family," she remarked, "and I firmly believe that you love and serve your family with all your heart. I will strive to be a model of Faith, Service and Leadership for my president, for my staff, and for our students."



Dr. Delores "Dee" Hunt

Walker returns to Boiling Springs with nearly three decades of marketing and fundraising experience. After lettering in varsity football and graduating from GWU with a business management degree, he quickly distinguished himself with the Coca-Cola Company as an expert strategic planner and corporate manager. He then worked as the head of development for Habitat for Humanity International, where his development teams raised more than \$80 million per year in international corporate sponsorship. He has also served in this capacity for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Foundation.



Monte Walker

"Monte is a great leader as well as an excellent fundraiser, and we are thrilled to have him back at Gardner-Webb," Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner said. When asked about his thoughts on coming back to Boiling Springs, Walker replied, "Dr. Bonner has cast a vision that's bold and exciting, a vision for a higher ground in higher education. Visions like that are contagious, and I'm thrilled to help make that vision a reality."

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN (COMM)UNITY, ONE CONVERSATION AT A TIME

GWU Instructor Dr. Steve Harmon Participates in International Baptist-Catholic Dialogue in Oxford

Dr. Steve Harmon, adjunct instructor of Christian theology for Gardner-Webb University's School of Divinity, served as a member of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) delegation to the international theological conversations between the BWA and the Roman Catholic Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The conversations spanned five years and culminated with discussions at Regent's Park College of Oxford University.

The goal of the conversations was to discover and illuminate what Harmon calls the Biblical and theological "convergences" between the Baptist and Catholic traditions, while also bringing to light the issues that continue to divide them. The delegations hope that by better understanding one another and illuminating those principles they hold in common, the churches might better represent the Gospel of Jesus.

As a Baptist theologian, Harmon insists that the purpose of ecumenical discussion is not to water down core Baptist doctrines or to sacrifice congregational autonomy. Rather, Harmon explains, "ecumenists strive to clearly understand what other traditions believe and practice on their own terms, rather than relying on our own caricatured images of them."

Harmon has made the quest for Christian unity his life's work. He hopes the recent conversations will encourage Baptists and Catholics to come together to find "common cause in local missions projects" and to work together to advance the Gospel.



Dr. Steve Harmon

A NEW “RANGE” OF MUSIC ON 88.3 WGWG

Gardner-Webb's Radio Service Redefines its Musical Identity

Gardner-Webb's 50,000-watt non-commercial radio broadcast service, 88.3 WGWG, has redefined its musical identity. The new format, aptly dubbed “The Range,” is revolutionizing mix radio by offering a deep and diverse blend of artists and sounds.

According to Jeff Powell, WGWG operations manager and program director, “our new format—basically our take on the Jack format—enables us to appeal to a diverse audience.” Most Jack stations play hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and a mix of contemporary hits. But they tend to stick to the charts, recycling only the decades' few hundred most popular songs. The WGWG staff insists that this “Range” is different, that it's more than just a slogan or an empty promise; it's a unique musical and educational philosophy. “We want to go deeper than most mix stations,” Powell says. “We have a little something for almost every taste.” And with an ever-expanding playlist of over 12,000 tracks, “The Range” promises to never grow stale.

But “The Range” provides more than just entertainment. It plays a vital role in Gardner-Webb's greater educational mission. As Powell says, “We feature local, regional, national, and world news, we offer educational programs that focus on pressing social issues, we are the mouthpiece for Gardner-Webb's academic programs and educational opportunities, and we are an advocate for the arts in our region.” “The Range” also exemplifies Gardner-Webb's emphasis on service, partnering with community organizations and non-profit groups, like the Arts Council and the Uptown Shelby Association, to address local needs.

For more information about “The Range,” or to listen live, visit the station's website: wgwg.org.



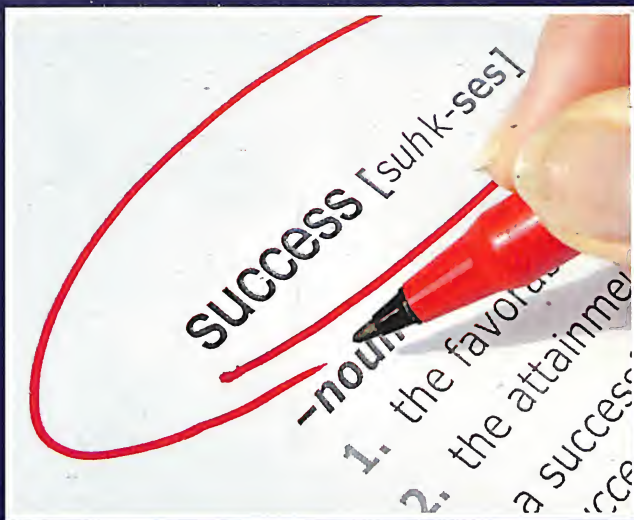
STEPHANIE GIBBS TURNS MISS GWU PAGEANT INTO PLATFORM FOR MINISTRY

By: Chelsea Usher

Gardner-Webb University recently held its seventh consecutive Miss Gardner-Webb pageant, awarding the crown to Stephanie Gibbs, of Dallas, N.C., who graduated in May with her bachelor's in psychology. Though she performed well in each of the business wear, leisure wear, and evening wear portions of the pageant, it was Gibbs' talent—a sand art narrative—that secured her crown and made her pageant performance so unique.

Just a month before the pageant, Gibbs discovered and began practicing sand art, which involves moving sand into different artistic shapes on a specially made table to depict a story for the audience. In her allotted three minutes on stage, Gibbs masterfully depicted the “Passion of the Christ” in sand, conveying the sheer drama and tragic beauty of Christ's sacrifice. “I really could not think of a better story I'd want to share than my faith,” Gibbs said following the pageant. To no one's surprise, she was also awarded “Best Talent.”

When asked what she hopes the Miss GWU title will bring, she said, “I hope my talent and the story of my faith, more than the title, will inspire people. I wanted to show that you can praise God in different ways, that you can be creative with how you worship.” As several local churches have already asked Gibbs to share her talent with their congregations, it seems that her wish will come true.



BE A CAREER MENTOR!

Do you have professional expertise that you could share with a Gardner-Webb student? Do you enjoy helping others succeed, or desire to make a difference in the life of your alma mater?

The new Alumni-Student Career Mentoring Program gives you that chance! Simply request and submit an application form, and then we'll connect you with a current Gardner-Webb student aspiring to pursue a career in your field. By simply sharing a glimpse into your professional world, you'll make a dynamic and profound impact on the life of your mentee!

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



RETIRED BB&T CEO JOHN A. ALLISON DISCUSSES "PRINCIPLED LEADERSHIP" AT GWU

John A. Allison, retired chairman and CEO of BB&T Corporation, recently visited Gardner-Webb's Godbold School of Business to discuss "Principled Leadership." Attributing many of our nation's current economic challenges to failures of leadership, Allison shared the values and the sense of purpose that helped grow BB&T's assets from \$4.5 billion to \$152 billion during his tenure as CEO.

During his lecture, which was open to the community, Allison insisted that all people, regardless of their aspirations or their professions, benefit from intentionally evaluating and implementing solid leadership principles. "Even if you don't think of yourself as a leader," Allison says, "we all have to lead ourselves. In fact, when people fail, it is often because they don't do a good job of leading themselves, so leadership is always important."

Allison is currently distinguished professor of practice at the Wake Forest University Schools of Business. Along with numerous awards and distinctions for professional excellence and civic service, Allison was enshrined in the N.C. Business Hall of Fame in 2009 and was named to the Harvard Business Review's list of the world's top 100 most successful CEOs of the last decade. A native of Charlotte, N.C., Allison is married to the former Elizabeth McDonald of Elkin, N.C. They have two sons and one daughter.

GARDNER-WEBB HIRES LEO SAYLES AS NEW HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH

Gardner-Webb University is pleased to announce that Leo Sayles has arrived in Boiling Springs as the new head volleyball coach. Sayles comes to Gardner-Webb after seven seasons at Bryan College in Tennessee, where he guided the Lady Lions from a mid-level conference team to a conference power.

"This position garnered impressive interest from potential candidates all over the country," said Vice President for Athletics Chuck Burch. "Leo vaulted to the top of that list early in the process and is an exceptional fit for our University and the young women in our program. I look forward to seeing the positive impact Leo will have on the volleyball team."

"It is truly a blessing to be here," said Coach Sayles. "I want to thank Chuck and Dr. Bonner and the athletics department for allowing me to join the athletics staff. I am looking forward to working with the young ladies on the volleyball team. We have a lot of talent, but still have a lot of work to do. We need to work on the culture of the program and focus on expecting excellence. I believe we will see some positive results rather quickly."



ON THE WAY TO HIGHER GROUND

Several donors have recently made generous contributions to Gardner-Webb's \$45 million campaign to achieve a higher ground in Christian higher education. As of May, the University has raised \$37.4 million toward the campaign goal.

Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner recently announced that the first floor entrance hall of the new Tucker Student Center will be named "Duke Energy Hall" in recognition of Duke Energy's gift of \$250,000 to support the new student center. "Gardner-Webb is empowering the workforce of tomorrow, and we are proud to help provide students with a place to learn and grow together," said Brett Carter, president of Duke Energy North Carolina.

Dr. Bonner also announced that an outdoor terrace at the Tucker Student Center will be named for Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hawkins, in recognition of their \$100,000 gift to the student center fund. A retired former President of Home Federal

Savings Bank in Statesville, N.C., Hawkins currently serves Gardner-Webb as a trustee and the chair of the board's finance committee. "It's rewarding to see what has happened and what continues to happen at Gardner-Webb," said Hawkins. "It's a place where students get an excellent education, in an environment that is conducive to growing in their faith."

Recently, longtime Gardner-Webb trustee and philanthropist Wade Shepherd made substantial donations toward estate planning for Gardner-Webb's School of Divinity and Department of Fine Arts. These gifts constitute the largest planned gift in Gardner-Webb University's history. President Bonner remarked of Shepherd, "It's good to have a friend who embodies what we stand for at Gardner-Webb—a successful and innovative businessman, a family man, and a Christian who supports his church, this University, and the arts."



HIGHER GROUND

The Campaign for Gardner-Webb University



DISTINGUISHED GUEST, DR. J. ALFRED SMITH, BRINGS MESSAGE OF JUSTICE TO GARDNER-WEBB

Smith Becomes GWU's First Scholar in Residence

The Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity's C.O. and Eliza Greene Lectureship on Pastoral Ministry welcomed pastor, professor, and author Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., to its distinguished list of lecturers.

Smith is pastor emeritus of Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., and distinguished professor of preaching and church ministries at the American Baptist Seminary of the West and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif. Smith was also named the first Scholar in Residence for Gardner-Webb, and taught spring classes in the School of Divinity. During the Greene Lectureship event, Smith gave two talks on Luke's gospel, titled "The Justice Itinerary of Jesus Christ: Toward Adoption, Replication, and Implementation," and "Wake Up Sleeping Justice."

"Dr. Smith's credentials and notoriety are matched only by his humble spirit, kindness, sincerity, and genuinely Christian character. To be in his presence is to be in the presence of our Lord who ministers through him," said Dr. Robert Canoy, dean of the School of Divinity.

Show your Bulldog pride!

Get your Gardner-Webb University Collegiate License Plate today! To find out more, go to www.ncdot.org/dmv.

For questions, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 704-406-3862.



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY OCTOBER 28-29, 2011



Friday, October 28

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

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

Saturday, October 29

Pound the Pavement 5K
7:15 a.m. – Pre-registration location Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center parking lot.
8:00 a.m. – Race will take runners throughout the town of Boiling Springs and the GWU campus.

Pre-Game Tailgate
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Soccer Field on Visitor's Side of Spangler Stadium
Featuring Band of Oz
Sponsored by Alumni Association, Bulldog Club, & Dawg Pound

Homecoming Football Game
1:30 p.m., Spangler Stadium, Harris Field
GWU vs. Charleston Southern

Alumni and Friends Recognitions and Awards Reception
Fireside Lounge
Open to all alumni and friends.
Business attire. Sponsored by the Alumni Association Board of Directors

Alumni and Friends Recognitions and Awards Banquet

Ritch Banquet Hall
All alumni and friends of the University are invited to attend. Hosted by the GWU Alumni Board and the Office of Alumni Relations. This is an opportunity to recognize and honor alumni and friends of the University. Pre-registration required.
Business attire.
Sponsored by the Alumni Association Board of Directors

For times, locations and more information call 704.406.3862

New Beginnings

2010-11



Written by Matt Walters

Commencement represents not only the culmination of graduates' years of hard work and dedication, but the commencement of a new season of life. In the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 commencement exercises, nearly 750 Gardner-Webb graduates stepped through the Arch to begin their unique lives of mission, for God and humanity.

During the Fall 2010 ceremony, several students gave commencement addresses that challenged their fellow graduates to remember cherished moments at Gardner-Webb and to stride confidently into lives of purpose: Aileen Lawrimore of Asheville, N.C., who received her Master of Divinity degree; Shannon Varialle of Shelby, N.C., who received her master's in middle grades education; and Xan Moss of Fairfield, Ohio, who earned her bachelor's in religious studies.

Citing the Greek term "Peripateo," meaning "to walk, or to live," Lawrimore challenged her fellow graduates to continue walking according to the gospel beyond their studies. "Let us not stop walking now," she urged. "Let us heed the call, and in response, let us fully live as Jesus lived." Varialle added that the graduates had "truly been blessed to study at a university that values relationships, both with God and with humanity."

Moss, who was later awarded the Most Outstanding Female Graduate Medal and the Senior Scholastic award for cumulative academic achievement, reflected on the significance of her diploma itself. "Our diplomas show not only our ability to pass tests, but they will remind us of how our time here at Gardner-Webb shaped our lives, forever."

Dami Teniola, a biology student from Stone Mountain, Ga., was also awarded the Most Outstanding Male Graduate medal for his academic and civic achievement.

During the Spring 2011 commencement, '72 GWU alumnus and current South Carolina State Representative for District 42, Michael A. Anthony, challenged the graduates to be "winners in the game of life." A former S.C. state champion high school football coach, Anthony treated the word "Win" as an acrostic, insisting that students must be "willing to pay the price," must "invest the time to be successful," and must "never let circumstances dictate behavior."

During the ceremony, two students were honored for exemplifying excellence in academics and citizenship. Jesse Elijah Roberts of Forest City, N.C., who received his bachelor's degree in psychology, was awarded the Most Outstanding Male Graduate medal, while Brittany Nicole Bounds, a psychology student from Monroe, N.C., was named Most Outstanding Female Graduate.

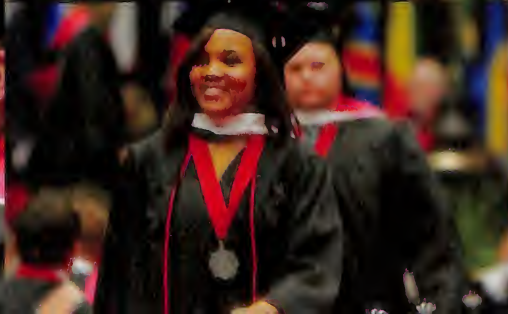
But the commencement ceremony was special not only for those few who received awards, but for every graduate, each recognized individually as they were handed their degrees. "Graduation is a high moment in the life of a university and in the lives of all persons involved," said GWU President Dr. A. Frank Bonner. "We pause to recognize our graduates one-by-one because we value them highly as individuals. We are proud of the accomplishments of each one."





Eight students were also recognized for maintaining perfect 4.0 scholastic averages during their Gardner-Webb tenures:

- Benjamin Paul LaCroix, of Concord, N.C. – Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Blair Emily Austin, of Harrisburg, N.C. – Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Education
- Carrie Mae Long, of Franklin, N.C. – Bachelor of Science in Biology
- Emily Marie Dotson, of Charlotte, N.C. – Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Economics, and Finance
- Ernest Craig Byars, of Mooresboro, N.C. – Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems
- Hannah Rena Comer, of Mount Airy, N.C. – Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Sarah Anne Stokes, of Apex, N.C. – Bachelor of Science in Biology
- William James Young, of Waxhaw, N.C. – Bachelor of Arts in Spanish



We Are...Faith, Ser

Gardner-Webb Sets New Standards, For God and Humanity

Written by Matt Warren



Most people past grade school rarely think about grammar and language mechanics. Subjects and predicates, pronouns, adverbs, and gerunds—words like these invoke nightmares of pop quizzes and cold sweats. Still, understanding the parts of our speech can tell us much, not only about what our language means, but about how it means—about the way our language defines us.

For example, “Pro Deo et Humanitate”—“For God and Humanity”—is a prepositional phrase. In itself, it is not a complete sentence. It depends upon either a verb phrase or a noun phrase to make it mean something. In other words, our university’s motto means nothing in and of itself, unless it becomes a statement of our character or our action. “We Are For God and Humanity.” “We Serve For God and Humanity.” “We Live For God and Humanity.”

“46,366 hours of intentional community engagement.”

In his strategic plan for achieving a higher ground in higher education, Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner expressed his bold and ambitious vision for Gardner-Webb to become one of “the very finest Christian universities in the nation,” insisting that “it will be the graduates of Gardner-Webb who will bring about that reputation through their character, their accomplishments, and their service.” In so doing, Bonner challenged the University family to consider the seal’s motto, “For God and Humanity,” not a mere slogan to be touted, but a practical, foundational commitment to a life of active faith and service in the community.

The University has taken up that challenge with fervor, making what Provost Dr. Ben Leslie calls “a concerted effort to integrate community service and engagement into the very fabric of the educational experience.” During the 2009-2010 academic year alone, 593 GWU students participated in community service projects through the University’s unique Service Learning Program, joining the 1,904



Service, Leadership.



students who volunteered in the community outside of class. In total, these students logged 46,366 hours of intentional community engagement. This year's numbers are expected to be even higher.

For this institutionalized commitment to service, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching selected Gardner-Webb for its prestigious Community Engagement Classification. Gardner-Webb is now among only 311 schools, out of the thousands nationwide, to have earned the distinction since the Classification's inception in 2006.

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) also recognized Gardner-Webb with

its Courts Redford Award for excellence in student mobilization, given to the nation's top 10 schools for mobilizing student missionaries through NAMB. Last year, 84 Gardner-Webb students and team leaders—approximately one in every 15 residential students—participated in mission trips sponsored by the Office of Christian Life and Service, and 12 students served with NAMB as summer missionaries in various locations.

More important than establishing Gardner-Webb's national reputation, these distinctions prove that Gardner-Webb students are bringing the University's motto to life, enacting their faith and reaching the world "For God and Humanity." As Senior Minister Dr. Tracy Jessup says, "Our students have a great desire to serve. They embrace not just a passive faith that is intellectual and emotional, but an active faith that incorporates the heart, head and hands. That is part of who they are—it's a lifestyle that we should all emulate."







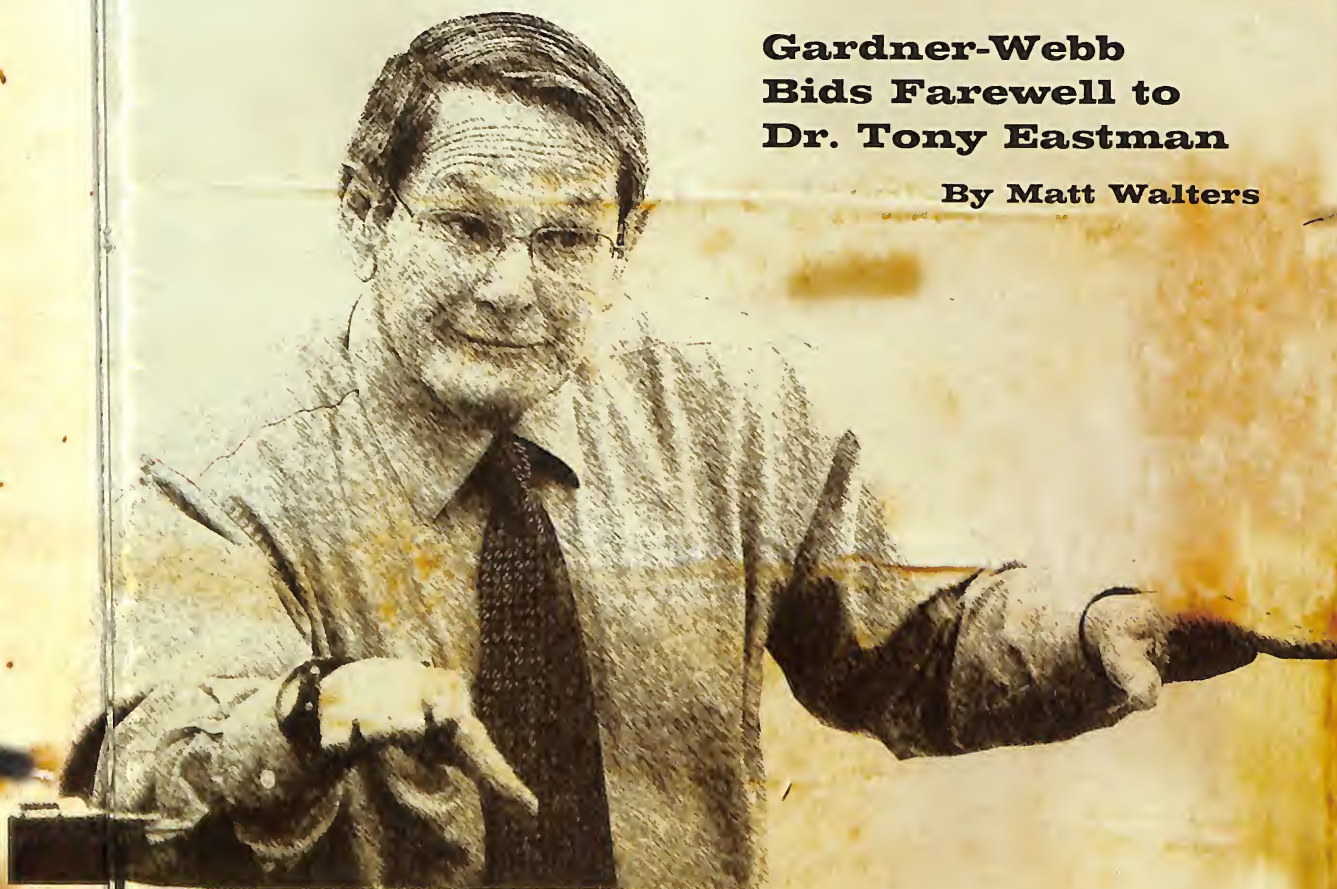
Scenic Impressions

*"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." -Helen Keller*

A New Frontier

**Gardner-Webb
Bids Farewell to
Dr. Tony Eastman**

By Matt Walters



On a rigid morning in January 2011, Gardner-Webb's longest-tenured faculty member, Dr. Tony Eastman, walked toward his office to begin a new semester, just as he has almost every semester since 1966 when he joined the faculty of Gardner-Webb College. But this morning was different, not just because of the rare blanket of Boiling Springs snow crunching under his feet. This morning—this last, first morning—signaled the start of Eastman's last semester at Gardner-Webb, and yet another new frontier for "the old professor."

In a way, Eastman's entire life has been about pioneering new frontiers. A self-proclaimed "Army brat" from Laurel, Miss., Eastman's childhood was spent moving around to the various places where his father was stationed. During high school, Eastman's family moved to Germany, where his encounter with European history and culture sparked a passion for history that would define his life.

After finishing his bachelor's degree at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., his master's degree at Memphis State University, and teaching for two years at Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., Eastman joined a group of young faculty in Boiling Springs who would blaze countless new trails for Gardner-Webb. Dr. E. Eugene Poston, then president of Gardner-Webb, agreed to pay 75% of professors' salaries while they earned a doctorate if they would return to Gardner-Webb to teach for five years. "I applied for the program and got it, and so I spent two years at the University of Southern Mississippi, came back to Gardner-Webb, finished the dissertation, and just never



left. I don't know if they appreciated that or not," Eastman jokes. "But seriously, I found a home at Gardner-Webb. That was just it."

Eastman and his cohorts helped transform the junior college into a solid four-year institution, graduating the college's first four-year class during his fourth year of teaching. "When we became a four-year school, we had to decide for ourselves, what standards are we going to demand? How are we going to meet those standards? And of course, how are we going to incorporate the Christian aspect into the four-year program? Those were difficult questions," Eastman remembers, "but we had great senior faculty leadership, and I think we finally found ourselves." From there, the college launched the Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL) program, built new buildings and campuses, quadrupled enrollment, added new degrees and academic programs, and grew into the dynamic regional university it is today. But amidst all the changes, there was always Eastman, behind his podium.

"I have always loved the classroom," Eastman insists. "I love the interchange, the exchange between professor and student. Whether that's through history or through a joke, it makes no difference, because I'm communicating—I'm making contact, and that's what teaching is all about."

As his former students will attest, Eastman's teaching was never limited to the classroom, either. "I have always said I teach better in the weight room than in the classroom,"

Eastman says, "because there I can talk to students about their standards, their morality, their culture."

And therein lies what that made Eastman and Gardner-Webb such a natural fit—he cares about his students' lives, not just their report cards.

"Even when I'm no longer here to teach them, I hope my students will remember to keep their standards in line with Christianity and to keep their minds actively thoughtful. I hope they will remember persistence, to never say never, to constantly expand their minds. That's everything I hope for them," Eastman says.

So now, having taught his last full semester at Gardner-Webb, Dr. Tony Eastman has become a part of the story he's told for so long, the history of the institution he helped build. Like any great historical figure, he will be mythologized as he is memorialized, remembered for the myth as much as the man. He is the wizened sage of the social sciences, the walking narrative of the American heritage. He is the jokester, the teacher, the father figure and the friend.

He is also the pipe-in-hand pioneer professor, ever eager for the next great frontier. "There are new adventures out there," Eastman insists, and fittingly, he has his heart set on that great old American frontier, the West. "I would love to see the West for myself, to identify with that part of my country." And as his former students might suspect, the classroom is still on the periphery of Eastman's westward vision. "You know, there are some struggling colleges out West I have my eye on. I might just move out there to take a closer look."

But even as Eastman and Gardner-Webb stride into exciting new futures, he will always remain present here—present in the fabric of this place, and in the hearts and minds of those who know and love him.



GARDNER-WEBB IN 1966:

- Gardner-Webb College, a two-year institution, enrolled just over 1,000 students at \$680 per semester (fees, tuition, room and board).
- Construction was underway on the Dover Campus Center, at a cost of \$448,425.
- Myers, Spangler, Nanney, and Mauney residence halls, the Dover Chapel, and Bost Gym did not exist. Lutz was being constructed. Royster was still a hospital. Lindsay Hall still belonged to Boiling Springs Baptist Church. Craig Hall was still the college's library.
- First-semester freshmen and first-semester transfer students were allowed no unexcused absences.
- Men and women were never allowed to enter each other's residence halls.



ULTRA Generosity

Trustee Frank Stewart and Family Give \$2 Million Toward Tucker Student Center

Written by Matt Walters



Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stewart

GWU Trustee Frank Stewart first learned about Gardner-Webb nearly four years ago, when the University approached his newly opened Ultra Machine and Fabrication, Inc., manufacturing plant in Shelby, N.C., to offer credits for continuing higher education to Ultra's employees. Stewart, the president and founder of Ultra, was "blown away" by the University's generosity. He recently returned that generosity tenfold, when he announced his family's \$2 million gift toward the new Tucker Student Center.

"My family and I love Gardner-Webb," said Stewart, who became a trustee in 2009. "It's a small Christian school that is graduating people with a first class education, but also with a high level of integrity and with very strong Christian values. Those fabulous men and women leave Gardner-Webb and go make a difference in their jobs and communities. That's what a university should be all about."

Born in Barranquilla, Colombia, Stewart moved to the United States in 1982, earning his bachelor's degree in business administration from UNC Charlotte. In 1989, Stewart founded Ultra Machine and Fabrication, Inc., which has become Ultra International, a diverse group of companies that provide both contract manufacturing services and original equipment manufacturer (OEM) products. Specializing in producing armor and thick plate components, weldments, and assemblies, Ultra International's focus

has been the specialty vehicle, heavy industry, and transportation markets. Customers include North American and International OEMs, security and government agencies, and the Department of Defense. All over the world, Ultra International's products can be found protecting civilians and military personnel in harm's way.

Stewart insists that the decision to give to Gardner-Webb was important for his entire family—including his wife, Michelé, and their three sons, Drew, Alex, and Christian. "God has blessed us beyond measure, so our number one goal is to teach our kids benevolence. We make these decisions as a family because we want our kids to continue and serve others even more faithfully than we have," Stewart said.



Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stewart & GWU President Dr. Bonner

In recognition of the Stewarts' generosity, the first floor main hall of the Tucker Student Center will be called "Stewart Hall," what Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner insists will be the "crown jewel" of the Center. The first floor banquet hall and conference room will be named for the Ultra Company.

"On behalf of the Gardner-Webb University family, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Frank Stewart family for this very generous gift," said Bonner. "The benefit for our students and for campus life will be tremendous. I am especially grateful that the Stewarts are not only generous in this gift, but also understand so well how it will help prepare our students to carry out the mission of Gardner-Webb University—For God and Humanity."

Amazing ~~Grief~~ Grace

Written by Chelsea Usher and Collyn Warner

Like so many Gardner-Webb students, psychology graduate Jesse Roberts ('11) was involved in a multitude of service activities on campus during his time in Boiling Springs. He worked as a resident advisor and a peer leader, co-teaching a University 111 class and mentoring incoming students. He was active in both the Alpha Chi and Psi Chi honor societies. But what makes Roberts' GWU experience unique is his passion for grief counseling, a passion that, for Roberts, signifies the reality of God's grace in his life.

When he was four years old, Roberts' mother passed away, and then he lost his father when he was sixteen. He says he knows more than he would like about the spectrum of grief, as he struggled to comprehend such ultimate loss as both a young child and a young adult. "That's one of the reasons I'm so passionate about educating people about grief; I've dealt with it on two completely different levels." Roberts was referred to Hospice after his mother passed away, and he credits the counselors there with helping him reestablish his life and his faith. Roberts served as an intern for Hospice, helping others find the solace he experienced as a child.

Roberts has a special talent for children's counseling. He has already written a children's book that tries to make grief comprehensible. "That was one of those things I just realized the need for," Roberts says. The book, "Katie the Ladybug: Explaining Death to a Child", will be published this year by A Pair of Docs publishing. In keeping with this theme, Roberts has also co-written an article with GWU psychology professor Dr. James Morgan examining bibliotherapy, or the use of literature to help patients open up and share their experiences.

Many people might find it hard to imagine intentionally seeking out situations of grief, after having endured so much. But Roberts insists, "Without going into a counseling role, nothing I've experienced would make sense." He says the loss he has experienced has prepared him to work with those in mourning. "It's amazing to think that every hardship I've encountered has played a role in who I am today, and it's my hope that I'm the person God wants me to be."

Of his opportunity to intern with Hospice, Roberts says, "It's actually given me the opportunity to go back and pay it forward by working for them." Yet through it all, Roberts credits God for his accomplishments, the most recent of which was being named the Class of 2011's most outstanding male graduate. "It's definitely been a God thing. It's not something I've done on my own. He places the right people in your life at the right time. I'm a firm believer that everything happens for a reason, and that He shapes our lives for His service."

Gardner-Webb
University



LIVING THE VISION

Written by Chelsea Usher

For their senior projects, all Gardner-Webb music composition majors are required to write a composition lasting at least five minutes. But for recent graduate Josh Cogan, his 105-page, 31-minute cantata—the longest GWU senior music project to date—was an emotional and herculean effort, one he was determined to complete.

The road that led Cogan to GWU was, at times, quite uncertain—even abortive. Unsure where to go from high school, Cogan decided to try his hand at Nebraska's Dana College, studying to be a youth minister. He also wanted to play football. "I had started on football teams, but I always quit. I'd have my position secured, and I'd still quit." His time at Dana was no different. After quitting the team, and trying several majors, Cogan withdrew during his second semester. As he admits, he was establishing a stop-and-go pattern of leaving things unfinished. It was Cogan's mother, GWU alumna and music composition major Robin Hall Cogan ('78), who suggested that Josh visit Gardner-Webb, but even his initial visit almost never happened, as Cogan contemplated canceling his audition. But when he arrived on campus, Cogan says he "fell in love with the people" he met, and he enrolled the following semester in Gardner-Webb's music program.

One of those people was the late Sid Haton, the director of athletic bands and instructor of music at GWU who passed away suddenly in 2008. Haton had been Cogan's mentor, and with his passing, Cogan says he contemplated quitting again. "That would have been the easy way out," Cogan admits. But he and Haton had shared a vision for a cutting-edge recording studio at Gardner-Webb, and Cogan says "I felt like I needed to keep the vision alive." Cogan carried on, realizing the vision at GWU's Studio 150 and releasing a solo album "Take A Stand" in February 2009, dedicated to Haton's memory. "I actually wrote the title track the week he passed away, and used a quote from him in the bridge: 'Keep pushing forward, don't slide back.'"

Cogan's senior project is a manifestation of those words. Working closely with Gardner-Webb's Writing Center, Cogan wrote a piece of historical gangster fiction starring Al Capone's outfit, and set the story to music in his secular cantata. "It's a 'Romeo and Juliet' story, a story of forbidden love," Cogan says. Five of the piece's 10 movements are purely instrumental, while the other five move the story lyrically. Cogan even plays bass and sings in several arrangements.

Having graduated in May with a Bachelor of Music degree, Cogan is now pursuing his Master of Arts in Worship Leadership at Dallas Baptist University, where he hopes to inspire others' faith with his songwriting. Every songwriter has a message, and it's pretty clear what Cogan's message and his ministry will probably be: "Keep pushing forward, don't slide back."

Those interested in his music can visit Cogan's MySpace at myspace.com/JoshCoganProducer.



Deep Impact

Written by Matt Walters

Kevin Kassakatis Receives North Carolina Compact's Community Impact Student Award

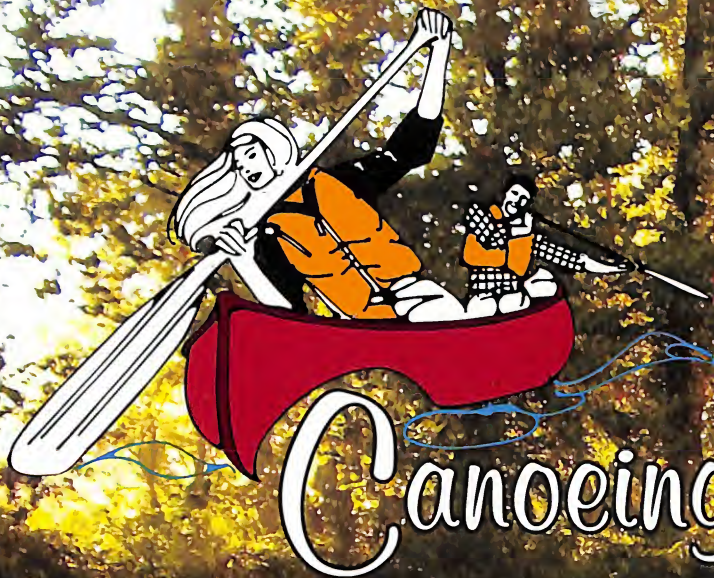
Gardner-Webb's Kevin Kassakatis, a senior Missions Studies major from Thomasville, N.C., recently received North Carolina Campus Compact's fifth Community Impact Student Award. Kassakatis was one of 34 college students across the state to receive the award for making significant, innovative contributions to their campuses' efforts to address local community needs. Awardees also received a Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation from N.C. Governor Beverly Perdue.

After a trip to a Romanian orphanage with his church three years ago, Kassakatis has focused his volunteer efforts on local children's homes in the U.S.; specifically James' Home and Aaron's Home in Cleveland County. As one of the only male volunteers at Aaron's Home, Kassakatis serves as a role model for many of the youth there. Chuck Barbee, assistant director of the children's home of Cleveland County says, "Kevin is a very positive influence on the kids. Everybody enjoys his coming to the home." He also adds that, "Kevin is consistent and provides the children with tutoring services which are valuable."

"My interest in volunteering comes from my desire to see the Lord's name proclaimed by everyone," Kassakatis explains. "Hebrews 13:12 tells us that Jesus suffered outside the city where the sick, homeless, and needy were. I feel that it is my responsibility to be 'outside the gates' with the people who don't have everything. The Lord has blessed me with more than I could ever want and I simply want to show the people of the community that there is a Father in Heaven who loves us and desperately wants to have a relationship with us."

The Community Impact Awards were presented at two N.C. Campus Compact Student Conferences that brought together over 300 college students and guests representing 34 North Carolina higher education institutions. "It's always nice to be recognized for something that I have done," Kassakatis insists, "but I feel that, as a Christian, it is my responsibility to be out in the community serving those who are in need. I hope that my recognition is nothing more than a reflection of the love of God. He is the reason I work there, so He should also receive the glory." After graduating in 2012, Kassakatis hopes to pursue full-time missions and also plans to consider attending seminary.





Canoeing for a Cause

GWU Honors Student Association Participates in Big Sweep

Written by Chelsea Usher



Jones, professor of biology and director of the honors program, said that GWU has been involved in Big Sweep for over twenty years. In that time, he has been able to witness firsthand the difference Big Sweep has made on the New River. He notes that the trash itself has diminished and that he's "seeing many more of those bottom clams, which indicates good water quality."

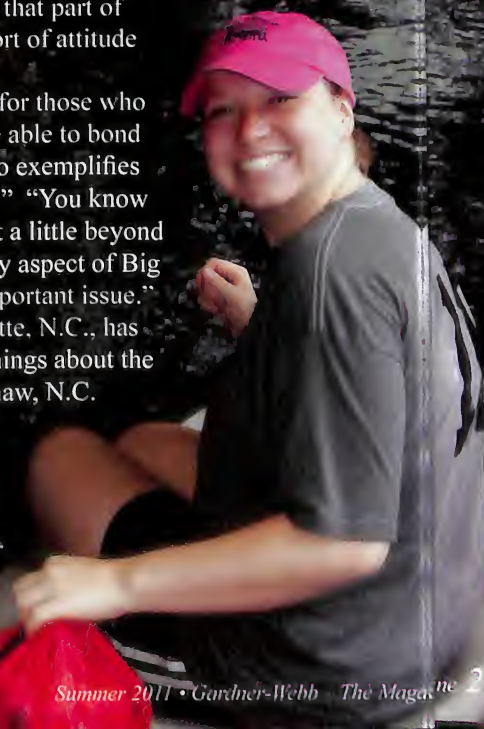
Service comes in many shapes and forms. Some focus on immediate results while others, like Big Sweep, look more towards the future. "I think we're making a better experience for those that follow us," Jones said. Dr. Perry Hildreth, an associate professor of philosophy and new member to the Big Sweep team, said he has been involved in similar service projects and couldn't agree more. "When you think about the University's mission statement, 'For God and Humanity', you see that part of what the university tries to teach is a basic sort of attitude about caring for the future," he said.



These students not only perform a service for those who live and work on the New River, but they are able to bond and have fun in the process. This project also exemplifies the honors motto of "try something different." "You know me," Jones added. "I like to push people just a little beyond their comfort zone." While he says that every aspect of Big

Sweep is important, Jones still believes that for the honors students, "the bonding is the most important issue."

His students would agree. Taylor Doolittle, a senior international business major from Charlotte, N.C., has gone on Big Sweep since his freshman year, and cites fellowship as one of the most enjoyable things about the trip. His thoughts are echoed by freshman Jessica Hibbard, a photojournalism major from Waxhaw, N.C. Though this was her first Big Sweep experience, she came to a similar conclusion, "We were building community within the body of Christ and we were serving with a Christ-like attitude."





MAKING HISTORY

Written By Paul Foster

Three days before the big game, things were hopping in the basketball offices of Gardner-Webb University. Phones were ringing, players were hustling through, and Women's Head Coach Rick Reeves was tied up on a phone call before arguably the most important practice in school history. The excitement in the air was palpable, especially for the seniors, because the next game marked the culmination of four years' dreams and dedication. It also signaled another landmark achievement for the Lady 'Dogs basketball program—a first-ever berth in the NCAA (National College Athletic Association) Women's Basketball Tournament. "Words just cannot express," Reeves reflected about the season. "We're blessed. I'm happy for my seniors, and hope this is the first of many trips to the NCAA tournament. We just put the Lord first in all we do."

The 'Dogs had defeated rival Liberty University in the Big South Conference Championship, securing an automatic bid and a 13th seed in the NCAA



Tournament. The Bulldogs were headed to battle the mighty Miami Hurricanes in the first round on March 20, where they fought valiantly, but ultimately fell 80-62. But even with the loss, the Lady Bulldogs returned to Boiling Springs having set a new bar for Gardner-Webb athletics.

The Lady 'Dogs were led on the court by their four seniors, whose careers are now some of the most storied in Gardner-Webb's history: identical twins Dominique and Monique Hudson, both guards, from Rocky Mount, N.C. ("Dom" is a sports management major and "Mo" majors in business administration); Latroya Pope, a forward and Chemistry major from Wilson, N.C.; and Sandra Vaitkute, a center from Silute, Lithuania who is earning her Master of business administration.

Individually, this senior group rewrote the GWU record books. In addition to the Hudsons' list of accomplishments (see "Sister Act"), Pope graduates second in career blocks (125), and she is the only Gardner-Webb player to record over 100 career blocks and 100 career assists. Vaitkute ranks second in highest field goal percentage (48.6%), and posted the second highest single-season block total (61).*

But the numbers they notched as a group are even more astounding. In the University's first seven years at the Division I level, Gardner-Webb earned only 65 total wins; this class won 81 games over the last four years alone. They delivered the program's first ever regular season conference championship (2009-10) and first ever Big South Championship (2010-11), earned the school's first postseason berth to the Women's National Invitational Tournament (2009-10), won an amazing 16 consecutive games (2009-10), posted an unprecedented 28 single season wins in 2009-10 (the previous single season high was 15 games), and notched the program's 400th victory.

Pope and Vaitkute said making the NCAA's happened in "God's timing," and that it was made possible by close team unity and Reeves' leadership. "As a team we all believed we could do it. We trusted one another," said Vaitkute. "We all grew together, we and Coach Reeves. It became a trust issue—him trusting us, and us trusting him," Monique added. As Pope insists, that sense of trust was crucial in inspiring the whole team to perform. "It was the seniors' last chance," she said. "We just knew we could win—we could do it. Our whole team—even the freshmen—stepped up."

The Lady Bulldogs have now "stepped up" as an elite program in the Big South, but the seniors insist that the ladies aren't finished, that their legacy will depend on those same underclassmen to continue the tradition of success. "We tried to be good role models, to teach the younger girls that they can accomplish things at this school. We tried to teach them how to motivate themselves," said Dominique. "Hopefully we'll be remembered for inspiring people to do great things."



*All rankings are indicative of Gardner-Webb's Division I history.



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GWU fans enjoy men's and women's basketball each season in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center's Paul Porter Arena. Opposing players and fans have commented on the difficulty of playing in the confines of the "Dawg House."

Above: On Dec. 31, 2010, the Lady 'Dogs hosted the Tar Heels from UNC-Chapel Hill, who finished the season ranked #19 in the nation.

Photo by Willis Glasgow

SISTER ACT

Written by Paul Foster

Dom and Mo have to go? Say it ain't so! The anchors of the Lady 'Dogs basketball dynasty, identical twins Dominique and Monique Hudson, have tantalized fans, mesmerized opponents, and totally revised the Gardner-Webb individual record books. Gardner-Webb Women's Head Basketball Coach, Rick Reeves, first met the Hudsons when they attended his basketball camp as youngsters. To Reeves, the Hudsons' path to Gardner-Webb was ordained. "Sometimes God sends us people like Dom and Mo," Reeves says with a smile.

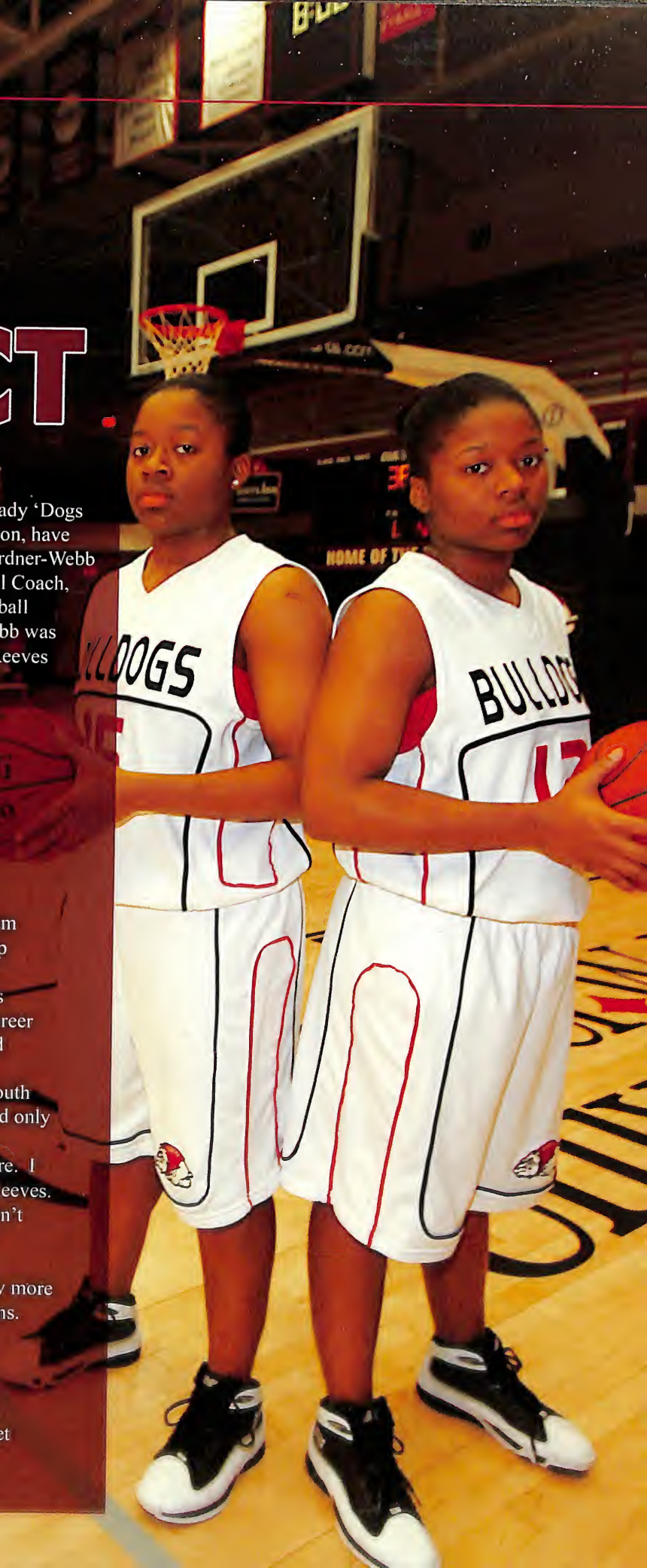
Godsends, indeed. Monique, the former Atlantic Sun Conference Freshman of the Year, shattered no less than five Gardner-Webb Division I single-season records in 2011, setting new marks for steals (90), points scored (465), field goal attempts (425), field goals made (163), and minutes played (1130). She ranks third in the GWU Division I career record books in three-pointers made (115) and steals (210), and fifth in assists (265), free throws made (240), and points scored (1147).

Dominique finishes her career as a two-time Big South First-Team All Conference selection, and as the 2011 Big South Championship Tournament MVP. In 2011, she set a new GWU Division I single-season assists mark with 194. But it is her career accomplishments that truly astound, as she holds no less than six GWU Division I career records: games played (129), minutes played (3,545), points scored (1,407), free throws made (419), assists (579), and steals (244).

Together, Dom and Mo are only the fifth set of siblings in Big South Conference history to each score more than 1,000 career points, and only the second to accomplish the mark in the same season.

"It's never been a job, coaching the Hudsons. It's been a pleasure. I couldn't be more proud of them if they were my daughters," said Reeves. "At the end of their career, you see why the Lord sent them. It wasn't about wins and losses, but success in life. They have really grown as people."

The Hudsons hope to continue their growth on the court for a few more years, even if it means going overseas and playing on different teams. After that, Mo aspires to coach, and Dom hopes to run a 24-hour gym that helps keep kids off the streets. The sisters insist that they have enjoyed their time at Gardner-Webb, but they aren't looking back. "We're glad for what we've accomplished here, but we're looking to the future," Mo said. "I always think the best is yet to come."





Coach Ron Dickerson Jr.

THEY'RE DICKERSON'S DOGS NOW

New Football Coach Ready to Take the Field

Written by Collyn Warner

In a world where people tend to define themselves by their professions, it is easy to forget that humans are more than their job titles. But for Coach Ron Dickerson, Jr., Gardner-Webb's new head football coach, running a successful football program means more than just winning—which he plans to do. It means teaching his players to be leaders, for God and Humanity, and that boils down to one word: character.

Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner and Vice President of Athletics Chuck Burch established a list of characteristics they desired in their new coach, testing the more than 100 applicants against their list. "The characteristics related to their Christian commitment, their ability to lead and motivate, and to provide the discipline, enthusiasm, and vision we need to be successful," Burch said. Because he identified so strongly with the values of the University, Dickerson quickly rose to the top. "This is a great University. What it stands for, I stand for. It's what the young men I coach will stand for," Dickerson insisted.

Dickerson has been surrounded by great football his whole life. He has played and coached at nearly every level, including stints as a player for the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs. Most recently Dickerson was the wide receivers' coach at Ole Miss. But he says his strongest influence, on and off the field, was his father, NFL superstar Ron Dickerson, Sr. "I'm going to follow in his footsteps by being a leader and not just a coach. My father has shown me that he cares, and that's the most important thing."

Dickerson now plans to bring that same leadership to Gardner-Webb, and he insists his players will be as thoughtful and conscientious off the field as they are successful on it. "Those young men will have character, integrity, and I'm going to hold them to a high standard. Because what we're going to do, starting today, is become a family—a family." Burch remarked, "I think you're going to see a guy who has a concerted effort to make sure the football program is involved in all aspects of the campus life. We hope to see a product that will fuel a sense of pride."

Dickerson knows that sense of pride must ultimately involve reestablishing a winning tradition on the gridiron. "This is an opportunity for Gardner-Webb to get back to the top," Dickerson said. "When the Big South conference first started, Gardner-Webb was there. Now we plan on getting back."

"YOU GOT SERVED!"

Student Athletes Provide Community Outreach

Written by Chelsea Usher

Gardner-Webb's student-athletes are expert jugglers. Every day, they juggle class, practice, homework and social life while performing at their highest both in the field of play and in the classroom. But this year, they added something else to the mix: the Athletics Day of Service.

Over 200 student-athletes representing 10 teams participated in the event, traveling to different locations throughout Cleveland and Rutherford counties to complete service projects for local organizations. "This event was a huge success, both for our student-athlete volunteers and our community partners," said Mary Beth Hamrick, Compliance Coordinator and advisor for the GWU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Each team worked for a different organization, including the Ruby Hunt YMCA, the Lighthouse women's shelter, Habitat for Humanity and Aaron's House, a local children's home. Stephanie Benshoof, a member of the women's soccer team, worked with her team at the women's shelter. "One thing I will never forget is how happy they were," Benshoof remembers. "One of the women helped us paint and then wouldn't let us clean up after ourselves. She was so grateful that she wanted to clean for us." Benshoof and her teammates so enjoyed the event that they returned to the shelter later to decorate for a holiday.

The women's softball team spent the day at the Ruby Hunt YMCA helping in the library. Tyler McCall, GWU alumnus and office manager for the Ruby Hunt YMCA, praised the team for their help. "Getting massive amounts of books entered into our database puts us weeks and weeks ahead," he said. The students also checked to make sure the books that were already in the database and on the shelves were in alphabetical order.

SAAC president Scott Wheeler, a member of the men's golf team, was impressed with the event's outcome. As president, Wheeler visited different sites throughout the day to take pictures and check progress. His team, however, spent the day digging ditches for the Shelby Missions Camp. Wheeler hopes the day of service will continue to be a yearly event. "It was really good for our relationship with the community and the Big South Conference. Since many of our teams are new to the conference, it shows that we can take initiative," Wheeler said. "Most of all it shows that we're living out the value of service, which is one of the University's core values."



GWU Student Athletes

Love in the Midst of Chaos

GWU Alumnus Matthew Costner Begins Community Church in East Nashville

Written by Collyn Warner

"I have said over and over that we are the only Jesus that others may ever meet," says pastor and 2001 GWU graduate Matthew Costner. This is nowhere truer than in East Nashville, Tenn., where burglary rates are five times, murder rates are three times, and rape rates are two times the national average. Yet it is in East Nashville where Costner has decided to plant East Nashville Community Church (ENCC), proving that when rooted in love and grounded in genuine worship, a true church can thrive even amidst the chaos.

As one local social worker puts it, "East Nashville does one of two things: it either motivates people to get out or enables people to just follow that same generational cycle of poverty and low education that they see around them." It is precisely this cycle, and all its disastrous implications, that ENCC is empowering the community to fight. "We are not in a safe place. Many churches have positioned themselves in a much safer area to worship," he says. These churches, Costner claims, have avoided the heart of the city, and so have missed the hearts of the city. But ENCC hopes not only to minister to the people of East Nashville, but to become a living church together with them.

That mission is evident in ENCC's faithful work on the ground level of its community. "We believe that worship should be culturally relevant while at the same time remaining authentic in spirit and truth," Costner says. The church has done "meals on wheels," cleaned classrooms at local youth center, and even started a children's ministry called "CommunityKids" since 57% of the area's population is under 18.

Costner remembers his time at GWU, where he earned an accounting degree, as a time of initially running from God's undeniable call. "I knew that God had called me into ministry and it scared me," he remembers. Eventually, that call was unbearable. After graduating from Gardner-Webb, Costner earned a master's degree in Divinity from Vanderbilt, propelling himself into fulltime ministry in the city that has come to be his home. He insists that he will always cherish the people of GWU who "pushed me to great heights."

Motivated and disciplined by these people, Costner now ministers in the same way to those around him in East Nashville, pushing them to greater heights. He insists that ENCC has affected him as powerfully as anyone else. "I have enjoyed watching Jesus transform people's lives, and I have enjoyed experiencing Jesus transform mine."



Matthew Costner and kids

London Calling

Written by Rebecca Clark '08



Jim Guild's and kids

In a way, Jim Guild's testimony is similar to so many Gardner-Webb students' stories. Called to biblical study and ministry, Guild heard about Gardner-Webb from friends, and enrolled for higher education. But for Guild, who called his arrival on campus in the 1970s a "pleasant but total culture shock," that's about where the similarities end.

Guild didn't have a conventional upbringing. Born in Scotland, Guild and his family moved to Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, when he was two years old, and he shared his childhood and adolescence between the two countries. Though called to ministry at a young age, he didn't immediately pursue that call. He worked for

the Rhodesian government and army before working with an organization called New Life for All (NLFA). "It was while working with NLFA that I met Reverend Clyde Dotson who was a missionary in the country at that time."

Dotson, a pioneer missionary in Africa, was honored by the creation of a Gardner-Webb scholarship fund by his daughter, Grace Dotson Warren and her husband Dr. T.L. Warren of Hickory, N.C. Guild was offered the very first Clyde Dotson Scholarship. At 25, he made the trip to Boiling Springs and earned his degree in just over two years. "Gardner-Webb gave me the vision and the ability to work through things," he said. "Many of the things I learned at Gardner-Webb have stood me in good stead for future ministry."

Graduating in 1977, Guild moved to England and worked in administration for a company called GEC Marconi. When they closed, he found a position at The Salmon Youth Centre. Located in a densely populated area of South East London troubled by high unemployment and poverty, the Centre provides kids a safe haven to learn about the Bible and urges them to stay off the streets and in school.

Guild has dedicated nearly two decades of his life to the kids at the Centre, many of whom he has seen grow up there. Now, he even works with some children whose parents were part of the club. In fact, South East London has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the United Kingdom. "Rather than shun these young moms and children, we will work with them and help the parents gain qualifications and learn parenting skills," he said.

Ultimately, whether it is helping teen moms, kids addicted to drugs, juvenile thieves or even children who are struggling in school, Guild has followed Christ's example by making tremendous sacrifices in order to improve the lives of those around him. So perhaps his story is familiar after all, just another unique and special example of Gardner-Webb graduates impacting the world, for God and humanity.





GWU Alum Shares Culture, History, and Heritage of the Cherokee

We all have stories to tell. But how often do we get the opportunity to tell them? Freeman Owle, 1968 GWU alumnus, is a Cherokee who grew up on the Qualla Boundary reservation in North Carolina. As Owle admits, his perspective and his sense of identity are uniquely Cherokee, and his life's mission is to preserve that identity through a process that is central to Cherokee culture: storytelling.



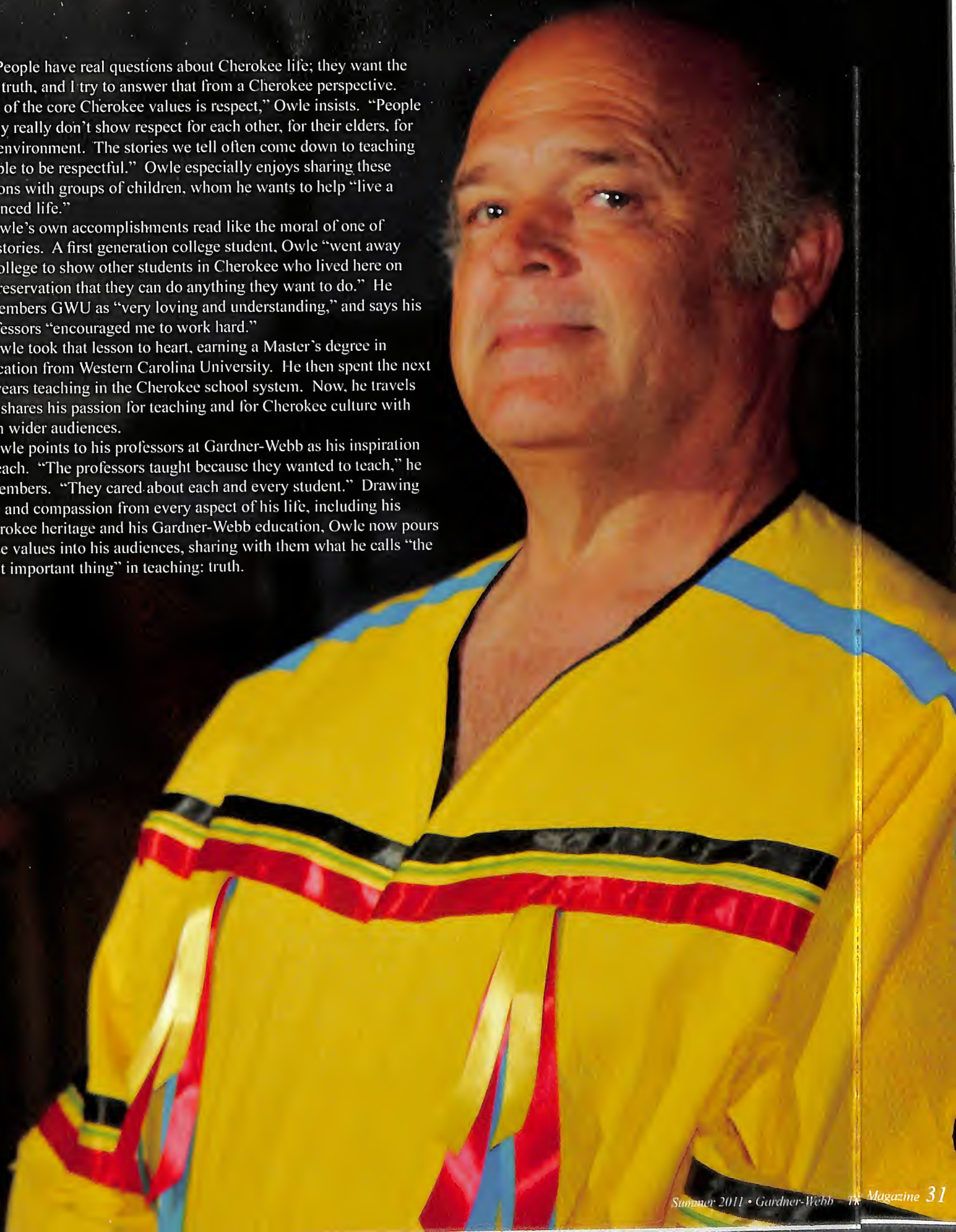
In many oral cultures, storytelling plays a significant role in people's moral and cultural education. Stories not only explain natural phenomena, but they contain the seeds of wisdom that orient people's ethical paradigms. The stories Owle shares are themselves relatively simple. A possum plays dead, for instance, because he once bragged to the other animals about having the most beautiful tail in the forest. Tired of the possum's gloating, a few of them conspired to rob the possum's tail of its fur. When the vindicated animals begin to laugh at the possum, he plays dead rather than deal with the shame. On the surface, that story teaches children a reason why the possum's tail is skinny, and why the animal behaves as it does. The moral though—that pride comes before the fall—offers a greater lesson.

"People have real questions about Cherokee life; they want the real truth, and I try to answer that from a Cherokee perspective. One of the core Cherokee values is respect," Owle insists. "People today really don't show respect for each other, for their elders, for the environment. The stories we tell often come down to teaching people to be respectful." Owle especially enjoys sharing these lessons with groups of children, whom he wants to help "live a balanced life."

Owle's own accomplishments read like the moral of one of his stories. A first generation college student, Owle "went away to college to show other students in Cherokee who lived here on the reservation that they can do anything they want to do." He remembers GWU as "very loving and understanding," and says his professors "encouraged me to work hard."

Owle took that lesson to heart, earning a Master's degree in education from Western Carolina University. He then spent the next 12 years teaching in the Cherokee school system. Now, he travels and shares his passion for teaching and for Cherokee culture with even wider audiences.

Owle points to his professors at Gardner-Webb as his inspiration to teach. "The professors taught because they wanted to teach," he remembers. "They cared about each and every student." Drawing care and compassion from every aspect of his life, including his Cherokee heritage and his Gardner-Webb education, Owle now pours those values into his audiences, sharing with them what he calls "the most important thing" in teaching: truth.





Class Acts

The 1940s

ALUMNUS PASSING

CLYDE J. RHYNE '47 A.A.

died on Oct. 25, 2010. He served in the United States Navy during WWII from 1943 to 1946. He was employed by J. P. Stevens, Inc. and then Federal Spinning Cooperation, where he retired as president and chairman of the Board. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Sanford where he taught a Sunday school class for the deaf. He served on the Board of Trustees at Campbell University, where he received an honorary doctorate of law in 1999. Among his many civic activities, he belonged to the Lions Club, VFW, and Sanford/Lee County Chamber of Commerce. He was a past board member for the Council on Christian Higher Education of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. His wife, one brother, two sisters, four daughters, one son, one stepson, and 13 grandchildren survive him.

The 1950s

ALUMNUS PASSING

CHARLES H. RABON '52 A.A.

passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011. He was ordained in 1954 and 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. Dr. 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 the South Carolina Baptist Convention, he created teaching material, led conferences, and counseled pastors. He was given the Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award and was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity from Charleston Southern University. He was a member of the Legacy Society at Gardner-Webb University as well as the Christian Service Organization. His wife, one son, three daughters, eight grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and one sister survive him.

The 1960s

ALUMNUS PASSING

FRANK "NICK" JAMISON '67 A.A.

died on Dec. 27, 2010. He was an entrepreneur and avid golfer. His wife, three children, and two grandchildren survive him.

The 1970s

MICHAEL EUGENE STAMEY '72 B.S. was named the 2010 Broker Associate of the Year for Beverly-Hanks and Associates, the largest independent real estate firm in Western North Carolina. He has also received the Platinum award, Top Sales Leader award, Top Listing Leader award, and Most Improved Volume award. He previously served as mortgage manager for Irwin Mortgage from 2005 to 2008 and assistant vice president for Haywood

Savings Bank from 1972 to 2005. He and his wife, Renee, have two children and one grandson.

JAMES NELSON TURNER '72 B.S.

and Karen Kitchen Hoxit were married on Feb. 22, 2011 at the bride's home.

BENJAMIN LEE REAVIS '73 B.S.

recently acquired Micro-Systems Leasing (MSL), a company that specializes in the leasing of technology systems for the building industry. He began his career as a computer programmer but quickly transitioned into the sales and marketing of information technology (IT) systems. His sales career, which spans over 25 years, includes work as application consultant for a software services center, marketing manager for a top regional CPA firm, and senior vice president and partner of a Southeast regional IT consulting and implementation company. He and his wife reside in the Lake Wylie, S.C., area.

ALUMNUS PASSING

DAVID LESTER HAMPTON HART '73 B.S.

passed away on Dec. 25, 2010. He was an accomplished guitarist and singer. He taught science and coached football at Kings Mountain Jr. High before retiring. He later worked for The Jefferson Post and operated his own mowing service. One son, two sisters, and three aunts survive him.

DICY SMITH McCULLOUGH '75 B.A.

has written her first children's rhyming picture book entitled "Tired of My Bath." This book is age-appropriate for emerging readers and has been used in guidance lessons to introduce hygiene in a fun way. This is the first in a series with the second book, "Tired of School", to be out later this year. She is a retired music teacher from the Rowan-Salisbury Schools. Contact Dicy at dicysm@yahoo.com.

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

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



A POLITICAL PROCESS

Written by Chelsea Usher

For some, it takes years after graduating to achieve their career goals. But Chris Meekins' ('06) passion for politics and for ensuring that Americans' freedoms remain intact has blossomed into an exciting young career in public policy.

"Right out of college," Meekins remembers, "I was offered a job with a national organization that sent me to a couple of states to work on campaigns." Meekins quickly proved his worth, and soon went back home to Maryland to assist State Senator Nancy Jacobs in her reelection. He then went to work for her as a legislative assistant. "Under her leadership, I helped design and implement a comprehensive press and grassroots strategy that led to the passage of Jessica's Law in Maryland."

Meekins was then hired by Md. State Senator Andy Harris to "investigate a potential run for Congress," becoming Harris's Campaign Manager and managing a \$3.2 million budget and a staff of four—still just two years out of college. After that campaign, Meekins worked as an account executive for the political consulting company Jamestown Associates, and he is currently working as the Manager of Governmental and Political Outreach for the 46,000 member American Society of Anesthesiologists.

For Meekins, his whole career has been about making a difference. When asked what he hopes his legacy will be, he replies, "I hope people will know that I pursued everything with fervor, had a genuine love of life, and that I was willing to take big risks to achieve big dreams." His most immediate big dream? His marriage in August to fiancée Amanda Machin.



KENNETH STALLS '78 B.A.

was elected president of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware in November 2010. He has served as senior pastor of South End Baptist Church in Frederick, Md. since 1991. He and his wife, Joan, have been married for 43 years and they have one son and two granddaughters. You can contact Ken by email at jkens777@gmail.com.



<http://twitter.com/gardnerwebb>

The 1980s

ALUMNUS PASSING

DANIEL CALHOUN JOHNSON, JR.
'82 B.A.

died on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. For 26 years, he served as minister and missionary to the deaf in Louisiana and North Carolina. He was also the director and an adjunct professor for TriState Deaf School of Theology as well as a contract editor for Lifeway Christian Resources. His wife, two sons, one daughter, his mother, two brothers, and two sisters survive him.

DONNA HARVEY TURNER '82 B.S.

has authored her first book called "No Soccer Today for Rinnie Ray," released in October 2010. She is married to David M. Turner, a 1982 alumnus of Gardner-Webb, and they have two children.

KIMBERLY IRENE PORTER '88 B.A.

graduated with honors on Dec. 18, 2010 from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. She now has a Birth-Kindergarten License.

The 1990s

DEANNA WISE '95 B.S.

and Ricky Allen Pope were married on Dec. 31, 2010 at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Vale, N.C. She is an AI Technician at Catawba Valley Community College.

JAMES "JAMIE" EDWARD POWELL '97 M.A.

graduated on May 15, 2010 from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in

Share your news If you have a personal or professional accomplishment to share, such as a new job, birth announcement, or a wedding, we would like to hear from you. Submit your class notes to klovelace@gardner-webb.edu



HEALING IN HAITI

Gardner Webb Alumna "Uses her Blessings" to Help Others

By: Chelsa Usher

After the 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on January 12, 2010, thousands of refugees flooded hospitals and orphanages in Les Cayes, Haiti. Recently, Kellie Robinson Vanhoy ('05) and her husband David, a captain with the Shelby Fire Department, traveled with a team of volunteers with Bless Back Worldwide to provide relief in Les Cayes.

Vanhoy says she was shocked at the conditions in Port-au-Prince, where she saw "buildings still toppled over, garbage in the streets for as far as the eye could see and tent cities in every direction." She was also shocked to learn that the hospital had no running water, unreliable electricity and no doctors or physicians assistants in the emergency department. But that paled in comparison to the status in Les Cayes' emergency rooms, where doctors were forced to operate without electricity by the light of their headlamps, even using hand sanitizer containers as suction pumps.

Still, Vanhoy relished her time in Les Cayes and hopes to return, and not just because it offered valuable experience as she trains to become a physician's assistant. "I decided to pursue being a physician's assistant because I want to provide care for the neediest. I hope that, as they come to me for medical treatment, I can give them what they actually need: to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ."



Counselor Education and Supervision. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor and a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist who works in a private practice in Shelby, N.C.

The 2000s

STEVEN C. VARLEY '00 M.B.A.

has been appointed as the director of Development and Alumni Affairs at Yale University School of Nursing (YSN). Most recently, he served as the vice president for Advancement at Gardner-Webb University.

RICHARD LEE WOOD '00 B.A.

was recently called as associate pastor of Family Ministry at Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church in Sanford, NC. Email Richard at richard@richardlwood.org.

TONY LEE WORLEY '01 M.A.

is principal of Lincolnton High School and is the 2011 Wachovia Principal of the Year. He belongs to many professional organizations including North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals

Association and the North Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum.

MELISA CAROL JOHNSON '02 B.S.

is an instructor in Business and Office Technology for Northeastern Technical College and she received the 2010 Governor's Distinguished Professor of the Year award. She started at NETC in 2001 as an adjunct instructor, and in 2008, she was named assistant dean of the Business and Administrative Office Technology program. She is an advisor to the National Technical Honor Society and sits on the town council for Mt. Croghan, S.C.

DEBBIE STAFFORD '03 B.S.

is the administrative assistant to Instructional Services at Mayland Community College and was given the 2010 Staff Excellence Award. She also teaches part time in Mayland's Human Services program.

ALUMNUS PASSING

JOSEPH CRAIG SHELTON '03 B.S.

died on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010. He was a network engineer with Lowe's Home

Improvement and a member of South River Baptist Church. His wife, one daughter, one son, his parents, one brother, and maternal grandfather survive him.

AMBER YORK PINNEY '04 B.S.

and her husband, Daniel, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Elijah Jonathan Pinney who was born on Aug. 11, 2010. He joins his big sister, Natalie Kate Pinney, who is 2 years old. Amber works as a receptionist for Rhythm Academy and Daniel is employed in sales and delivery at Smith's Furniture. They reside in Toccoa, Ga.

ALUMNUS PASSING

RICHARD ALAN COLE '05 M.A.

passed away on Feb. 1, 2011. He served as assistant director of exceptional children's programs for Caldwell County Schools. He previously worked in Public Relations for Blue Ridge Electric and served with Habitat for Humanity on the Public Relations committee and as president of the board of directors for the Caldwell Counseling Center. He was an active member of Lower Creek Baptist Church where he taught Sunday school, served as a deacon, sang in



the choir, and participated in several mission trips to Mexico, Uruguay, France, Germany, and Switzerland. His wife, two sons, one brother, one sister, his stepmother, and his father and mother-in-law survive him.

CARA SAUNDERS '06 B.S.

is director of special events for Kerzner International at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island in Nassau, Bahamas. She resides in Nassau with her son, Malachi. Contact Cara at carasaunders@live.com.

AARON DELANE WILKINSON '07 B.A.

and his wife, Abby, are pleased to announce the birth of their first son, Eli Xavier Delane Wilkinson, who was born on Dec 2, 2010.

DEBORAH DOYLE BOST '08 B.A.

and her husband, John, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Chelsie Clymer Bost, who was born on Dec. 14, 2010.

MATTHEW BRETT WALTERS '08 B.A.

was recently hired as a staff writer and editor for the Office of University Communications at Gardner-Webb University. He earned his Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in May 2010.

MARIA NICHOLE ANDERSON '09 B.S.

and Jeremy David McNeill were married on July 17, 2010 at Arbor Grove Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro. Maria is employed by Wilkes County Schools and Jeremy is employed by Harward Brothers Livestock Market, Wilkes Livestock Exchange and is a self-employed farmer.

JONATHAN "CORY" TUCKER '09 M.B.A.

has joined the staff at Surrey Bank & Trust as vice president and commercial loan officer. He is involved in numerous community activities by participating in United Fund campaigns and serving on the board of directors for the Children's Center, where he was board president from 2008 to 2010. Cory and his wife, Jill, are the parents of four-month-old twins.

GARDNER-WEBB ALUM WINS CHRISTIAN CHOICE BOOK AWARD

With Pen and Page, Wayne Henderson '78 Fulfills the Great Commission

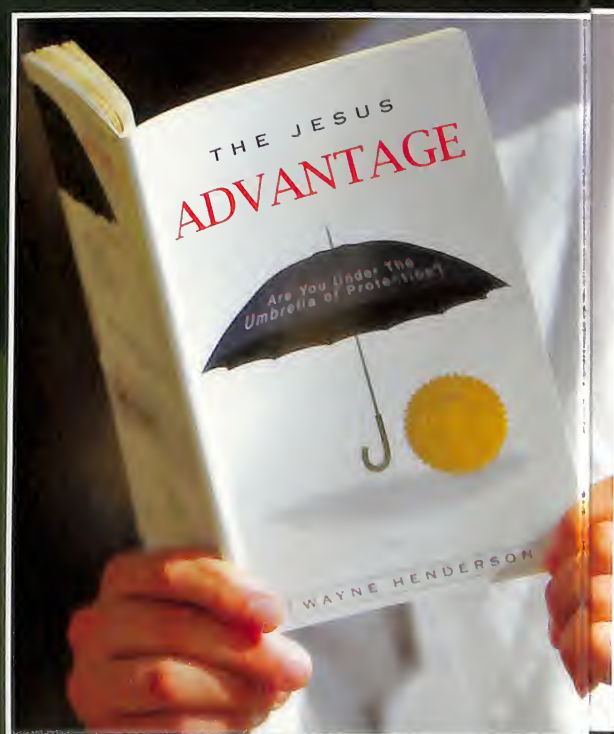
Wayne Henderson, '78 Gardner-Webb graduate and former captain of the Runnin' Bulldogs football team, has received a Christian Choice Book Award for his recent book "The Jesus Advantage," which he calls his "thank you to Jesus."

"I've been so blessed in my life, and I'm not sure we're telling Jesus 'thank you' enough for all the things He has done for us," Henderson said. "There is a story, in Luke 17:11-19, where Jesus heals 10 lepers, and only one of them bothers to come back and say 'thanks.' I want to strive not to be one of the nine."

The book outlines the various "advantages" of being under what Henderson calls Jesus's umbrella of protection. "The moment you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, the kingdom of heaven starts for you right then," Henderson insists. "You get the benefit of abundant life now, and when you die and go to heaven, you get the benefit of abundant life then. It's a win-win situation."

Aside from covering the cost of the books, Henderson donates all of the proceeds he receives from the books to charity. "I just want everyone to read it and pass it along to someone else. It's my way of fulfilling the Great Commission."

When asked about his time at Gardner-Webb, Henderson said, "Gardner-Webb provided everything I could have asked for in a college experience."



LIKE APPLES FROM THE TREE

Written by Chelsea Usher

Children often follow in their parents' footsteps, but the Tiller family has taken it to the extreme. Three generations of Tiller men—John Theron, John David and John Matthew—have not only attended Gardner-Webb, but have all answered a call to preach. Recently, they seized a unique opportunity to share the pulpit with each other at John Matthew's home church, Liberty Baptist Church of Ellenboro, N.C.

John Theron (Johnny) began his 71 years of preaching in 1939 at the age of 13, pastoring his first church by the age of 18. His son, David, was also gifted with a passion for teaching, and earned a degree in elementary education from Gardner-Webb in 1973 before spending nearly 30 years in education with Lifeway Christian Resources.

But Matt was the self-described wildcard. After dropping out of high school and getting involved with drugs, he experienced an epiphany evocative of Paul's Damascus Road encounter, so he accepted Christ and turned his life around. He has since earned a bachelor's degree in psychology ('03) and a master's in school counseling ('08) from GWU, and he currently serves as pastor of the Spanish ministry at Liberty Baptist.

With perfect symmetry, the three men preached on the books of 1 John, 2 John and 3 John, and prior to the three messages, Matt's son, John David (J.D.), joined the three men on stage to recite John 3:16 together. But the humbling event "wasn't about the Tillers," Matt insisted. "It was about God demonstrating his faithfulness to all of us, generation after generation."

GWU ALUMS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE IN THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Written by Natalie Edwards Bishop

A lot can change in 104 years. In fact, since the inaugural class in 1907, Boiling Springs High School has, itself, graduated several times over, becoming a junior college, a college, and now Gardner-Webb University. Keeping track of all these changes is the Gardner-Webb University Archives, where dedicated workers, including alumni volunteers, are gathering and documenting a century's worth of the University's rich history.

A major contributor to this project has been Mac Hill ('55). As a volunteer, Hill is leading the Photo Identification Project, sorting thousands of photographs and identifying the year they were taken and the people pictured. To say the least, Hill has been a catalyst for the Archives' progress over the last two years.

With the help of Hill and other alumni volunteers, the GWU Archives is now striving to expand and open its collection to the public, digitizing certain documents for a future Archives website and preserving thousands of at-risk documents that have deteriorated in condition. To fill the lingering gaps in the collection, especially from the 1900s-1940s, the following materials are still needed:

- Photos, memorabilia, documents, class jewelry, etc., from the Boiling Springs High School era (1900s-1930s)
- Textiles from GWU's past (sports/cheerleading uniforms, school jackets, May Day dresses, school clothes)
- Yearbooks from 1930-1951
- Anything pertaining to the Ramseur Literary Society
- Unique items to add to the Faye Webb and O. Max Gardner Collection

To donate or lend these materials to the Archives, please contact Natalie Edwards Bishop at nedwards@gardner-webb.edu or 704-406-3274.



Mac Hill

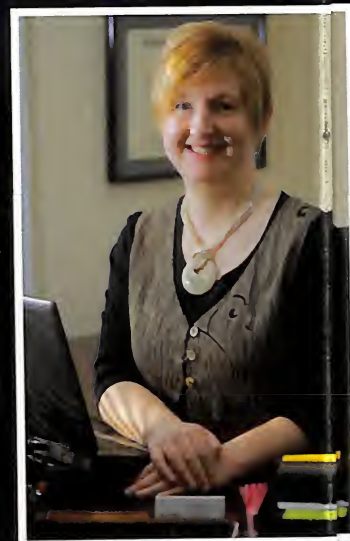
Hello fellow Alums!

I am looking forward to serving GWU's alumni community as president of the Alumni Association Board for 2011-12, and I am excited to give you all a sneak peak of some of the upcoming opportunities for you to stay connected to your Alma Mater. We have begun a new Alumni/Student Mentorship program. As a mentor you assist current GWU students in networking and career building. Other alumni/student connections include job shadowing and internships. Find out more about this by calling (704) 406-3862.

We are also reviving our Association Chapters. Newly established chapters like Atlanta, Ga., Morganton and Raleigh, N.C., have enjoyed numerous reunions with great turnouts. New chapters are being formed in Charlotte, N.C., and in Cleveland/Rutherford counties, and more are on the horizon. Finally, mark your calendars for Homecoming, October 28-29.

We want to hear from you. Please let us know how we can serve you better and keep you connected to GWU. You may call the alumni office at (704) 406-3862, or contact the Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs, Meghan Dalton, at mdalton@gardner-webb.edu.

Yours truly,
Elizabeth Pack
epack@gardner-webb.edu



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Raised



\$45 Million
Goal

HIGHER GROUND
The Campaign *for* Gardner-Webb University



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Higher Ground.**

*To get more information or to get involved in the
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