

2011

Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2011, Winter/ Spring (Volume 45 No. 1)

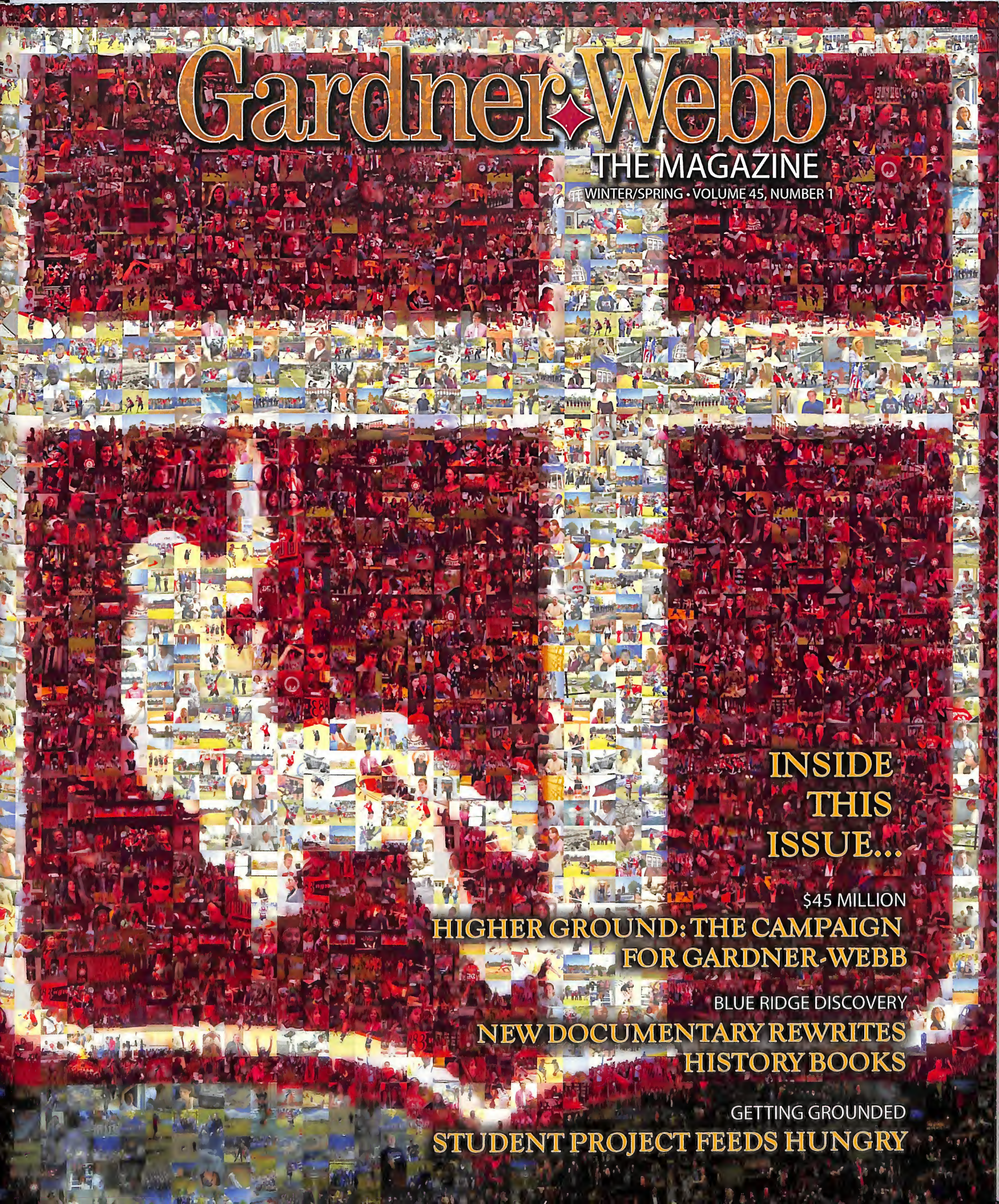
Noel T. Manning II

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Gardner Webb

THE MAGAZINE

WINTER/SPRING • VOLUME 45, NUMBER 1

**INSIDE
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ISSUE...**

**\$45 MILLION
HIGHER GROUND: THE CAMPAIGN
FOR GARDNER WEBB**

**BLUE RIDGE DISCOVERY
NEW DOCUMENTARY REWRITES
HISTORY BOOKS**

**GETTING GROUNDED
STUDENT PROJECT FEEDS HUNGRY**

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THE MAGAZINE



About The Cover: In November, Gardner-Webb officially launched the Higher Ground Campaign. This \$45 million capital campaign will change the face and future of the University. To find out more and how you can get involved, read the feature story on pages 8-11.

Gardner-Webb The Magazine Credits

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Dr. A. Frank Bonner

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REACHING FOR HIGHER GROUND

On November 11, we announced the “public” phase of “Higher Ground: The Campaign for Gardner-Webb University.” The goal is \$45 million, and to date more than \$30 million has been raised.

“Higher Ground” is an appropriate name for our campaign and our aspirations. First, we believe that Gardner-Webb already occupies a place on higher ground in higher education. This is a place occupied by those few institutions that value and truly embody three vital traits: genuine Christian foundation and commitment; a comprehensive educational program of excellence; and intellectual freedom. Many colleges and universities embody one, perhaps two, but notwithstanding catchy slogans and tag lines, few genuinely embody all three.

Also found on that higher ground is a commitment to a higher purpose. We believe that the impact of the Gardner-Webb experience reaches beyond the bounds of the campus and endures long past graduation, that this educational experience is not an end in itself but a means to an even greater end—the sending forth of graduates who will have a positive impact on the world, “For God and Humanity.”

The immediate meaning of our campaign’s name is higher ground in the quality of the whole educational experience for our students, and in the stature of Gardner-Webb University. The success of “Higher Ground” will support a host of programs we call the “Spirit of Gardner-Webb.” It will provide scholarship support for students and enhance great experiences like study abroad, undergraduate research, and several others. It will support faculty in several ways, and it will enhance our campus with great new facilities such as the wonderful Tucker Student Center.

I invite you to join us in the climb to Higher Ground. The view from there will be spectacular!

In God’s Service,



Dr. A. Frank Bonner
President Gardner-Webb University

LIVING HISTORY COMES TO GWU

Little Rock Nine Member Carlotta Walls LaNier Delivered Strong Message to GWU

Written By Collyn Warner

In 1957, nine students struggled to attend Little Rock Central High School (LRCHS) in Arkansas. Life of the Scholar (LOTS) committee member and Alpha Chi (AX) faculty advisor June Hobbs, who helped bring one of the Nine to GWU, stated, "The child who was spat on, abused, and tormented is now a hero, a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor."

Carlotta Walls LaNier, the Nine's youngest member, addressed the GWU community with a book reading and public interview. LaNier's charge came across clearly, "I would like for each and every one of you to get to know who you are. You can help change take place."

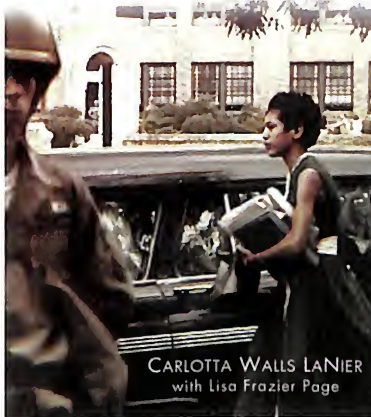
Ashleigh Blue, GWU's AX chapter president, remarked, "I still am having trouble getting over the fact that this woman, who changed how America looks and behaves today, was speaking in our auditorium."

FOREWORD BY PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

A MIGHTY LONG WAY

My Journey to Justice

at Little Rock Central High School



LaNier read from her memoir "A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School." She described her schoolmates: those who made life horrible, those who seemed sympathetic, those who were silent, and a small group who was cordial. "You take what you have, make the best of it, and take it to the next level," LaNier reflected.

However, the most tearful day in LaNier's education came when her house was bombed, making her the first American female black student victim due to integration. The auditorium grew silent and tears welled in people's eyes as shock overcame the audience. With police pressured to place blame, they arrested Herbert Monts, her childhood friend and neighbor, who she deemed innocent. LaNier explained, "I was determined to vindicate him with this book."

"She encouraged us to exercise the voice that we have," recalled Blue. "When we are passionate about something, then we should do something about it." One of LaNier's goals was to inspire students not to be silent like most of her schoolmates. Following an interview with LaNier, Hobbs

said, "We'll be drinking from wells you've dug for a long time."



Carlotta Walls LaNier talking to GWU students

GARDNER-WEBB DEDICATES JACK PARTAIN ROSE PAVILION



Gardner-Webb University paid tribute to the late Dr. Jack Partain, the man known on campus as the "Keeper of the Rose Garden," during a dedication and ribbon cutting at the rose pavilion. The area will now be known as the Partain Rose Pavilion.

Partain passed away on Aug. 3 in Shelby, N.C. at the age of 77. He served as a full-time professor of religious studies from 1983-1998, and later as an adjunct through 2008. In 1996, Partain

was awarded the Fleming-White Award for Excellence in Teaching and the national Templeton Foundation Award. Before coming to GWU, Partain served as pastor at various churches in North Carolina and Virginia. Prior to that, Partain and his wife, Ruth, dedicated 15 years of their lives as missionaries in Africa.

Guest speakers at the dedication described Partain as a gifted teacher, a concerned citizen, someone who sought fellowship, and of course, a master gardener as made evident by the rose garden.

Will Partain, Jack's son, brought laughs to the audience when he mentioned it was always easy to know when his father was tending



to the roses because his old pickup truck would be parked by the garden, and he would be seen wearing a straw hat. Partain took a more serious tone when he said, "Intelligence, morals, and wisdom were principles of how Dad lived and were applied to his studies, people, and the garden."

Dr. Frank Bonner, president of GWU, described Partain as a teacher who made a significant impact in the lives of his students. "Students were empowered and influenced. I believe their experience with Jack helped to strengthen their Christianity. His tending to roses went hand in hand with his tending to young minds," said Bonner.

"Just like in Rotary, service above self was Jack," said Elizabeth Pack, GWU assistant to the Dean for College of Adult and Continuing Education and president of the Boiling Springs Rotary Club.

"His legacy will continue to inspire."

GWU SHATTERS ENROLLMENT RECORDS WITH OVER 4,300 STUDENTS



Gardner-Webb University officials announced a milestone in the institution's history during the fall semester, revealing record-breaking enrollment exceeding the 4,300-student mark. The figure also represents unprecedented numbers in areas including the largest freshmen class at 470 students.

This year's total of 4,338 undergraduate and graduate students is a 10.55 percent increase from last year's fall enrollment of 3,924 total students. Reaching the 4,300 plateau means the University has grown by nearly 1,000 students since 2000. Gardner-Webb reached the 2,000 mark in 1992, increasing to 3,000 students by 1997.

Numbers during the fall semester indicated that there were records also in the traditional day program (1,727 students), BSN Statesville program (168 students), the Graduate School (526 students), the Master of Science in Nursing (128 students), and the fastest growing program on campus: the Doctor of Education (170 students).

In three years, the Doctor of Education has nearly tripled in size (62 students in 2007).

Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner said that enrollment has influenced every aspect of campus life through additional buildings, university enhancements, and facility and program improvements.

"We have built a new residence hall each of the last two years and will be building another new one sooner than originally expected," said President Bonner. "We completed the new John Henry Moss Stadium and the new Bridges Gate and Tower on Stadium Drive, as well as major improvements to Stadium Drive. Significant renovations were also done in the library; there are new pews and carpet in the chapel; there is new landscaping in front of Lindsay and Elliott Halls, and students have welcomed the new Chick-fil-A in the Dover Campus Center."

GARDNER-WEBB CELEBRATES DEDICATION OF JOHN HENRY MOSS STADIUM

Gardner-Webb University unveiled a new stadium that will carry on the American tradition and the name of a man who was dedicated to giving back to his community. GWU held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the new John Henry Moss Baseball Stadium and Bill Masters Field during the fall.

The event included an official ribbon cutting at the Hamrick Family Gate (the official entrance to Moss Stadium), named in honor of the Maxwell Hamrick Family of Boiling Springs. That was followed by a dedication ceremony on home plate of Masters Field (named in honor of Bill Masters, longtime GWU supporter).

John Henry Moss, a native of Kings Mountain, N.C., who passed away in 2009, was a driving force in the sport of baseball during his lifetime, including 50 years as president of the South Atlantic League. Moss became the youngest person elected president of a professional baseball league with the Western Carolina League in 1948. Through the years, Moss accumulated countless regional and national awards and recognitions.





The event concluded when Masters Field came alive during a baseball game featuring GWU Baseball Alumni against members of the current GWU Baseball Team. The GWU Baseball team will host Appalachian State in its home opener at Moss Stadium on Feb. 22 at 3:00 p.m. More information about Moss Stadium and additional naming opportunities are available through Woody Fish at 704-406-4254.

EXHIBIT TELLS THE STORY OF HURRICANE KATRINA THROUGH PICTURES

Gardner-Webb University's Department of Communication Studies and the Department of Fine Arts/Visual Arts Division presented a nationally traveling exhibit featuring photographs from the Hurricane Katrina disaster. The exhibit, "Telling Their Stories: The Lingering Legacy of the Katrina Photographs," was on display during the fall.

Instrumental in helping to bring this exhibit to GWU was current President of the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) Dr. Bob Carey, who also serves as chair of the GWU Department of Communication Studies. The NPPA organized the show, which was curated and opened at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, La. on the fifth anniversary of Katrina. The Gardner-Webb exhibit featured nearly three-dozen images, many of which won international awards. There were 600 images in all before being narrowed down for the exhibitions.

The photos are compelling images of the disaster as shot by photojournalists from the Gulf Coast and beyond. "Photojournalists involved in this project were documenting a historical event that captured not only the hearts of Americans, but the world. Some images are difficult to look at, but it reinforces the role of photojournalists in telling the stories of people who are so often voiceless," said Carey.

The exhibit was even documented during a segment on NBC Nightly News with Anchor Brian Williams. Williams said, "It was one of the most comprehensive exhibits of the photos taken during the Katrina disaster... A lot of them are those searing images that are just impossible to forget."

During the chaos and tragedy of Katrina, GWU faculty, staff and students were active members of numerous disaster relief teams including the North Carolina Baptist Men during "Operation Mud Out and Clean-Up."



Sept. 3, 2005 | New Orleans, LA.
By Eric Gay : The Associated Press

GARDNER-WEBB LIVES UP TO MOTTO "FOR GOD AND HUMANITY"

It's no secret that Gardner-Webb University believes in and promotes volunteerism. An example of that was this year's faculty and staff United Way Campaign. The University set a United Way Campaign goal for 50% participation and \$40,000 in funds. Faculty and staff broke that goal, and previous records, by donating \$47,036.32 at a 52% participation rate, living up to the University's motto, "For God and Humanity." Last year, the GWU campaign raised just over \$39,000 at a 43% participation rate.

The United Way of Cleveland County funds service over 39 local human care providers for 27 partner agencies. Those agencies include the Abuse Prevention Council, Children's Home of Cleveland County, and the Salvation Army. These hard economic times are requiring a greater demand for services in the areas of healthcare, education, and self-sufficiency.

Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner said that as a community partner, the University invests in what matters. "Here at Gardner-Webb, we are committed to making long-lasting changes to our communities. Our collective donations to the United Way change lives and help to address many of our region's most complex issues," said Bonner. "Gardner-Webb people have always been caring and generous, and I am confident that the tradition will continue."

President and Chief Executive Officer for the United Way of Cleveland County, Bill Hooker, said he is very proud of Gardner-Webb's stance when it comes to support. "In the nation, as a whole, we (Cleveland County) are leaders in giving as a community, and Gardner-Webb stands as a leader among leaders. Gardner-Webb is ninth in the entire nation of highest per capita giving for Universities," said Hooker.

Hooker commended the United Way campaign as a way to give back by supporting the community. As an example, Hooker said, "Someone's gift might help a less fortunate child. Perhaps that child was abused and removed from a bad home. Through a donation, they could get a second chance at life."



RON RASH FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

GWU Celebrates Southern Appalachian Culture

By Collyn Warner

"It's important to celebrate uniqueness," stated Dr. Gayle Price, associate provost for schools at Gardner-Webb University. "Who can say what American culture is? We truly are a patchwork quilt of cultures."

Born from Life of the Scholar meetings, the Southern Appalachian Cultural Series debuted its first event, The Ron Rash Festival, last fall. The celebration invited people to experience Southern Appalachian culture—one patch in the American quilt.

The festival's literary events discussed and featured Rash, an award-winning author, who writes about Appalachian culture. Rash has won a host of awards for his work, including the NEA Poetry Fellowship, the Sherwood Anderson Prize, an O. Henry Award, the James Still Award, and the Frank O'Connor award. His novels, "Serena" and "Chemistry," were finalists for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

For Rash, location is important in writing and life: "I think for me, landscape is a character," he recounts. "I have vivid memories of my grandfather, who couldn't read or write... He taught me language can be magical." Carrying this notion about language, he attended GWU for a bachelor's degree in English.

During the festival, sounds of stringed instruments filled the campus with live music. Dr. Nancy Bottoms, English and art professor, spoke about the livelihood of the Southern Appalachian people, "These are people who live with breathtaking beauty and soul-breaking poverty, and from them come the color of quilts and the expressive sounds of fiddle and banjo."

The Festival also featured book readings, literary seminars, group discussions, and a writer's roundtable.

The element of Appalachia resonated loudly throughout the University's campus, welcoming several hundred people to GWU. The festival's fabrics wove together to make a beautiful patch, representing a single one in our country's unique quilt.



Ron Rash

GWU NURSE NAMED TO NORTH CAROLINA'S BEST

Candice Rome, Gardner-Webb University instructor for Maternal/Child Health, was honored in September as one of the best nursing students in North Carolina. She is only one of two recipients in the doctoral section of The Great 100 Scholarship Program, a "grassroots peer recognition organization honoring the nursing profession in North Carolina."

"Candice Rome is an extraordinary student and very deserving of this honor. She is both academically and professionally gifted," said Rebecca Beck-Little, dean of the GWU School of Nursing. Rome graduated with her Master of Science in nursing degree and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree at GWU.

When not instructing undergraduates at GWU, Rome is occupied with nursing. She has worked at Cleveland Regional Medical Center in the medical-surgical unit as a registered nurse from 2002-2004, and has since worked in the women and children's unit.

"I was extremely honored and excited to receive the Great 100 Scholarship to assist in the completion of my doctoral degree," Rome reflects.

Rome attended the Great 100 Scholarship Program gala in Greensboro, N.C. which honored 100 scholarship recipients who have proven their dedication to nursing.



Candice Rome

A LEADER HONORED

Dr. Gerald Keown Named to Bob D. Shepherd Chair of Biblical Studies

Gardner-Webb University announced the appointment of Dr. Gerald Keown to the Bob D. Shepherd Chair of Biblical Studies for the School of Divinity. Keown has served at the Divinity School since 1996 as professor of Old Testament Interpretation and was named associate dean of the school in 2006.

"The installation of Dr. Gerald Keown to the Bob D. Shepherd Chair of Biblical Studies is an expression of the School of Divinity's deep appreciation and respect for Dr. Keown as a scholar, teacher, and churchman. His passion and enthusiasm for the Hebrew Bible is contagious to anyone who hears him teach or preach," noted School of Divinity Dean Dr. Robert Canoy.

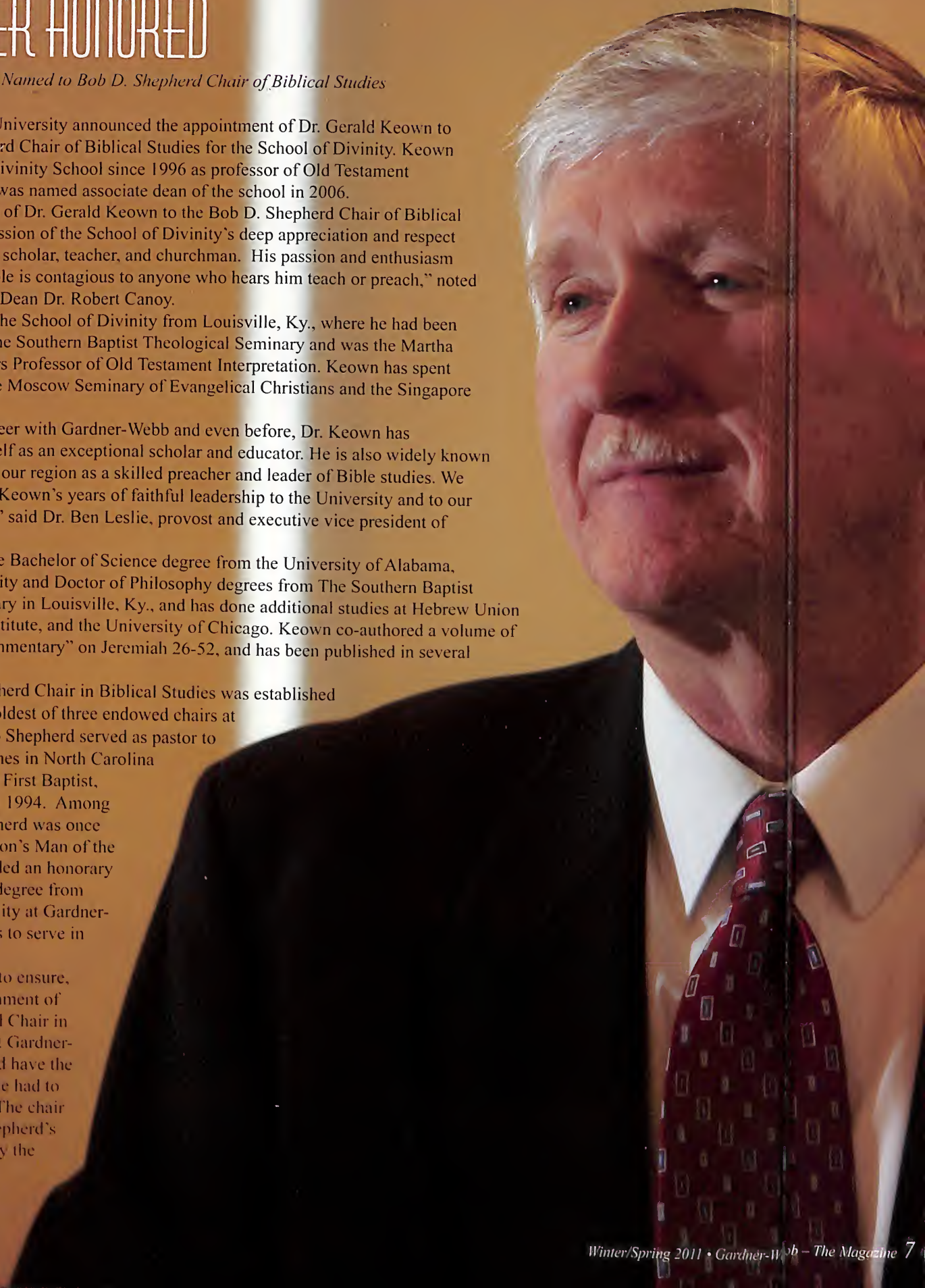
Keown came to the School of Divinity from Louisville, Ky., where he had been on the faculty of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was the Martha and Talmage Rogers Professor of Old Testament Interpretation. Keown has spent time teaching in the Moscow Seminary of Evangelical Christians and the Singapore Baptist Seminary.

"Through his career with Gardner-Webb and even before, Dr. Keown has distinguished himself as an exceptional scholar and educator. He is also widely known in congregations in our region as a skilled preacher and leader of Bible studies. We are grateful for Dr. Keown's years of faithful leadership to the University and to our School of Divinity," said Dr. Ben Leslie, provost and executive vice president of Gardner-Webb.

Keown earned the Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alabama, the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and has done additional studies at Hebrew Union College, Goethe Institute, and the University of Chicago. Keown co-authored a volume of "Word Biblical Commentary" on Jeremiah 26-52, and has been published in several books and journals.

The Bob D. Shepherd Chair in Biblical Studies was established in 1998, and is the oldest of three endowed chairs at Gardner-Webb. Bob Shepherd served as pastor to many Baptist churches in North Carolina before retiring from First Baptist, Morganton, N.C., in 1994. Among many awards, Shepherd was once honored as Morganton's Man of the Year, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Ministry degree from The School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb. He continues to serve in interim pastorates.

Shepherd wanted to ensure, through the establishment of the Bob D. Shepherd Chair in Biblical Studies, that Gardner-Webb students would have the same opportunities he had to study and to serve. The chair was endowed by Shepherd's family, friends and by the churches he served.



\$45 Million



HIGHER GROUND
The Campaign for Gardner-Webb University

Gardner-Webb University Launches \$45 Million Capital Campaign

By Noel T. Manning

Higher Ground Campaign to Impact Students, Faculty and Facilities



Dr. Bonner

\$45 million dollars.

That is the goal for the Gardner-Webb University Higher Ground Campaign, which went public on Nov. 11 at a gala celebration. This campaign will raise money for student scholarships, faculty development, buildings, service learning and several other university needs.

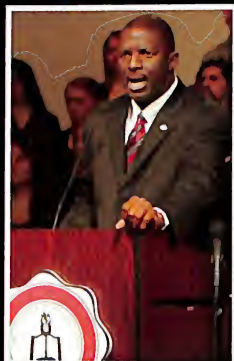
The highlight of the day was the announcement that \$33 million has already been raised toward the Higher Ground Campaign goal. These funds were secured during the 4-year "leader-phase" of the campaign, which began in July 2006.

"The resources required to accomplish this exciting vision will be immense. With your assistance and God's blessings, we will achieve an audacious goal of \$45 million dollars to enhance the spirit of Gardner-Webb, enhance our incredible campus, continue to build our faculty, and attract first-rate students to our campus. This we can do... will do," said GWU President Frank Bonner during the announcement.

At the Nov. 11 kickoff, a host of activities were featured throughout the day, beginning with a campus-wide praise and prayer service and coffee reception honoring GWU President Frank Bonner on his five years of presidential service. The University also hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Tucker Student Center, a guest lecture from Dr. Chuck Wall, founder and president of Kindness USA, and a celebration dance featuring the Band of Oz.

The Campaign announcement included student representatives, university donors, Board of Trustee members, a campaign video, and live music from the GWU Orchestra. Paying tribute to its rich history while charting ambitious goals for the future, Gardner-Webb University outlined its vision for the largest capital campaign in the University's history.

The foundation for the Higher Ground Campaign is rooted in the University's strategic plan. This plan focuses on strengthening the Christian foundation of the University, strengthening the academic program, becoming a true student-centered university, maintaining a reputable and competitive athletic program, maintaining a culture of service, and building supportive relationships and new facilities.



"Higher Ground is about sharpening our identity, and advancing Gardner-Webb's mission of educational service as we share that identity with the world. We'll need resources to reach these new peaks: your financial support, your involvement, and, of course, your prayers," said Bonner.

The Higher Ground Campaign will seek the support of alumni, parents, trustees and friends of Gardner-Webb, as well as local and national corporations, foundations, and business leaders.

"Giving to Gardner-Webb is a great investment. If you want to support a Christian educational opportunity, Gardner-Webb is the right place," said Campaign Chair, John Godbold. "We want Gardner-Webb to be an elite Christian university, and it will be."

The University has experienced tremendous growth over the past several years with new facilities, record enrollments and historic gifts from donors. But Bonner feels the best is yet to come: "The potential has never been greater, the vision has never been clearer, and the future has never been brighter."

To get more information or to get involved in the Higher Ground Campaign, call 704-406-4250.



REACHING HIGHER GROUND: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Higher Ground is about advancing to levels never before attempted at Gardner-Webb. To reach these goals, the University will need an unparalleled amount of support from friends of Gardner-Webb. The following thoughts (and fundraising goals) about the Higher Ground campaign and the GWU experience offer a foundation for that support.

The silent phase of the Higher Ground Campaign began in 2006, but it hasn't been real silent. It's come on with a bang. We are now in the formal or public stage of the campaign, and everybody can help. We have set a goal of \$45 million.

The money we are raising will elevate the level of Gardner-Webb. It will be used for various needs, especially those of our faculty and our students. We are hoping to raise funds for scholarships, and we also are working toward enhancing facilities. We've got the new baseball stadium, and the new Tucker Student Center will also become a reality.

Why would you give to Gardner Webb? The old saying is 'it is better to give than to receive.' That's a true statement; it gives you such a great feeling to do that.

Gardner-Webb is on a roll, and if you want to support an opportunity to further education under the Christian flag, Gardner-Webb is the right place to do that."

- John Godbold, Higher Ground Campaign Chair



"I think we are in a great spot. Shakespeare said, 'There is a tide in the affairs of men and if that tide is taken at it's fullest, it will lead to fortune.' I think the tide is here now at Gardner-Webb. It is a full tide, and we are taking advantage of that. We have everything in place now to move on to make the future even brighter than it has been in the past.

This effort will satisfy some real needs that are here on campus. In addition to satisfying those important needs, it brings a new kind of energy and enthusiasm to what is happening on campus.

Donors are always interested in giving to things and activities that are well established, and of course Gardner-Webb has been here doing great work for more than 100 years. I think there is a growing number of people who have given a lot of thought to Christian higher education, what it means and why it matters, and those people would be particularly eager to be a part of what's happening here."

- C. Lorange Henderson, Chair of the Board of Trustees

"The grace of giving began over a hundred years ago for Gardner-Webb University when two Baptist associations had a vision for a place where students could obtain a Christian education. I have observed that many times we give in faith and later receive confirmation that it was God's will. Because of our association with Gardner-Webb University we see over and over that God uses this institution to change lives. We have our confirmation.

How blessed we are to be a part of a university that confesses Jesus and strives to be obedient to his commands. I thank all of you from Dr. Bonner and the others who lead, to the professors and all who labor here. You have made a difference. You have been obedient to God and He has placed His hand of blessing here. A major part of our family's confidence in Gardner-Webb University is rooted in the trust that under the leadership of Dr. Frank Bonner, this University will not compromise its Christian standards.

Bob, my husband, and I have a philosophy of giving. In short, the guidelines must follow these commands, 'Love God, love your neighbor, and go and make disciples.' Don't you agree that Gardner-Webb University fulfills all three?"

- Carolyn Tucker, Long-time friend and donor to Gardner-Webb



"One of the purposes for our God-given resources is to support causes and undertakings that we believe in, that are consistent with our values and our principles. I think each of us, as we are able, should support our church and its missions, should seek to help people, particularly people in need, and should support causes we believe in, causes that we think make a difference in the world. Other than the church and its missions, I don't know of any cause that has a greater potential than Christian higher education. The impact of Christian higher education is exponential as we are indeed preparing students to make a difference in the world. I think there are many people who believe in that, in the ultimate purpose of Christian higher education. If we can inform them of it and help them to understand it, I believe they will be excited and supportive of it.

It is who our graduates are, what they do, how they succeed and what they accomplish that are the measure of a great university. That's the way I want us to be measured. I think that we will really come to be regarded as one of the very finest Christian universities in the United States."

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

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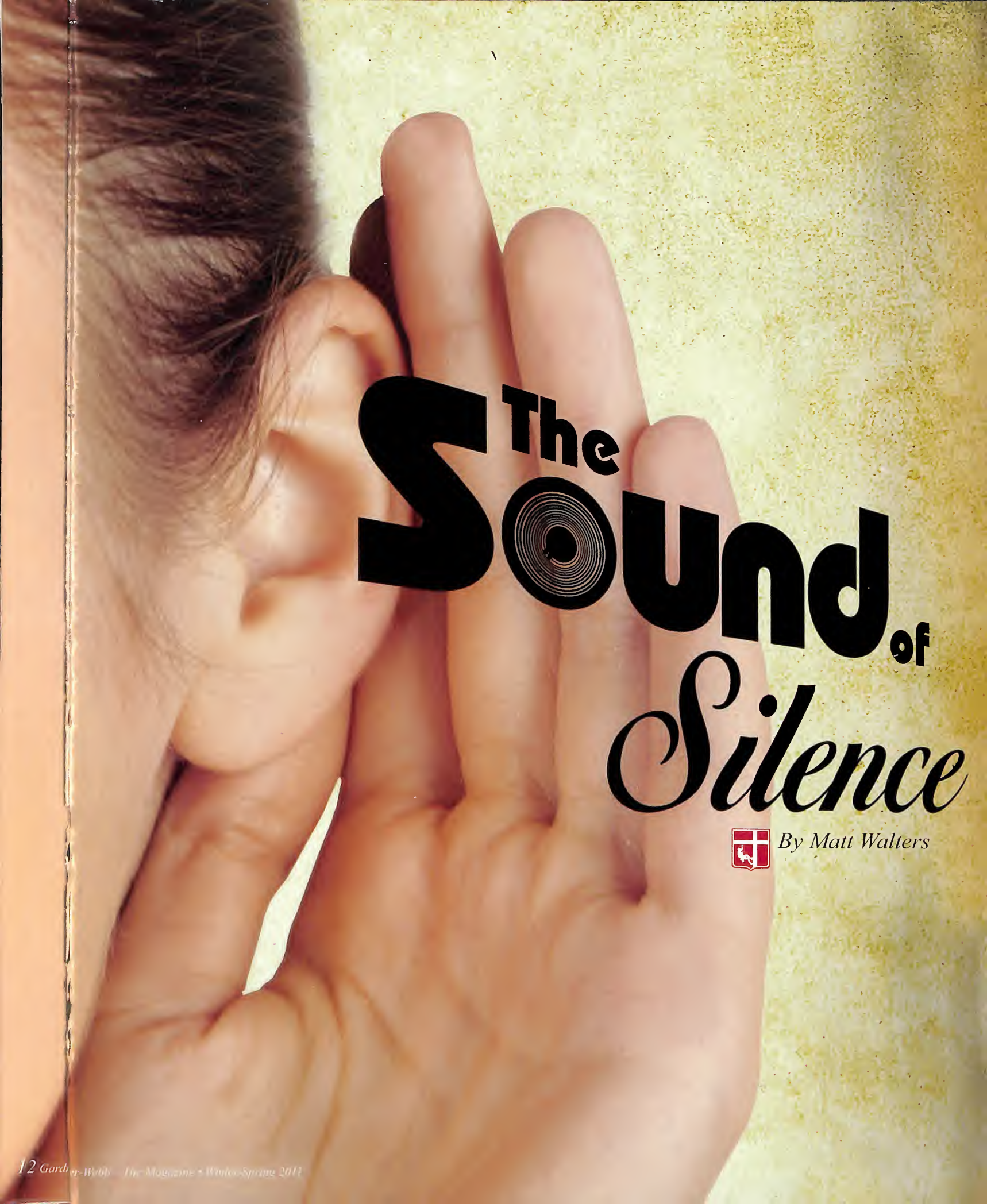
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The **SO**und of *Silence*



By Matt Walters



Sharon Decker

nurtured every day. I think that's why God has called me into this niche."

Decker admits that her niche itself might seem a bit unlikely, especially for the "biggest type-A ever." "My life proves that God has a sense of humor," said Decker. "I particularly feel called to speak about the importance of stillness in our spiritual journey. I teach meditation practices, prayer practices, helping people slow down enough to hear God in their lives." Convinced of this call, Decker boldly left her career with Tanner five years ago to serve for two years as a Presbyterian lay pastor in the Rutherford parish, despite gasps and exclamations of disbelief from friends and coworkers. She then founded the Tapestry Group, a ministry whose name reflects Decker's unique mission.

"Most of us fall into this pattern," said Decker, "where our spiritual growth happens as an attachment to our life, rather than as an integrated part of it. The ministry is 'Tapestry,' because it's about weaving our faith into our daily lives."

Decker's Tapestry Group has blossomed into a variety of opportunities to share her message with others. She co-hosts a weekly radio show called "The Satisfied Life" with Ramona Holloway and Pam Stone, a faith-based show reaching people for Christ on Charlotte's 107.9 "The Link," WLNK, offering her "Weekly Word" devotionals during every segment and encouraging her listeners and her co-hosts alike with Christ's love.

"I consider Sharon my spiritual mentor," said Holloway. "Her faith shines through in everything she does. Her 'Weekly Word' always makes me think, makes me cry, and in the end, encourages me to forgive, to love and to serve. If her reflections do as much for our listeners as they do for me, then we are definitely doing God's work with our show."

Decker travels frequently for the Tapestry Group to speak about the importance of stillness, of slowing down to invest in our relationships with Christ and to listen to God. She also provides spiritual direction for individuals through a process she calls "holy listening," creating a quiet, safe space where people can hear God and pursue closer relationships with Him.

"I'm not a pastor or a therapist, but I'm a listener," said Decker. "I find that people who are in transitional periods of their lives—in particular, people wrestling with addictions—really benefit from having someone listen to them, help them to grow in intimacy with Christ. My heart really thrills when I can facilitate that process." She has even published her first book and plans to write several more about the importance of spiritual discipline and stillness in everyday life.

Decker sensed God's latest call for her life during an annual week of silent prayer at a nearby abbey, a call to attend seminary that has led her finally to Boiling Springs. She chose Gardner-Webb in order to reconnect with Baptist life and to better understand the importance and relevance of the spiritual disciplines throughout the church's history. In her words, Gardner-Webb has made her "better equipped" to continue a life of ministry, in whatever form that takes.

"Being in this school, where there are so many talented, capable people passionate about their relationships with Christ, really encourages me and gives me hope for the future of the church, a future I'm excited to be a part of," said Decker.

Always eager to grow, Decker plans to pursue her Ph.D., and then listen in silent obedience to whatever assignment God has next. "Whether I go back into corporate life [or] whether I continue doing what I'm doing, I just want to be open to His call, because I know God has a sense of humor, and I also know he has a perfect, beautiful plan."

It's a plan He'll no doubt reveal in a moment of profound silence.



Ramona Hall, Pam Stone, and Sharon Decker



GIVING FROM THE GROUND UP

By Collyn Warner



GWU Students Volunteer for the Cleveland County Potato Project

Hands plunge into reddish-brown soil—staining hands—as workers’ sweat drips onto the ground, nurturing the earth with compassion. These hands pluck up weeds around rows of planted potatoes hiding underground, anticipating being harvested for a great cause.

When eating a meal, people often do not think about all the labor and effort that goes into the food they quickly consume. But for some Gardner-Webb students, faculty, and staff (135 in all), this effort is becoming something they consider. GWU community members have donated time and labor through multiple Saturday morning trips (over 242 hours worth during fall 2010) to help weed and harvest potatoes for the Cleveland County Potato Project.





The Cleveland County Potato Project (CCPP) took root in spring 2010. Cleveland County community members Doug Sharp and Bill Horn brainstormed ways to help Cleveland County with its overwhelming increase in people needing area food bank assistance. Sharp explains that potatoes are a very productive, "commonly enjoyed vegetable" with a long shelf life. Local food agencies, landowners, and community volunteers took interest. Sharp reflects, "It just kind of snowballed" into place.

Community service is an important part of GWU's identity. For GWU community outreach coordinator Stephanie Richey, this project is close to her heart. She believes, "God has created the world as a large community interacting with one another and affecting one another. We should be taking care of each other and providing for each other." Sharp comments that Richey "has done a wonderful job" with connecting GWU and CCPP. Likewise, Richey finds that students enjoy this service project because it allows them an opportunity to get off campus for a few hours while helping others. Even GWU faculty are involved: Dr. Cal Robertson of the Divinity School has made the CCPP a family outing, bringing his sons along to volunteer on multiple occasions.

The CCPP harnesses volunteers' differing abilities. Students have helped plant potatoes in the spring, weed them in late summer, and harvest them in the fall. Richey states, "The potato project gives students an opportunity to be a part of something from the ground up...literally!" Student Ashleigh Blue, an ardent participant in the CCPP, feels that "by contributing your effort, you get a different kind of feeling, like you are actually physically making a difference for someone else in your own county."

Not only is this service project beneficial for the community, but for students as well. For instance, Blue is applying this project directly to her graphic design major. She is building a website for the CCPP and feels it is a "unique opportunity to use the things that I have learned and the specific talents and abilities that I have." Furthermore, all students learn something a textbook cannot teach: genuine appreciation for the basic necessity of food. The project, Richey believes, "teaches students to be less inclined to take food for granted."

In a world that at times feels rushed and chaotic (especially for students trying to cross items off a never-ending to-do list), this project allows participants to slow down and appreciate simple things, like digging in the earth. Furthermore, students realize the connection between their efforts and the end result. Blue poignantly states, "It's humbling to think that working for a few hours on a Saturday is going to provide hundreds of meals."

The CCPP wishes to continue to grow and provide even more potatoes to hungry mouths across the county in successive years. Sharp remarks, "The value of our first year was proving what people can do when they come together." The GWU community will continue collaborating with the CCPP in the future. For further information, or to get involved with this project, visit www.ccpotatoproject.com.



Alive...

With the Sound of Music

Gardner-Webb Concert Choir Makes Historical Breakthrough
The Ensemble Was One of Only Four Groups to Perform at Professional Conference

By Collyn Warner

During the fall semester, the GWU Concert Choir performed at the North Carolina American Choral Directors' Association's (NC-ACDA) Conference at University of North Carolina at Greensboro. This is the first time in GWU history that a choral ensemble was selected to sing at a professional musicians' organizational conference.

"I've enjoyed watching the choir grow from the small group of 20 people to the now 45-member choir that we are," reflects Rosalee Johnson, GWU Concert Choir member. "It was an enjoyable experience, and to be able to perform at such an esteemed conference was an honor to us all."

They were one of only four groups to perform. Dr. Paul Etter, director of choral activities and coordinator of sacred music for GWU Department of Fine Arts, explains, "The biggest challenge was that we had to perform at a very high level three weeks after school started."

Given this new and different opportunity, Etter brought his 45 singers and accompanist Timothy Scruggs (GWU alumnus) to Greensboro. The NC-ACDA consists of over 500 choral musicians, from myriad musical backgrounds. Sophomore Amelia Bolick states, "I really enjoyed getting to perform at a state conference for people who really know choral music. They knew whether we were good or not, so it was a good measure of how our work paid off."

The ensemble performed music mainly from renaissance to contemporary time periods. Etter believes, "I'm not sure we could have done much better than we did." Furthermore, the audience appreciated the performance and Etter remarks, "We had several directors come and congratulate us on our performance."

The Concert Choir is preparing for a big year. Aside from performances at GWU and in the community, they will travel to Ireland in March to sing at churches while doing mission work.



Annual Choral Clinic is Music to the (Y)ears

By Paul Foster

For years, students have been inspired to come to Gardner-Webb thanks to the annual choral clinic. The fall of 2010 marked the 33rd Annual Choral Clinic and Concert, presented by the Department of Fine Arts. Nearly 200 high school students, representing 19 schools from both Carolinas, participated in the day-long event that culminated with a concert featuring various GWU choirs. Dr. Paul Etter, director of choral activities and coordinator of sacred music for the GWU Department of Fine Arts, explained how the clinic is organized each year. "High Schools are invited to bring up to eight students (10th-12th graders) to our campus. Students and their teachers spend time learning, and hearing our choirs perform, and get to work closely with a guest clinician." This year's guest clinician was world-renowned

"I have observed the clinic grow into one of the best we have in the Carolinas."

Choral Conductor, Dr. Rollo Dilworth of Temple University. Dilworth, an award-winning composer, has performed around the world and has written over 150 choral works. Dilworth has taught choral music at the elementary, secondary, and university levels. He is also a contributing author for numerous textbooks and music magazines. Etter said Dilworth offered a unique opportunity to students and teachers. "The energy of Dilworth from his preparation method, of warming up the voice with students, to one on one time with teachers, brought out the best in participants," said Etter.

Etter says the clinic opens numerous doors for these high school students. "This event makes a way for high school students to step on campus and for Gardner-Webb to be showcased." As an example, Ann Goss, choral director at Burns High School for the past 23 years, has attended numerous clinics. "I have observed the clinic grow into one of the best we have in the Carolinas. It affords my students a chance to work locally with a renowned choral director, composer and arranger, in a setting usually unattainable in the regular classroom," said Goss. Two former Burns choral students, Kyle Murphy and Johnathan Buff, both of whom participated in the clinic as high school students, are now GWU students and concert choir members. "After participating, I chose to include Gardner-Webb in my list of applications for college. The experience helped me to determine that I would like further study of music at the college level," said Surratt.

When all is said and done, the GWU Choral Clinic is about much more than just the music.

GWU ATHLETICS

The Gardner-Webb University Athletics Hall of Fame is designed to honor leaders, athletes, coaches and builders of the Gardner-Webb athletic program on an annual basis. It is also intended to preserve the historical and outstanding contributions made to the University's athletic program by participants. Gardner-Webb has been honoring Hall of Fame inductees since 1991. In this year's annual Hall of Fame ceremony, Gardner-Webb inducted five members. 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-Yelton Convocation Center. The following inductees earned their way into this year's hall:



RAYMOND JENNINGS - FOOTBALL 1990-1993

Raymond Jennings was a four-year standout for the Runnin' Bulldogs, and remains one of the top linebackers to suit up in Boiling Springs. Jennings finished his career with 379 total tackles, the fifth-best mark in school history. Jennings also ranks eighth in Gardner-Webb history with 18 quarterback sacks and ninth with 34 tackles for loss. The Pacolet, S.C. native anchored arguably the most dominant defense to patrol Spangler Stadium as a junior in 1992, registering 152 total tackles, earning NAIA first-team All-America honors and leading the Runnin' Bulldogs to a 12-2 finish, a South Atlantic Conference title and a berth in the NAIA National Championship Bowl. The 1992 Gardner-Webb defense forced 62 turnovers and scored nine touchdowns on returns, while allowing just 285 total yards per game. Jennings' 152 tackles remains the second-best effort for a single season in Gardner-Webb history.



SAMMY PRUETT - BASEBALL 1998-2000

Sammy Pruett put together one of the finest careers in the storied history of Gardner-Webb baseball, capping his three seasons with a trip to the NCAA Division II World Series in Montgomery, Ala. Pruett ranks second in Gardner-Webb history with a .363 career batting average and is the all-time leader in slugging percentage (.638), on-base percentage (.429), home runs (38) and RBI (184). The former RS Central (N.C.) High star ranks among the top five in eight career offensive categories, and finished his career ranked third with a solid .988 fielding percentage in 1,051 chances at first base. As a senior in 2000, Pruett earned NCAA Division II All-America honors after batting .374 with 95 hits, a school-record 16 home runs and 87 RBI, leading GWU to a 44-21 record and the Division II World Series. Pruett also earned first-team All-South Atlantic Conference honors at first base in 2000 and was named SAC Co-Player of the Year. He was named second-team All-SAC in 1999 after batting .330 with 12 home runs and 55 RBI and leading GWU to a 35-20 record. He also earned second-team All-SAC honors in 1998 after batting a career-high .384 with 10 home runs, 17 doubles and 42 RBI.

HALL OF FAME



KEN REID - FOOTBALL 1969-1973

Ken Reid proved to be a trailblazer in Gardner-Webb's football history, establishing himself as a dangerous receiver during an era that saw the passing game take a back seat to the run. Reid was a true weapon for the Runnin' Bulldogs, hauling in 109 passes for 1,932 yards and 12 touchdowns from 1970-1973. He was the first player in school history to catch 100 passes in a career, and remains first in school history with an impressive career average of 17.7 yards per catch. Reid's impact is evident by the fact that he also remains eighth in the GWU record book in career yardage, ninth in career receiving touchdowns, and 14th in career receptions. He is the only Gardner-Webb player who played his entire career in the 1970s to rank in the top 25 in those categories. A standout effort in 1970 saw Reid catch 37 passes for 732 yards (19.9 yards per carry) and a career-high eight touchdowns. He hauled in 43 passes for 727 yards and two scores as a junior in 1972 and finished with 27 catches in 1973, leading the team in receptions three times in four seasons.



KATHY SMITH BROOKS - VOLLEYBALL 1994-1997

(*First volleyball player to be inducted into Hall of Fame at GWU)

Kathy Smith Brooks completed her career at Gardner-Webb as one of the best ever to step on the court in the sport of volleyball, powering the Runnin' Bulldogs to 58 wins in her final two seasons. Smith was the first player in GWU volleyball history to earn first-team All-South Atlantic Conference honor twice, and finished her four seasons with over 800 kills and 400 blocks. As a junior in 1996, she was named Gardner-Webb's Female Student-Athlete of the Year and led the South Atlantic Conference in blocks per game (2.11). That season, she led GWU to a 27-10 finish, an 11-3 league mark and a second-place finish in the regular season standings. As a senior in 1997, the Lincolnton, N.C., native was the strength of a team that finished 31-7 overall, posted a 13-1 conference record and won both the SAC regular season and tournament titles. She also paced the league with a .355 hitting percentage. A testament to her impact on the program, Gardner-Webb had only one season in its history with more than 11 wins before Smith's arrival on campus.



LONNIE PROCTOR - MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Proctor taught at Gardner-Webb from 1969 until 1992, and during her time made a profound impact on the area as a proponent of the Special Olympics. Proctor's influence saw thousands of Gardner-Webb students and Special Olympians impacted, earning her the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 1992 and the Jefferson Award in 1989. Proctor also excelled as an athlete in the Senior Games, bringing home countless medals in a wide variety of events. She was also inducted into the Cleveland County Sports Hall of Fame in 1992.





Scenic Impressions

"Even in the winter, in the midst of the storm, the sun is still there. Somewhere above the clouds, it still shines and warms and pulls at the life buried deep inside the brown branches and frozen earth."

- Gloria Guitler

This section is devoted to the beauty of our camps.



REDISCOVERING HISTORY

By Collyn Warner

Bruce Bowers '68 Blue Ridge Parkway Documentary Uncovers Secret Deal

Each year, countless people delight in a scenic drive or hike through the Blue Ridge Parkway. But for one Gardner-Webb alumnus, "America's Favorite Drive" encapsulates more than a beautiful view. It contains a history to be studied through people's rich stories.

To show this history, filmmaker Bruce Bowers '68 laboriously crafted an historical documentary entitled "The Blue Ridge Parkway: A Long & Winding Road," revealing groundbreaking and controversial information about the seemingly peaceful parkway.

In preparation for the hour-long documentary, Bowers spent countless time gathering research, interviews, insight, and observations from people who lived near the Blue Ridge Parkway roughly around 1935. That was the year construction began as a result of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal effort to bolster employment. On a telephone interview with N.C. Judge Richard Doughton for the documentary, Bowers heard him mumble something about N.C. Congressman Rufus Doughton, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and a secret presidential deal.

This utterance sparked a fire within Bowers, prompting him to inquire further and investigate what could be breaking news. His findings uncovered a clandestine deal between Congressman Doughton and President Roosevelt that altered the physical course of the parkway. This political bargain required Congressman Doughton's support for the Social Security Act in exchange for President Roosevelt's designation of increased land in North Carolina for the Blue Ridge Parkway. The deal altered the parkway's appropriation in North Carolina and Tennessee, entirely bypassing the latter. Interviewing people individually, Bowers pieced together this secret deal and "got something that the history books missed."

The documentary also provides in-depth study of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians during the parkway's construction and their relocation process. Bowers interviewed several Cherokee Indians, including two GWU alumni. Faren Sanders Crews, '69 alumna and artist, served as the Eastern Band Cherokee tribal consultant for the documentary. Cherokee historian and storyteller, '68 Alumnus Freeman Owle, also contributed to the documentary. Furthermore, their culture ripples throughout the documentary with Cherokee Indians performing river cane flute music for the soundtrack.

Yet, breaking a news story is nothing new to Bowers, a skill first honed at Gardner-Webb University, where he served as editor of the student newspaper, *The Pilot*. As a first-generation college student involved in the theatre program, Bowers remembers GWU as "nurturing."

After completing his bachelor's degree in journalism at UNC-Chapel Hill, Bowers launched a successful broadcast journalism career with Charlotte, N.C. radio and television, including stints at WBTV and WSOC-TV. Throughout the years, Bowers has won national awards for his work, but this latest documentary was a labor of love. Having grown up in western North Carolina close to the people he's interviewed, Bowers has found the experience to be more than a job. "It is very personal for me, in many respects," he states.

Bowers unknowingly began preliminary work for his documentary in the 1960s during the many family outings he attended in the Blue Ridge Parkway. Resonating a sense of home, he pours his heart into learning more about the "salt of the earth" people he interviews. Ironically, one of the interview locations was his own grandparents' log cabin, where Bowers occasionally spent the night as a child.

"The Blue Ridge Parkway: A Long & Winding Road" ran on public broadcasting throughout the fall on the crest of the parkway's 75th anniversary celebration. It aired in nearly a dozen states nation-wide from the Carolinas to California. Bowers also travelled to numerous public screenings of the documentary, including one in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Not only has Bowers created an historical documentary about the parkway, he has honored the nature around him in an everlasting manner. Just as Bowers found GWU to be "nurturing" as a student, he now provides care to the parkway, crafting a history resonating with truth and reflection.



Bruce Bowers

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A GREAT UNDERTAKING



Heather Adams

In one of Heather Adams's favorite books, "The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade," the author Thomas Lynch writes about his profession: "...undertakings are the things we do to vest the lives we lead against the cold, the meaningless, the void, the noisy blather, and the blinding dark. It is the voice we give to wonderment, to pain, to love and desire, anger and outrage; the words that we shape into song and prayer."

For most readers, passages like this are merely literary catalysts for meditation about the ultimate significance of our lives, the extremes of human experience, and the staggering (and, hopefully, not-too-pressing) reality of death. For Adams, a 2010 GWU graduate now studying to become a licensed funeral home director, this passage represents so much more—a glimpse into a unique calling that she considers the highest honor.

As she puts it, Adams arrived on campus as a sophomore in the fall of 2008 with "a lot of questions, a lot of thoughts rolling around and desperately in need of closure."

That summer, she had volunteered as primary caretaker for fiancé (then boyfriend) Ben Burton's grandmother, whose body was failing during her fourth bout with breast cancer. "I asked to help," Adams said, "so Ben's family worked me into the schedule of people staying with her, and she and I just spent the summer bonding. That summer, she became my grandmother too." Just before the start of the fall semester, her friend and adopted grandmother passed away, and Adams was shaken.

"Ben's grandmother's passing was my first up-close experience with death, and it was something I needed help processing," Adams remembers. After arriving on campus, she told her story to Dr. June Hobbs, Gardner-Webb English professor and resident expert on death, memorialization, and gravestone studies. Hobbs immediately suggested that she register for her upcoming "Death and Dying In American Culture"

Honors seminar.

"'Death and Dying' was like therapy for me," Adams explains. "There were other students in the class who had either had an experience with death or were curious about others' experiences, so we would share and talk, and it was like a group therapy session. The conversation was always really good, really sincere, and I just left class every week feeling like more of a weight had been lifted."

The class helped Adams do more than process her grief. During a class field trip to Cecil Burton's Funeral Home in Shelby, Heather became fascinated by the prospect of being a funeral home director, a career that she views as an opportunity to help others in their times of sorest need. Eager to learn more, she worked an unpaid internship with Burton during her senior year, witnessing firsthand the challenges of the job.

"My internship was great because there really were no smoke and mirrors. I got to see everything that the funeral service workers did, and I realized just how difficult it would be. But I still felt more and more certain that this was what God was calling me to do," Adams remembers.

BY
MATT WALTERS

"Heather was a pleasure to work with," Cecil Burton said, "very conscientious and a great worker. Most of all, though, she has such a caring personality, and that's key in our profession."

Perhaps the most important thing Adams learned at Burton's is that funeral service is not for the faint-hearted. "Most people don't understand that funeral directors grieve when their clients grieve," Adams insists. "They're not emotionally cold people who are aloof and unfeeling; they feel the pain along with the people who have lost friends and loved ones." For Adams, though, being a calm presence in the midst of another's pain is worth the sacrifice: "I really see this as a blessing, an awesome opportunity to minister to people in one of the most difficult moments of life. What an honor."

Affectionately known around campus as "the Death Girl," Adams tailored a course of study at Gardner-Webb that would prepare her for her future career, writing a senior English thesis on the cultural significance of grave markings in a Jewish Cemetery in Winston Salem. She even joined the Association for Gravestone Studies and plans to submit a condensed version of her thesis for publication to their quarterly journal, *Markers*. Currently, Adams is completing her licensure through the Funeral Services Education Program at Fayetteville Tech; and after completing a 2,000-hour internship, she will begin her career as a funeral home director, a dream she knows most people don't understand.

Perhaps that is what makes Adams's story so interesting: she has a gift that most of us will never experience. Like Lynch, she stands at the edge of the ultimate "void," recognizing that there is so much in death that seems "meaningless." But through "song and prayer," through patient endurance—through her life's great undertaking—Adams stands in those moments of extreme vulnerability as a voice of comfort and hope.

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GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

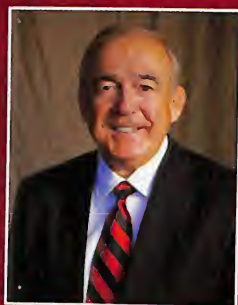


Gardner-Webb University inducted several into the Gallery of Distinguished Alumni this year. The Gallery honors alumni who are making positive contributions in their careers and communities. Gallery members are nominated by their peers and chosen by representatives from the University. Gallery members represent the quality and depth found in the thousands of graduates produced by Gardner-Webb over the past 105 years. To submit a nomination for next year go to www.supportgwu.com.



Alumnus of the Year

Thomas Hiott Watson, Jr. '63



Thomas Hiott Watson, Jr. graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1963 with an Associate of Arts degree. He was a member of the 1962-63 Runnin' Bulldog basketball team that won the Carolinas Jr. College Conference Tournament Championship, the first basketball championship in school's history. After graduating, Watson earned his A.B. from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1966, his Master of Arts degree from

Appalachian State University in 1974, and his Education Specialist degree from Appalachian in 1976. Watson began his career in education as a classroom teacher and coach in the Newton-Conover and then the Lincoln County school systems before working as an athletic director and assistant principal for Catawba County schools. Before retiring in 1995, Watson worked as the Title III activity director for Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory.

Watson is a model of civic service and community involvement. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Big Red Park Foundation. He has served on the subcommittee of the Foresight Committee to assess the needs of the three public school systems in Catawba County. He is the Director of the Catawba Valley Classic high school basketball tournament, and has been the secretary of four different North Carolina High School Athletic Association conferences since 1989. In 2010, that organization recognized his tenure of service with their NCHSAA Award. In addition, Watson volunteers with the Special Olympics, The United Way, the Hickory Metro Sports Commission Board of Directors, the Greater Hickory Classic Sr. PGA Tournament, and the Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame.

Watson has also remained an active member of the Gardner-Webb community. He is a lifetime member of both the Bulldog Club and the Varsity Club, a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and a member of the Junior College Reunion committee. He regularly attends Gardner-Webb athletic events, and has even worked with the GWU Athletics office to facilitate Gardner-Webb's hosting of two high school conference basketball tournaments.

Watson and his wife, Brenda, have two sons and daughters-in-laws, and five grandchildren: Caleb, Jonah, Benjamin, Rae Lee, and Jay Mark. They are active members of St. Luke's Methodist Church in Hickory, where Watson is a trustee, a youth counselor, a member of the Administrative Board and the Strategic Planning committees, and a Sunday school teacher. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Watson replied, "Greg Laurie states that our God is the God of second chances. Gardner-Webb, true to its Christian

heritage, gave me a second chance for a college education. For this second chance, I will be forever grateful."



Junior College Alumna of the Year

Pat Ramsey Wells '63



Pat Ramsey Wells graduated from Gardner-Webb Junior College with an Associate of Arts degree in 1963. She then earned her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education, physical education, and health education from Limestone College in 1970. A lifetime educator, Wells worked for 30 years as a teacher in the Cherokee County School District in Gaffney, S.C., where she taught trainable, mentally handicapped classes, first grade, third grade, sixth grade, and physical education to grades K-6. After her retirement in 1996, she was elected to and served two four-year terms on the Cherokee County School Board.

During her educational career, Wells was active in numerous professional organizations and advocacy groups. She served two terms as president of Palmetto State Teachers' Association in Cherokee and was also president of Cherokee County Education Association. She helped to write the South Carolina primary curriculum, and she frequently tutored students in preparation for the SAT. She has also coached youth soccer with the YMCA and worked with the American Cancer Society, the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Council, Communities in Schools, the South Carolina Peach Festival, and Meals on Wheels, for whom she still delivers meals every Wednesday.

Among her many accolades, Wells was named the Mary Bramlett Elementary School Educator of the Year in 1980. She has also remained actively involved at Gardner-Webb, and was the featured speaker for the decade of the 60s at Gardner-Webb's Half Century Club Banquet. Wells is also a member of the Gardner-Webb Alumni Board. She served on the Planning Committee for the Gardner-Webb Junior College reunion, as president of the Cherokee County GW Alumni Association in 1970, and as an integral member of the Leadership Team for Gardner-Webb's major campaign in the late 1960s.

Wells and her husband, Nick, reside in Gaffney where they attend Covenant Christian Center, where Wells served as Missions Chair and on the Women's Council. They have two children and four grandsons. Wells's mother, the late Mary Ramsey, was also a Gardner-Webb graduate. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, Wells remarked, "I received an excellent education at Gardner-Webb, and the friends and memories I made there are forever etched into my heart."



Young Alumnus of the Year **Maurice York '96**



Maurice York graduated from Gardner-Webb with his Bachelor of Science in administrative management degree in 1996. While a student at GWU, York was a three-year letterman in football and a member of the 1992 SAC Championship Team.

In 2002, York began work as a business unit manager for Kraft Foods, the third largest food and beverage company in the world. He was promoted in 2004 and again in 2005, when he won the Business Unit Manager of the Year award. In 2007, he was hired as a production manager by Pepsi Beverages Company, the second largest food and beverage company in the world, and he was quickly promoted to plant manager of an Atlanta, Ga. plant. In 2010, he was promoted again after his business unit won the Business Unit of the Year award. Currently, York is the plant manager of the Pepsi plant in Columbia, S.C., the seventh largest producing facility for Pepsi Beverage Company. Having been promoted five times in the last eight years, York is one of the youngest Pepsi executives at only 36 years old.

York also serves on the Alumni Board of Directors at GWU. He lives in Columbia with his wife, Kimberly, and his three children: Lamar, Morgan, and Carmen.



Distinguished Service **Judy A. Farina**



Judy A. Farina is the mother of Christopher J. (CJ) Bryant, a Gardner-Webb student and Runnin' Bulldog football player. As the founder of "Parents of Gardner-Webb Football," though, she's become the surrogate mother of an entire team of Gardner-Webb student-athletes. During CJ's time at Gardner-Webb, Farina has served on Gardner-Webb's Parent's Council and worked with the Bulldog staff for various athletic events. But, as she says, the desire to "pay forward the gift of CJ's education" pushed her to do more.

As a "Parent of Gardner-Webb Football," Farina provides special team meals and snack bags for long trips, organizes tailgate parties, provides information for football parents, and throws an annual team banquet. "I have found that Gardner-Webb goes beyond the norm by looking for all possibilities for their students and for their families," Farina remarked. She considers her service a response to Gardner-Webb's example, a way of going "beyond the norm" for GWU players.

Farina attended both Mars Hill College and Greeneville Technical College. In 2000, she earned her FINRA License as a Series II sales assistant, as well as her S.C. Life and Health license and her

S.C. Property and Casualty License. Since 1996, she has worked for Consolidated Planning, INC. In addition to her service at Gardner-Webb, Farina has volunteered with the Blue Ridge High School Athletic Booster Club, the Blue Ridge Touchdown Club, and the St. Mary's Women's Club, which recognized her with the St. Mary's Women's Club President's Award in May 2007. She even started and directed a youth choir at St. Mary's.

Farina and her husband, Robert O. Bryant, Jr., have three children. They attend St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greenville, S.C.



Distinguished Service **Dr. C. Lorance Henderson** **Lifetime Friend and Supporter,** **Chairman, GWU Board of Trustees**



Few people have had greater institutional impact on Gardner-Webb than Dr. C. Lorance Henderson. Henderson earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1962 and his Master of Science degree in education of the deaf in 1965 from Western Oregon University. He then earned a Master of Arts degree in school administration from California State University in 1967, propelling himself into a 28 year career in

education. Henderson has worked as a teacher, athletic director, coach, and principal for Oregon State School for the Deaf, DePaul University, and Lenoir-Rhyne College. He also directed the West Suburban Association for the Hearing Handicapped in Lombard, Illinois. After moving to North Carolina permanently in 1970, Henderson served for 20 years as director and then superintendent for North Carolina Schools for the Deaf until his retirement in 1990.

Throughout his career as an educator, Henderson maintained professional affiliations with ten different organizations, and published widely on education for the deaf in numerous publications. Among his many accolades, Henderson was awarded the 1975 Distinguished Service Award by Lenoir-Rhyne, the 1977 president's Appreciation Award from the North Carolina Association of the Deaf, the 1977 American Legion Citation of Appreciation, the Good Shepherd Award by Boy Scouts of America, and the 1982 Silver Beaver Award, the Boy Scouts' highest award for volunteer service. Gardner-Webb honored Henderson with an Honorary Doctorate degree in 1979. Most recently, he was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Michael F. Easley in 2008.

Henderson has served extensively with the Kiwanis Club, the Boy Scouts of America, the United Way, and with numerous Burke County civic initiatives. He served as a member of the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Partnership for Children, and as a trustee for the North Carolina Clear Water Fund. At Gardner-Webb, Henderson has served as a trustee since 1980. He currently chairs the Board of Trustees Executive Committee and the Board's Academic Affairs Committee. He also serves on the Capital

Campaign Steering Committee and the School of Divinity Committee.

Henderson and his wife of 53 years, Betty, attend First Baptist Church of Morganton, where Henderson currently serves as a deacon and teaches an adult Sunday school class. A former Deacon Board chair, Henderson has also served FBC Morganton as captain of the Habitat for Humanity team, as chair of numerous search committees, and on the Membership and Preschool committees.

Kimberly Barlowe '05



Kimberly Barlowe graduated from Gardner-Webb in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in healthcare management and is currently working toward her Master of Science degree at Gardner-Webb. She is the associate vice president of operations at McLeod Physician Associates in Florence, S.C.

In addition to her work at McLeod, Barlowe has also served as treasurer for the Florence Chapter MGMA, and she volunteers at the Crisis Pregnancy Center. For her excellence in healthcare, Barlowe was named a Certified Medical Practice Executive by the American College of Medical Practice Executives.

Barlowe and her husband, Scott, have two children: Alexander and Cora Beth. They attend Lake Swamp Baptist Church in Timmonsville, S.C. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, Barlowe remarked, "Gardner-Webb gave me the opportunity to continue my education at a pace that worked with my family and career. The degree that I received has helped me grow significantly in my career field, and I look forward to continuing my education with Gardner-Webb."

Mary McGrady Burnette '49



Mary McGrady Burnette graduated in 1949 from the Davis Hospital School of Nursing in Asheville, N.C. The Davis School was eventually transferred into what is now the Gardner-Webb School of Nursing. She also did graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Most recently and prior to her retirement, Burnette and her husband, William, opened Burnette Cleaners, a dry cleaning business

in Columbia, S.C. that eventually grew to include 11 stores throughout South Carolina.

Before her turn to entrepreneurship, Burnette worked as a nurse at a number of hospitals throughout North Carolina and Georgia. Combining her passions for healthcare and education, she also worked closely with children and their parents as a School Health Educator for Western North Carolina. For her enduring

commitment to nursing excellence and to education, Gardner-Webb offers the Mary McGrady Burnette Scholarship, which provides funding for nursing students at GWU.

The Burnettes have two grown children, Michael and Susan, and five grandchildren. When asked about the scholarship given in her name, Burnette said, "The Lord has blessed me and my family in so many ways. As one of nine children growing up, my parents could not afford to send us to college. The Davis Hospital School of Nursing allowed me to work my way through school. The Gardner-Webb School of Nursing Program is one way that I can give back."

Dr. James P. Byrd '88



Dr. James P. Byrd graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then earned his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University in 1991, his Master of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University in 1997, and his Doctorate from Vanderbilt in 1999. From 2003-2007, Byrd worked as assistant dean and director of graduate studies for the Vanderbilt University Divinity School,

where he is currently an assistant professor of American Religious History and the associate dean for Graduate Education and Research.

Since 1998, Byrd has served as the assistant executive secretary for the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, and in 2010 he was elected vice president of the Baptist History and Heritage Society. Since 2004, Byrd has been invited to Duke, Yale University, and to various churches in Nashville, Tenn. to speak on topics as various as religion, violence, war, and slavery in the American South. In 2009, he even returned to the Gardner-Webb Divinity School to discuss the admissions process for graduate programs in religion. Byrd has published two books, "The Challenges of Roger Williams: Religious Liberty, Violent Persecution and the Bible" (2002) and "Jonathan Edwards for Armchair Theologians" (2008).

Byrd and his wife, Karen, have two children: Olivia and Caroline. They are members of Southern Baptist Church in Rutherfordton, N.C. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Byrd responded, "I am grateful that I chose to attend Gardner-Webb for my undergraduate experience. The professors profoundly influenced me with their excellent teaching, their compassion, and their scholarship, and my great preparation at Gardner-Webb enabled me to excel in my future studies."

GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Dr. J. Eric Davis '95, '01, '07



Dr. J. Eric Davis earned his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Gardner-Webb in 1995, before completing his Master of Divinity degree from GWU in 2001 and his Doctorate of Ministry from GWU in 2007. Since 1994, Davis has served as the chaplain for the City of Shelby Fire and Rescue Department, and he is currently the senior pastor of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C.

Davis has earned a distinguished reputation for both scholarship and service. In 2007, he was awarded the Bruce Rabon Award for Excellence in Doctoral Studies at Gardner-Webb. Davis is a member of the Christian Service Organization and the Board of Ministers at Gardner-Webb, and he volunteers extensively with local organizations like the Cleveland County School System, the Ruby C. Hunt YMCA, the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, and the Children's Homes of Cleveland County. Davis has also led Gardner-Webb mission trips to three continents, and has been invited twice as a guest speaker to the GWU School of Divinity.

Davis and his wife, Teresa—a Gardner-Webb employee—have two sons, Alex and Tyler, both Gardner-Webb alums. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Davis insisted, "Gardner-Webb has been more to me than an educational institution. It is a place where I have grown significantly in my spiritual life; a place for my sons to learn and build relationships; a place where my wife has experienced a rewarding career; and a place that we'll always cherish in our hearts and minds."

Rev. Tillie Duncan '62



Rev. Tillie Duncan graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1962 with an Associate of Arts degree. She then completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1964, her Master of Arts degree in Education at Georgetown College in 1969, and her Master of Divinity degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993. Early in her career, Duncan worked as a secondary teacher in

North Carolina, Ohio, and Kentucky schools. In 1993, she became the missions minister at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte, and since 1999 she has served as associate pastor to Sardis Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Through her involvement with the Pilot Club of Charlotte, of which she is the immediate past president and chaplain, Duncan participates in ministry with the Salvation Army, Samaritan House, and Charlotte Towne Manor. She was also the president of both the Global Children Outreach and the P.T.A., and she has participated in the Charlotte Habitat Clergy Build. She currently serves on the Ministerial Board at Gardner-Webb, and she remains continually involved with youth and Baptist women's events on campus.

Duncan and her husband, Shannon, have three grown children: Eric, Nathan, and Luke. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, Duncan said, "Gardner-Webb provided a stable structure for my early steps into independence. Faculty and staff encouraged my love for learning and opened new avenues for discovery."

Clifford E. Hamrick, Jr. '54



Clifford E. Hamrick, Jr. graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1954 before earning his Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1958. Hamrick's business career has been consistently successful. Over the last several decades, he has been the president of C.J. Hamrick and Sons, Inc., owned an auctioneering company, operated a John Deere Dealership, and

partnered in several real estate ventures. Since 1999, he has been an independent car dealer.

Hamrick is a charter member of the Boiling Springs Area Rotary Club, of which he is a past president and captain of the Fundraising Committee. He is also a Paul Harris Fellow, and he serves on the Board of Visitors for Cleveland Community College. Hamrick has actively maintained his connection to Gardner-Webb, serving as a University board member and a longtime member of the Bulldog Club.

Hamrick and his wife, Mary Etta, have five children: Leslie, Mary Louise, Cliff, Jean, and Lynn. They are members of Boiling Springs Baptist Church. When asked about his enduring involvement with Gardner-Webb, Hamrick insisted, "I have enjoyed being on the board and keeping up with current affairs. Four of our five children attended Gardner-Webb and three graduated there."

Dr. Eduardo Haynes '03



A 1999 graduate of North Carolina State University, Dr. Eduardo Haynes holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business management. In 2003, Haynes graduated from Gardner-Webb with his master of business administration degree. He completed his Doctorate degree in business administration in 2009. Beginning his career with Wachovia and then Bank of America, Haynes currently works as a financial advisor for Edward Jones.

Haynes has volunteered with the Change a Life Mentoring Program in Mooresville, The Big Brothers Big Sisters Leadership Council, and the Impact Fund for Emerging Philanthropists. He currently serves as the board chair for the Mooresville Community Alliance and as a board member of the Project One Scholarship Fund. In 2007, Haynes was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award from Bank of America and was named the Most

Influential African-American in Charlotte by WSOC-TV. In 2008, he earned the Faculty of Excellence Award from the University of Phoenix. Most recently, he was named in 2010 to the list of Who's Who Among Business Professionals.

Haynes and his wife, Jameka, have two children, Jayden Bryce and Maxwell Kingston. They attend The Park Church. When asked about his experience at Gardner-Webb, Haynes remarked, "Going through the MBA program at Gardner-Webb infused and ignited my passion for self-improvement and growth."

Betty Ledford Henderson '53



Betty Ledford Henderson graduated with her Associate of Arts degree from Gardner-Webb in 1953. She then graduated Cum Laude with her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Carson-Newman College in 1955 before earning her Master of Science degree in education from Oregon College of Education in 1966. She also did post-graduate work at the

University of Southern California's John Tracy Clinic for preschool deaf children in 1967. Throughout her career, Henderson has worked as a teacher and principal at every level in schools for the deaf throughout North Carolina, Oregon, and Illinois. She has also been a Guest Lecturer at Lenoir-Rhyne College, and she served as College Supervisor of Teaching Practice at Depaul University in Chicago.

Henderson is a member of the American Association of University Women and the Morganton Service League, and she has served as president of the Morganton Women's Club, the Friday Afternoon Book, and the North Carolina and Burke County Associations for the Education of Young Children. She volunteers at the Mimosa Christian Counseling Center. Henderson has been a finalist for the Governor's Award for Excellence, and she has been named the Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness. She has also been an active member of her church, serving as a Sunday school teacher, a deacon, and as a member of various church committees. For her commitment, Gardner-Webb recognized Henderson with the Service to Church Award.

Henderson is married to Dr. C. Lorance Henderson, chair of the Board of Trustees at Gardner-Webb. They reside in Morganton, N.C., where they attend First Baptist Church, Morganton.

Jean Trantham Littlejohn '56



Jean Trantham Littlejohn graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1956 with her Associate's degree, before continuing her education at Haywood Community College and Penland School of Crafts. An artist, Littlejohn has owned and operated Northwood Santa's Christmas Shoppe and Collectibles for 25 years.

Featured in numerous books and magazines, Littlejohn's artwork has drawn national acclaim. She has displayed her work at the Biltmore House in Asheville, the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh, and in her "The Village of Yesteryear" exhibit at the State Fair in Raleigh. In 2009, she was chosen to design a special edition Santa for news anchor Diane Sawyer. She was also one of 30 artists selected in 2009 and 2010 by Early American Life magazine as "One of America's Best" artists. In addition to her work, Littlejohn is a member of the Handmade in America organization. She has volunteered extensively with the March of Dimes, the American Heart Association, and the Haywood County 4-H program, and she served as county historian for Haywood County during the 1970s. She has also served faithfully as a Vacation Bible School director.

Littlejohn and her husband, Charles, are members of West Canton Baptist Church. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, she said, "Gardner-Webb was a fulfillment of hopes, dreams, and aspirations for my life. It was not only a religious retreat, but it gave me confidence in myself that I could achieve the goals I set forth."

Wallace Houston Logan '86, '04



Wallace Houston Logan earned his Associate of Arts degree in mental health in 1983 from Western Piedmont Community College. He then completed his Bachelor of Science degree in human services from Gardner-Webb in 1986 and his Master of Business Administration degree from Gardner-Webb in 2004. After beginning his career as an educator at his alma mater Western Piedmont, Logan has

worked since 1997 as the executive director of the Morganton Housing Authority.

Logan has volunteered extensively with numerous local and national organizations, including the Morganton Rotary Club, The Burke Partnership for Children, the Burke County Smart Start Board of Directors, and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. Among his many accolades, Logan received the Pacific Institute International Facilitator of the Year Award in 1993, and in both 2003 and 2004 he was named a Public Housing Assessment System Award "High Performer" by Morganton Housing.

Logan and his wife, Artie, attend Green St. Presbyterian Church in Morganton, where Logan serves as an elder. When asked about his memories of Gardner-Webb, Logan remarked, "My experience at Gardner-Webb was founded on the scripture: 'But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint' (Isaiah 40:31). This passage provided the fortitude to persevere and accomplish my personal, educational, and spiritual goals in a nurturing and supportive environment."

Gloria W. Piquette '73



Earning her Bachelor of Science degree in 1973, Gloria W. Piquette then received her Master of Religious Education degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1977. Piquette retired in 2009 after 31 years in education, 25 of those in Aiken County, S.C. In all, she taught in two states, six different schools, and every grade from kindergarten to high school.

While in Aiken, Piquette was a Teacher Incentive Program Recipient from 1988-1992, and she served on the Teacher Incentive Program Committee in 1992. She was a member of the Palmetto State Teacher's Association in the mid-1990s. Piquette has also faithfully supported the scholarship fund at Gardner-Webb in honor of her grandparents, Joe and Tillie Washburn.

Piquette and her husband, John, currently reside in North Augusta, S.C., and they attend Warren Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, she remarked, "Gardner-Webb prepared me well for my profession in education. Being professional was emphasized in my course of study and this has served me well in my 31 years in education."

R. Dion Rankin '63, '72



R. Dion Rankin attended Gardner-Webb from 1961-1963, after which he entered the U.S. Army. He then returned to Gardner-Webb and graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology in 1972. During the interlude, Rankin graduated from Infantry OCS in 1967, attended the Elite Army Ranger School at Ft. Benning, Ga., and then attended the British Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia. He served in

Vietnam from 1968-1969 as commander of a combat tracker team in Pleiku, S. Vietnam. After his graduation from Gardner-Webb, Rankin joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent, where he served for 30 years in the U.S. and abroad as a foreign counter intelligence specialist until his retirement in 2002. He continued to work as a consultant for the FBI until 2009.

With the FBI, Dion was also a firearms instructor, a visual tracking instructor, and a polygraph examiner. Dion's Army commendations include the Combat Infantry Badge, the Ranger Tab, two Bronze Stars, two Air Medals, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal.

Dion and his wife, Jennifer, currently reside in Rutherfordton, where they attend the First United Methodist Church. They have two children: Graham and Jordan. When asked about his time at Gardner-Webb, Dion said, "My Gardner-Webb experience has provided me a solid spiritual foundation and lifelong friends."

David W. Riddleberger '86



David W. Riddleberger graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1986 with his Bachelor of Science in administrative management degree. He also played football for the Runnin' Bulldogs. In 1988, he was hired as a special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), serving the Bureau in Greenville, S.C., in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and finally as the resident agent in charge in Raleigh since 2007.

For his service with ATF, Riddleberger was awarded both the U.S. Department of Justice Attorney General Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement in 2007 and the ATF Distinguished Service Medal that same year. Riddleberger has also been active in his church and local communities, teaching Sunday School and coaching football, baseball, and softball.

Riddleberger and his wife, Liz, have four children: Lee, Johnson, Madelyn, and David. They attend Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Riddleberger said, "Playing football for the Bulldogs helped prepare me for an exciting career in law enforcement. It enabled me to form tackle the bad guys as they tried to escape arrest. On a serious note, the friendships I developed with other students, athletes, teachers and coaches provided a positive stepping stone as I transitioned from college into the real world to face life's challenges."

Jim Royals, Jr. '82



Jim Royals, Jr. graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1982 with his Bachelor of Science degree in business. Royals has worked as an accountant for several companies in the triad area of North Carolina, and he is currently a principal/owner of Wealth Advisory Partners, LLC in Greensboro.

Royals has maintained professional affiliations with a number of organizations including the CPA, the AICPA, and, since 1984, the NCACPA. He has served on the Gardner-Webb Alumni Board twice, during the 1980s and then again since 2008. He is currently the secretary and treasurer of the Alumni Board. Royals also served as stewardship chairman at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Greensboro.

Royals and his wife, Beverly, attend Westover Church in Greensboro. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Royals remarked, "Gardner-Webb provided me a foundation of Christian beliefs and values along with an excellent education that will continue for a lifetime."

Gail Robertson Walker '61



After graduating from Gardner-Webb Junior College in 1961, Gail Robertson Walker earned her Bachelor of Science degree in education from Western Carolina College in 1963. She later earned her Master of Arts degree in education from Western in 1978, before earning her principalship from North Carolina Central University in 1988. During her 43-year career in education, Walker has worked

as a teacher, specialist, and school administrator, and is currently serving as a university supervisor at Appalachian State University.

Walker is an active member of several professional, community, and church organizations, including the International Reading Association, the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, the Rotary Club, and the Salvation Army. She has been awarded numerous community awards, fellowships, and teaching honors, including an invitation to Cambridge University to speak at the UK Reading Association, which subsequently published her paper in the UKRA Journal in 1993. She even co-authored a book in 1997, "Billy and His Dog Charlie." She has worked with Gardner-Webb's radio station WGWG, and she currently serves on the Alumni Board of Directors.

Walker and her husband, Jerry, attend Boone United Methodist Church in Boone, N.C. When asked about her Gardner-Webb experience, Walker replied, "I have so many fond memories of Gardner-Webb, especially of Dr. Phil Elliott, who was an inspiration to so many of us. His caring attitude laid the foundation for our success as students later in our lives' work. Those guiding principles make Gardner-Webb University the special place it was and is today."

Harry Eugene Washburn, Sr. '48



Harry Eugene Washburn, Sr. earned his Associate of Arts degree from Gardner-Webb in 1948. He then completed his Bachelor of Science degree at Wake Forest in 1950. He earned a Science Stipend from Peabody University in 1970, and then he completed his Master of Arts degree in 1975. Before his retirement, Washburn worked as a Boiling Springs Town Clerk, a teacher, a coach, and an assistant principal

in the Cleveland County School system for 37 years. Since 2002, he has been a member of CB Investment Club.

Washburn is a lifetime member of both the National Education Association and the North Carolina Education Association, and in 2002 he received the 50-year membership pin from Friendship Masonic Lodge #338. Washburn also received the Distinguished Service Award from Crest Jr. High School in 1987. Washburn has faithfully served in his local community, as coach of the Boiling Springs Pee Wee Chargers, as a deacon and Royal Ambassadors

leader at Boiling Springs Baptist Church, and with the Lion's Club. He is also a longtime member of the Bulldog Club at Gardner-Webb.

Washburn and his wife, Betty, are members of Boiling Springs Baptist Church. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Washburn said, "The most significant experience of attending Gardner-Webb was making lifelong friends and being in a Christian environment as a 17-year-old, just 'starting out' in the world! This place influenced the rest of my life."

Christopher L. Welch '92



Christopher L. Welch earned his Bachelor of Science in business administration degree in 1992 from Gardner-Webb, where he also played football for the Runnin' Bulldogs. Since graduation, Welch has worked as vice president in two capacities for Bank of America Corporate Security. Currently, he serves that company as senior vice president and regional manager of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia

and the Corporate Headquarters.

Since 2002, Welch has been a member of the Charlotte Chapter 65 of ASIS International. He has also maintained and shared his love for athletics by coaching youth football and basketball in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area.

Welch and his wife, Demetria, are members of Reeder Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte, where Welch has attended since childhood and has recently served on the Usher and Trustee Boards. When asked about his Gardner-Webb experience, Chris responded, "Gardner-Webb was a place where I began the groundwork for my education, career, and life skills. I truly thank the faculty, staff and lifelong friends that supported me."





Class Acts

THE LOSS OF A LEGEND

GWU Says Farewell to Barry Hambright

By Rebecca Clark



Dr. Barry Hambright is remembered as an avid storyteller, a lover of New York City and Yankee Stadium, and for his passion for life, his students and Gardner-Webb University.

A professor at GWU for 40 years, Hambright, 69, died in November after battling cancer for two years.

He began his career at GWU in 1969, teaching political science and history as well as criminal justice and human services for the GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) Program. Hambright started teaching in GOAL at the program's inception 32 years ago.

He loved the opportunity to connect with students. "Our best recruits are our students," he once said. "They finish the program and prove to others you can get a degree."

Dr. Tony Eastman, professor of American History, worked with Hambright for 40 years. He said his friend and colleague was more than just an advisor to students. "He had a passion for people. He had a great empathy for everyone," Eastman said, "especially when advising GOAL students."

Eastman said Hambright became involved in his students' lives and followed their careers from the day they graduated until retirement. "He was a unique person in that area," Eastman said. "He truly took a personal interest in all of his students."

He said GWU alumni would often come back to visit their former professor.

"Gardner-Webb was one of his first loves. After his family came Gardner-Webb," Eastman said. "To him, it was not just an institution, it was a part of his family."

Hambright, who had made his home in Gastonia, spent his childhood in Shelby. At the time of his death, he had been co-writing a book along with his niece about growing up in Shelby and the simpler times of life.

Rusty Patterson, executive director of the Cleveland Community College Foundation, co-wrote five books on local history with Hambright.

Patterson called his friend "one of the truly good guys in the world."

He said Hambright had a great love and knowledge of Cleveland County history and loved baseball, "especially the New York Yankees."

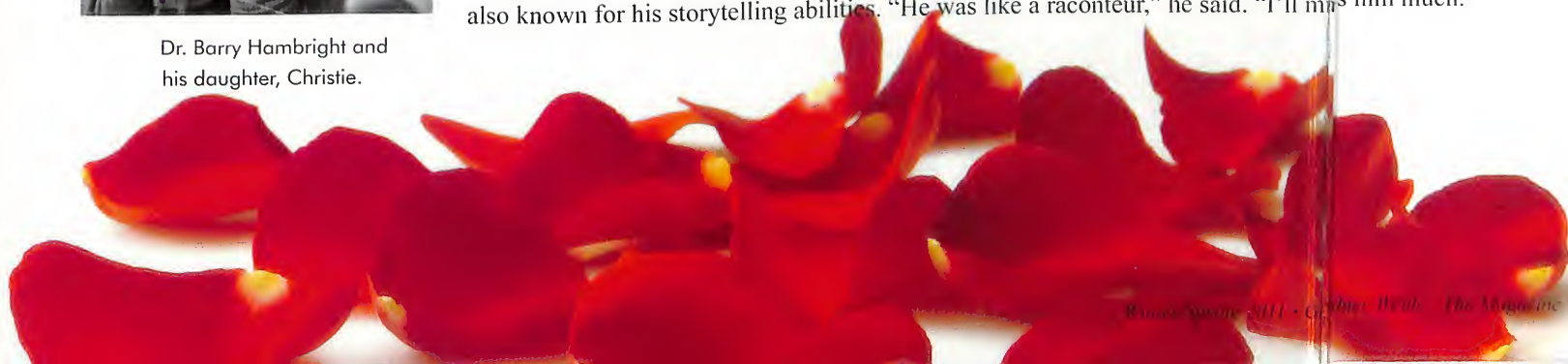
"I remember the day we became friends," Patterson recalled. "It was 1993 and I was working at Gardner-Webb at the time. Barry had heard I was a baseball fan, particularly the Pittsburgh Pirates. Barry walked into my office, asked which three Pirates won the batting (average) title in the 1960s. I rattled off Dick Groat, Matty Alou and Roberto Clemente. We have been good friends ever since."

Dr. David Carscaddon, GWU professor, knew Hambright for 20 years and spoke about his influence on Gardner-Webb. "He had an enormous relationship with the University," Carscaddon said. "To me he was the memory of the University. He always had stories and accounts and changes of the University over the years."

Carscaddon said his former colleague had been a Gardner-Webb student, an alum and a professor. "So for him it wasn't just a place to work, it was a home," he said. Carscaddon said Hambright was also known for his storytelling abilities. "He was like a raconteur," he said. "I'll miss him much."



Dr. Barry Hambright and his daughter, Christie.



The 1940s

ALUMNUS PASSING

JAMES VANCE SHOMAKER '48 A.A.

passed away on Aug. 5, 2010. He had worked as the president of Banner Elk Bank and tax supervisor for Avery County and was active in Mount Calvary Baptist Church (Avery County). He is survived by one daughter, four granddaughters, two grandsons, and several great-grandchildren.

The 1960s

ALUMNUS PASSING

DR. BARRY HAMBRIGHT '61 A.A.

died on Nov. 2, 2010 at the Gaston Hospice of Dallas, N.C. He joined the faculty of Gardner-Webb in 1969 and was a professor of political science and history. He also taught criminal justice and human services for the GOAL (Greater Opportunities in Adult Learning) program. Dr. Hambright was a recipient of the Fleming-White award for excellence in teaching as well as the Faith, Service, and Leadership Hall of Fame award. Hambright served on various committees including the courthouse restoration for Destination Cleveland and the American Legion World

Series, Shelby N.C. committee. He was an author of several books on Cleveland County's historical people and places. He was a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Gastonia where he served as a Sunday school teacher and church moderator. Hambright is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son-in-law, two grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

ALUMNUS PASSING

KENNETH RAYFIELD '63 A.A.

died on Sept. 16, 2010. He retired from American General Life and Accident Insurance Company. He was an active Mason in Matthews, N.C. for many years. He is survived by his wife, one son, one sister, one brother, his mother-in-law, one sister-in-law, one nephew, one niece, and two granddaughters.

ALUMNA PASSING

CYNTHIA BOYD CURRY '68 A.A.

died on Aug. 15, 2010. She had been employed at Paramount Carowinds. Invested in the Charlotte community, she served as chairwoman for the Greater Charlotte Hospitality and Tourism Alliance and served on the boards for both The South Carolina and The North Carolina Motor Coach Associations. She

is survived by her husband, two daughters, three grandchildren, and one brother.

The 1970s

RON RASH '76 B.A.

was awarded the Frank O'Connor Award, the richest prize for the short-story form (an award totaling over \$47,000), which he won over five other authors. Rash won for "Burning Bright," a collection of short stories set in Appalachia from the Civil War until the present day. Rash went to Ireland to accept the award.

ROB HEFNER '77 B.A.

and his wife Phyllis are on stateside assignment in North Carolina, having completed their 25th year since their appointment as missionaries to Brazil through the International Mission Board. Upon their return to northeastern Brazil in January 2011, they will be engaging an indigenous unreached people group in the Brazilian state of Ceará. Rob will begin his 17th year as professor of Missiology and Church Planting at the Seminário Teológico Batista do Ceará. They will also continue work in prayer walking and resource strategies for 84 church planting teams who work with them in the "Church

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Raised**



**\$45 Million
Goal**

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in My House" project. Their Portuguese website, www.tcpgrupofeliz.com has become a valuable source for training and discipleship for lay persons throughout Brazil.

ALUMNA PASSING

ELAINE RECTOR BARRIER '78 B.A. died on Sept. 15, 2010 in Newland, N.C. She is survived by her mother, one son, one sister, two nephews, two uncles, two aunts, and friends at Heritage Sugar Mountain in Newland.

The 1980s

ALUMNUS PASSING

DONALD F. LITTLEJOHN '84 M.A. passed away on Aug. 16, 2010. He was employed at Cochrane Junior High School (CJHS) in Charlotte, N.C. for 39 years. He served as head football coach, athletic director, track coach, and golf coach. He was awarded the Dave Harris Award for best overall athletic program in winnings and sportsmanship numerous times. He guided football teams to win the Charlotte-Mecklenburg championships for middle schools at least 20 times and was awarded the CMS Coach of the Year 14 times and once the "Teacher Most Admired in CMS." He was inducted into the Johnson C. Smith "Athletic Hall of Fame" and was awarded "Coach of the Year" for North Carolina middle/junior high school sports in 1995. Eventually, the CJHS gymnasium was named in his honor. He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter, three brothers, two sisters, and six grandchildren.

CINDY JACKSON KELLY '85

is a vice president & trust officer at Arthur State Bank in Spartanburg, S.C. and is the current Board Chair of the Children Shelter

of Upstate in Spartanburg. Cindy and her husband, Keith, have 3 daughters and one son-in-law.

TIM EMERY '86 B.A.

married Jae Hansen on Oct. 4, 2008. Tim is assistant director of UC San Diego Career Services Center. They make their home in San Diego, Calif.

The 1990s

JUDY THOMAS CULLUM '91 M.A.



retired in July 2010 from Cleveland County Schools after 23 years of service. For the past 19 years, she served as the

Transition Coordinator with the CCS Exceptional Children's Program. On April 29, 2010, while attending the North Carolina Division on Career Development and Transition Statewide Conference, she was awarded the 2010 Lighthouse Award for outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication to students with disabilities in North Carolina.

EMILY DAWN HARRELSON '98 B.S.

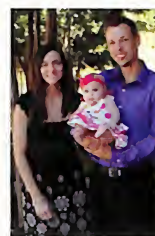
and Joel Christopher Beachum were married on Oct. 16, 2010 at Hemingway First Baptist Church. Emily is a physical education teacher at Brigg's Elementary School in Florence, S.C. and Joel is a department manager of Lowe's in Conway.

JEREMY FERN '99 B.A.

was recently named assistant vice president of Graduate Admissions for Gardner-Webb University. He graduated on Aug. 6, 2010 from Appalachian State University with a Master of Arts degree in Higher Education.

The 2000s

ERIC WISE '00 B.A. and SHREE HONBAIER WISE '00 B.S.



are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Marin Renee Wise, on Dec. 28, 2009. Eric is a real estate broker and is also employed by the State of North Carolina. Shree is a Registered Nurse and

leads the Health and Wellness Program for the Gaston County YMCAs. Eric and Shree currently reside in Belmont.

RICHARD DALE ELLIS '01 M.B.A.

has been named the superintendent of Montgomery County Schools in N.C. Previously, Ellis served as associate superintendent for human resources in the Iredell Statesville school system.

GINGER LEE (JONES) FERN '02 B.S.

has passed all four sections of the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination and is now a licensed CPA in the state of North Carolina. She is employed as the enterprise accounting manager at Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby, N.C. Email Ginger at gingerlee0612@hotmail.com.

ASHLEY LAUREN LIMBAUGH '02 B.S.

and Russell Adam Stephens were married on July 3, 2010 at East Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C. Ashley is the accountant for Dole Fresh Vegetables in Bessmer City and Russell is employed by Fontaine Truck Modification in Mount Holly. The couple resides in Kings Mountain.

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JONATHAN HAYES '03 M.A.

was recently named principal at South Davidson High School in Denton, N.C.

BRANTLEY PASCHAL PARROTT '03 B.S. AND JOSH PARROTT '03 B.A.

are pleased to announce the birth of their first son, Luke Paschal Parrott. He was born Oct. 16, 2010.

SUMMER CRISP SELF '03 B.A.

was named Teacher of the Year at John Chavis Middle School in Cherryville, N.C. for the 2010-2011 school year. Self will be competing for the Gaston County Schools Teacher of the Year award.

TABITHA BROADWAY '04 M.A.

is principal of West Davidson High School and received the distinction of 2010 Principal of the Year.

ALUMNA PASSING

DEBRA JEAN COMER '04 B.S.N.

passed away on Oct. 18, 2010. She was employed by Novant Health in Winston Salem, N.C. in infection prevention. She was a member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and Star Chapter 111 Order of the Eastern Star. She is survived by her mother, two sisters-in-law, one niece and one nephew.

ERIK JOHN SMITH '05 B.S.

and Meredith Lee Reynolds were married on Nov. 6, 2010 at Shelby Presbyterian Church. Smith is employed by T.R. Lawing Realty, and Meredith works for Bank of America. The couple resides in Charlotte, N.C.

STEPHEN ESPOSITO '08 M.A.

became principal at Highland Creek Elementary School in Charlotte, N.C. He comes to this position after being assistant principal at River Gate Elementary School, also in Charlotte, for six years.

MARIA NICHOLE ANDERSON '09 B.S.

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

CRYSTAL DAWN SIZEMORE '09 B.S.

AND CAMRON VINCENT REID '10 B.S.

were united in marriage at Family Fellowship Chapel in Mount Airy, N.C. on Saturday, August 14, 2010. She is a contact center mentor with Lowes Corporate Office Inc. in North Wilkesboro, and he is a loss prevention manager for Wal-Mart in Mount Airy.

ADRIENNE YVONNE SMITH '09 B.S.

was recently appointed fourth grade teacher at Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy in Mooresboro, N.C.

PROFESSOR PASSING

DR. VICTORIA SUE

FEIMSTER RATCHFORD

passed away on Oct. 17, 2010 at home in Stanley, N.C. She taught at Gardner-Webb University in the Graduate School of Education after retiring from East Lincoln High School in 2003 as principal. She was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member award in August 2006. Ratchford was involved in her community as a member of the Denver-Lake Norman Rotary Club and East Lincoln Betterment Association. She is survived by her husband, two sons, one sister, and three grandchildren.



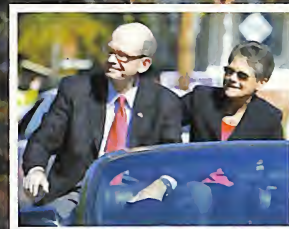
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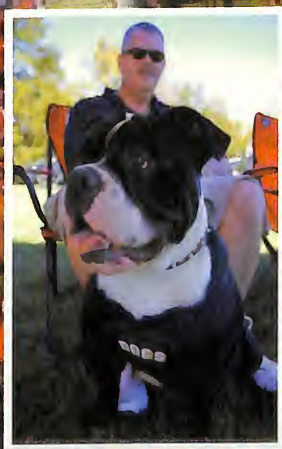
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