

Spring 1987

The Web Magazine 1987 Inaugural Edition, Spring

Kathryn Hamrick

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THE WEB

Inaugural Edition

Spring 1987



Inaugural Invocation

The Reverend Monroe M. Ashley
Campus Minister

Lord God, creator of the universe and
gentle wooer of the hearts of all mankind,

You imparted direction and imbued with
strength

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob;

You led the bond slaves from Egypt,
giving us forever hope of deliverance;

You transformed the persecutor, Saul, into
the evangelist, Paul, laying claim on each of us
to be your messengers;

You gave us yourself in Jesus Christ, releas-
ing us
from the clutches of sin into the beckoning
way of love.

Because we have been first called by you
we now call ourselves together:

TO REMEMBER

TO CELEBRATE

TO ENVISION

Remembering your dependable care in all our
days,

Celebrating your continuing connection with
our lives,

Envisioning the possibilities of an era
committed to your purposes,

We gather to rally support for alma mater, and
Set apart one uniquely fashioned by you and
discovered by your servants,

to lead us for a while.
Smile upon our efforts;

to teach gently
to reason consistently
to inspire faithfully
to unmask without arrogance
to equip for full service.

With calm assurance we pray, calling in the
name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. AMEN.

*Delivered by Monroe M. Ashley
College Minister
April 8, 1987*



Getting Ready: Hosting The Inauguration



From The Editor

by Kathryn Hamrick



Because of the historical significance of the April 8 inauguration of M. Christopher White as the College's tenth president, this special edition of *The Web* is devoted entirely to the inauguration and the events surrounding it. We have reprinted herein the inaugural greetings and addresses, copies of articles carried by the media and numerous photographs.

Months and months of planning culminated in a nearly flawless succession of events during inaugural week. Evans Whitaker, executive assistant to the president, and Kitty Eeds, secretary to the president, gave superb direction to the inauguration and involved nearly everyone on campus in some aspect of the proceedings.

Several thousand friends of the College attended one or more of the inaugural events. For some, Dr. White's inauguration was their introduction to Gardner-Webb College. Your alma mater made a very good first impression.

In this special edition of *The Web*, we hope that in recording the history surrounding this important event we have captured its spirit and its significance as well.

Alumni: Thank you for your overwhelming response to our recent request for news for the Class Notes section of *The Web*. We will expand the Class Notes section of the next issue of *The Web*, using all the news you send by press time.

Greetings From The Students

Michael John Rousseaux, '87
President of the
Student Government Association

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:

As president of the Gardner-Webb Student Government Association I have been asked to appear before you today to welcome our incoming President, Dr. M. Christopher White, and in doing so to represent the entire Gardner-Webb student body, which includes the eleven departments, the Broyhill School of Management, the Davis School of Nursing, the Graduate Program, and the GOAL Program.

Gardner-Webb is embarking on a new era,

Welcome

Lloyd C. Bost
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

It is my privilege on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Gardner-Webb College to extend to you a very warm welcome to our campus and the inaugural ceremony installing the tenth president, M. Christopher White. This is a very significant event in the history of the College and we appreciate your sharing it with us.

Today we are literally in touch with history as we install a new president on this beautiful spring morning, for this type of ceremony has been taking place in colleges and universities around the world since the Middle Ages.

We wish to extend a special welcome to the members of President and Mrs. White's families. I want to recognize them and ask them to stand for a moment:

Mr. and Mrs. Martin White, parents of President White

Mr. Dale White, his brother

Mr. and Mrs. Van White, his other brother and sister-in-law

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Fleming, Mrs. White's parents

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fleming, her brother and sister-in-law

Mrs. Christopher (Linda) White

And their sons, Marty and Andy White.

I understand that there are also some very special aunts of President White here with us and I would like to ask them to please stand so that we may recognize them.

Thank you.

Gardner-Webb College has enjoyed many benefits and benefactors, but apart from truth itself, there is nothing we cherish more than the goodwill of the community together with the fraternity of scholarship so amply represented today by over 180 colleges, universities, and learned societies.

For this we are thankful, and because of this it is fitting that these ceremonies begin with a sincere and hearty welcome from all members of the College.

The ceremonies will proceed in the order listed in the program.



Michael J. Rousseaux

the sixth such era since the College was founded 82 years ago. The previous presidents have done exceptional jobs in bringing Gardner-Webb to the position it now occupies in the academic world. But this is a campus which is ever on the move. Its faculty, student body, and facilities are changing daily. Now, more than ever before, as Gardner-Webb assumes new leadership in the academic world, a strong capable hand is needed at the helm to guide the College through the turbulence associated with new achievements. I think Gardner-Webb is fortunate to have such a man in its new president.

Dr. White is not only an acclaimed scholar but a man who possesses the qualities of leadership, personality, and initiative, a man who will further lift our College to the academic heights for which it is destined.

Dr. White, we are exceedingly happy today to pledge to you the same loyal support which your predecessor has heretofore enjoyed, and to say with enthusiasm for achievements of the past and with unbounded faith in the future possibilities, we, the student body of Gardner-Webb College welcome you as our advisor, our leader, our friend, and our President.

Greetings From The Faculty

Gilmer W. Blackburn
Vice Chair and Professor of History

Dr. White and honored guests, I bring greetings from the faculty of Gardner-Webb College. In your inauguration we celebrate the elevation to the Presidency of one of our own genre, one who has emerged from the midst of our own calling; one who has been schooled in the concerns and cares of teaching faculty; one who has fought the battles of the mind so dear to academics. You come out of our own lifeblood and we honor you now as you take up the arduous task before you. We will look to you to keep us on course, to inspire us, to support us in our efforts, and to tap the resources necessary to keep this a vital institution of higher learning. The faculty will stand behind you and beside you; we will fight for you and with you as you seek to lead Gardner-Webb to new heights of excellence.

Greetings From The Alumni

Robert M. Pettyjohn, '52
President of the Alumni Association

Dr. Bost, Friends of Gardner-Webb College, Dr. White:

12,000 alumni scattered throughout the world send their best wishes to you on this important occasion. They join me in bringing greetings to you on this your very special day.

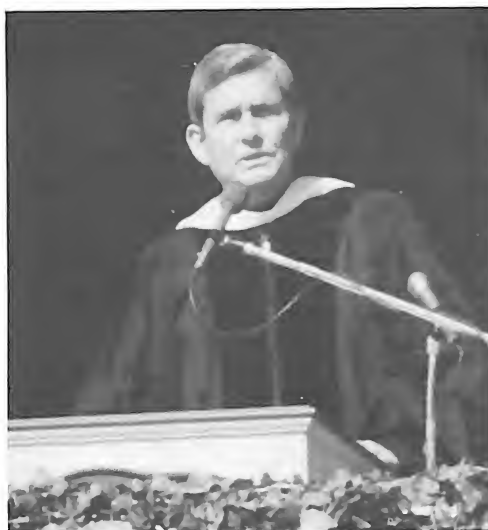
Gardner-Webb alumni are proud of their alma mater; we are proud of its heritage. We are delighted that you have been chosen to fill this great office as President of our College. To you we entrust our traditions, which are so precious to every one of us. Your solid background of demonstrated sound judgment, broad knowledge, deep wisdom and complete dedication qualify you to lead Gardner-Webb on to greater heights in education and service.

Although your task is not an easy one, you will build on a foundation laid by past great leaders. In the midst of the new challenges that you face, I am sure that you will preserve our traditions and our Christian Heritage while at the same time you are charting new and exciting courses.

Yours is the delicate task of balancing change with the unchanging. Your installation itself is a change. There are new equations to be developed, new formulae to be synthesized, new poetry to be written, new courses to be taught, new ideas to be germinated. And while all this is taking place, the quest for



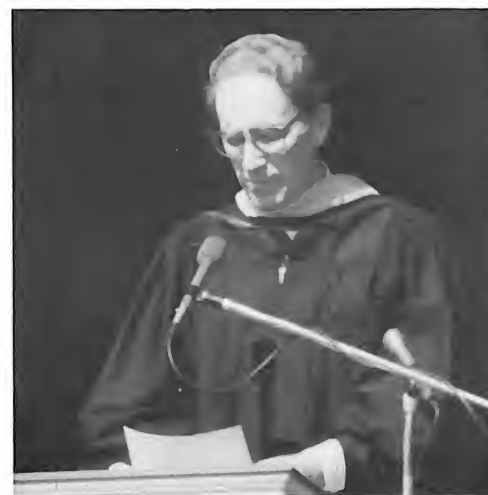
Gilmer W. Blackburn



Sam H. McMahon, Jr.

understanding of truth, appreciation of beauty and achieving of high value systems among Gardner-Webb students will continue---as will the fulfillment of the dream of developing happy, fruitful, involved Gardner-Webb alumni and good citizens!

To these ends I pledge you the aid and support of 12,000 Gardner-Webb alumni. With you as our team leader, we will work together as Gardner-Webb College moves upward toward unscaled heights. Congratulations and best wishes to you and to your family. May God's richest blessings be yours.



Robert M. Pettyjohn

Greetings From The Board of Trustees

Sam H. McMahon, Jr.
Vice Chairman

President White, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my privilege today on behalf of the trustees of Gardner-Webb College to welcome you and bring greetings at the inauguration of President M. Christopher White. We are glad that you are here and thank you for coming. President White, the tenth president of Gardner-Webb, follows in a tradition of outstanding presidents. We pledge to you today, President White, our full support and predict much success under your strong leadership.

From its modest beginnings in October 1907 as a high school, Gardner-Webb College has had a clear vision of its mission. The Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Baptist Associations put it well: This is a place "where the young . . . could have the best possible educational advantages under distinctive Christian influence." Moving steadily from that visionary beginning, Gardner-Webb evolved next into a junior college in 1928. Today it is a highly respected, fully accredited, four-year liberal arts institution, with approximately 2,000 students. The College offers a variety of degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Gardner-Webb is serving our denomination, higher education and region splendidly. The combination of strong on-campus programs, community outreach, and educational opportunities for adults makes Gardner-Webb a unique institution in touch with our time.

The trustees today recommit Gardner-Webb to the same high moral purpose and sense of service that motivated its founders. We do that because as we look at the world, we are convinced that imbuing knowledge and intellectual talent with a sense of moral and spiritual vision is imperative for future leaders. The Baptist denomination has always supported its colleges and universities. We Baptists do that because we believe that higher education is critical to achieving a just, enlightened, humane and morally sensitive society. Thus it is that Gardner-Webb is animated and inspired by the great Judeo-Christian heritage and tradition.

Today we begin a new era in the life of this important institution. This inauguration gives us a chance to disengage from the immediacy of the moment and think anew about where we have been and where we are going. As we reflect on these questions, let me assure President White, denominational leaders, the Baptists at-large, friends, faculty, students, administration and staff, that the trustees of Gardner-Webb College are determined that this significant institution of our church will continue to reflect those moral and Christian values which have made America a beacon of

hope for people everywhere. We ask you to join us in this great cause.

President White, again, to you, congratulations and Godspeed. We look forward to the future with great hope. And to our distinguished guests, thank you again for being with us on this promising occasion.



Arthur L. Walker, Jr.

Greetings From The Southern Baptist Convention

Arthur L. Walker, Jr.

Executive Director-Treasurer of the Education Commission

Dr. White:

The call to a place of leadership in Christian higher education is a tremendous challenge. It provides an opportunity for an individual to join a distinguished company.

Those individuals who would shape their world, the leaders of society, as we learned at the National Leadership Congress held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, in June 1986 must accomplish three goals. These leaders must envision what can be accomplished through the opportunity which is provided them and their followers. Such leaders must also communicate their vision to others. This role of communication is especially significant for one who would serve as the president, the leader, of a Baptist college.

The leader of a Baptist college, as is true in many other endeavors, must also possess that unique quality of "timing." The timing of the Christian leader is to know when to press for the accomplishment of particular goals and when to delay pressing for such achievement. This particular quality is of great significance to the president of a Baptist college. It is this "timing" which frequently will determine whether goals can be accomplished and whether others will join in seeking those purposes.

I greet Dr. Christopher White on this significant occasion. I challenge him to be the best president Gardner-Webb has ever had. But more significantly, I encourage him to be a model of what the Christian leader can do in the involving of others in contributing to the establishment of the Kingdom of God in our time and in this place.

Dr. White, I congratulate you, I challenge you, I welcome you to the fellowship of those who lead the colleges and schools sponsored by the various Baptist state conventions.



Roy J. Smith

Greetings From The Baptist State Convention Of North Carolina

Roy J. Smith

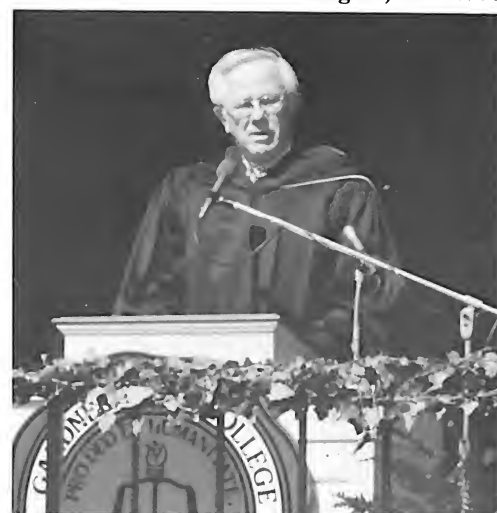
Executive Director-Treasurer

Mr. Bost, Dr. White, members of the Board of Trustees, Distinguished Platform Guests, members of the Faculty and Administration, Students and Friends of Gardner-Webb College.

I am happy to bring you greetings on behalf of the 1,160,000 Baptists who are members of the 3,527 churches affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. What we are about here today is of primary importance to North Carolina Baptists. Our convention places a high value on the mission and ministry conducted by its institutions and agencies.

This was so in 1830 when the 14 messengers meeting in Greenville, North Carolina, organized the Baptist State Convention. One of the motivating forces that brought the Baptist State Convention into being was the desire to establish a school to train young men for the ministry and Christian service. Wake Forest College was organized later in 1834 as the first of seven colleges and universities. Gardner-Webb was the seventh college to join the Baptist family in 1905. Through the years Gardner-Webb has served with distinction the cause of North Carolina Baptists, the Kingdom of God and the common good.

Dr. White, today you officially join the family of Baptist institutions as the tenth president of Gardner-Webb College. On behalf of North Carolina Baptists let me assure you of our continuing support and advocacy and wish for you and Gardner-Webb College a long and successful ministry.



John T. Henley

Greetings From The North Carolina Association Of Independent Colleges And Universities

John T. Henley
President

It is a great personal privilege to stand before you today and bring greetings and congratulations to Dr. Christopher White and Gardner-Webb College from the 37 other independent colleges and universities in North Carolina.

Gardner-Webb College has a wonderful history that everyone here today can take pride in:

It began in 1905 when farsighted Baptists from this area established Boiling Springs High School as an institution "where the young could have the best possible educational advantages under distinctive Christian influence."

This proud history continued through the 1920s when the institution became Boiling Springs Junior College, and into 1942 when the name was changed again to reflect the dedication of Gov. O. Max Gardner and his wife, Mrs. Faye Webb Gardner.

And this development continued through the 1960s and into 1971, when Gardner-Webb became a fully accredited senior college.

Throughout this history and continuing to the milestone we are gathered to celebrate today, Gardner-Webb College has demonstrated an unswerving dedication to the ideals upon which all of North Carolina's independent colleges are founded—a diversity of programs, academic excellence, and a caring for the individual student that enables each young person to recognize and achieve his or her individual potential for intellectual, social, spiritual, emotional and physical growth,

This College also has a rich tradition of

cooperation with and providing benefits for the communities of Boiling Springs and Shelby. This was a focus for Gardner-Webb long before recent national studies recommended cooperative efforts between educational institutions and their host communities.

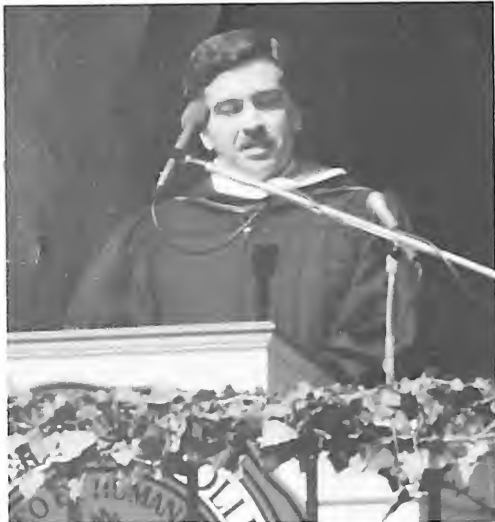
In the short time since he has taken over the reins of this college from the very capable stewardship provided by Dr. Craven Williams, Dr. White has exhibited a concern for the College, the community, and the state. He brings to Gardner-Webb a special understanding of the challenges facing small private colleges—an understanding gained while serving under President Fred Young at Elon College.

To you, Dr. White, and to your family, on behalf of all independent college presidents, I wish you the best of luck, and may God bless you.

Greetings From The State of North Carolina

James H. Bishop

Director of the Governor's Western Office



James H. Bishop

Chairman Bost, President White, esteemed scholars from the university world and learned academic societies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I am pleased today to bring you greetings on behalf of the official family of the State of North Carolina, Governor and Mrs. James G. Martin - and more especially, our family of North Carolina citizens who have always looked to our colleges and universities as our brightest beacon of enlightenment.

Since 1905, with its beginning as a high school, this institution has been this and more. What our forefathers really wanted was a medium of education through which "the young could have the best possible educational advantage under distinctive Christian influence."

With that in mind, the educators and church-



The platform party robes.

men of that day created a new cultural climate that has given wings to the human spirit. They encouraged exploration to reveal the secrets of the universe and to give meaning to the pursuit of happiness. And they gave us, most of all, the ingredients of greatness.

They knew that they had embraced in this founding a precious discovery, and they wanted their posterity to maintain and preserve it for future generations.

Although a youngster in age when compared to our almost 200-year-old university system, Boiling Springs High School and Gardner-Webb College have produced many graduates who have served this state, this nation and the world. They have preached from our pulpits, written our books, made our laws, administered our governments, edited our newspapers, pioneered the electronic media, and they have died bravely on the battlefields.

This institution of learning has given our nation and the world thousands of leaders of wisdom, integrity and unfailing courage. They have been leaders who have used their knowledge to enrich all humankind.

But never before have our university system and our private colleges been so critically challenged to produce new leaders of greatness, to become an institution which, in Cicero's words, "is all afire." And I know of no way of creating such a spark from without; it must come from within.

It is in that knowledge, President White, that the people of North Carolina look to you today for the spark that will ignite a new fire illuminating this great private college as the paragon of excellence in education and leadership. We invoke the blessings of our Heavenly Father upon that great work.

You have our prayers that this outstanding institution will continue to demonstrate that it has a profound faith in God, loyalty to its denomination, and love for this great State of North Carolina. That it has an abiding devotion to the principles of human progress, and that it will, under God's guidance, do all within its power to help lead us into a new era of fulfillment.

Best wishes, President White, to you and your family, and congratulations to Gardner-Webb College for being the recipient of your leadership and guidance.

Greetings From The City of Shelby

George W. Clay
Mayor

Dr. White, distinguished friends of Gardner-Webb College, I am delighted to express the hearty and sincere best wishes of Shelby and the Cleveland County community for your success and the continued prosperity of this fine institution under your leadership.

You have already demonstrated the qualities of leadership, pleasing personality, and high standards which promise to enrich the community as well as the College.

Cleveland County is a blessed part of our great state of North Carolina. We enjoy our small towns, broad and growing base of industrial employment, beautiful expanses of forest and farmland, and our convenient proximity to cosmopolitan areas. Gardner-Webb College occupies a front rank position among the ingredients enriching this community.

The young people of near and far need and deserve the alternative of the conservative Christian education available here.

Our community pledges its continued affection and respect for your institution and our positive support of your leadership.



George W. Clay

Greetings

From The Town of Boiling Springs

John Washburn, Jr., '58
Mayor



John Washburn, Jr.

On behalf of the citizens and officials of the Town of Boiling Springs, I extend a cordial welcome to all our visitors and guests and offer greetings to everyone. This expression is made very personal to Dr. M. Christopher White and all members of his extended family on this special day.

Although the town is older than the College, they were chartered with not many years between, and they have grown together. Overall the relationship has been a good one from which both have mutually benefited. The town has provided utilities, fire and police protection, and hospital and medical services to the College. The College has opened her doors to the townspeople for employment, learning, cultural development and entertainment. They have shared each other's occasional reverses and enjoyed the numerous successes experienced by both.

As an alumnus of the College, I, along with many alumni and residents of the area, express our indebtedness to the past three administrations of the College:

To the late Dr. Philip L. Elliott for his emphasis upon academic excellence and community service; to Dr. E. Eugene Poston for his leadership in the expansion of the campus, the extensive building programs and the elevation of the College to the senior college level; and to Dr. Craven E. Williams for his guidance in the maturing of the senior college ideal, the growth of the student body and the addition of new programs to the curriculum. These built upon the foundations of prior administrations and each has left a heritage for the years ahead.

The Town of Boiling Springs has not remained static through the years and neither

has Gardner-Webb College. There have been growth and changes and there must be more. Even now the town is planning for the future and so is the College. Hopefully the coming days will be bright for both. But each day is the time to begin, for as Albert Einstein said, "I never think of the future. It comes soon enough."

On this Inaugural Day, Dr. White, I pledge the cooperation and services of the town to assist Gardner-Webb College in becoming the educational institution you envision. Together may we join in the task as expressed by Longfellow in *The Village Blacksmith*:

*Each morning sees some task begun,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.*



Lloyd C. Bost



Presidential assistant Evans P. Whitaker assists Mr. Bost with his regalia.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT SPANGLER

Lloyd C. Bost

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

President White, Dr. Williams, Dr. Poston, members of the Board of Trustees, members of the Faculty, members of the Student Body, distinguished platform guests, distinguished delegates and representatives, ladies and gentlemen:

We are privileged in having with us today as our guest of honor, and as our principal speaker at the inaugural ceremony of our new president, Mr. C. D. Spangler, Jr., President of the consolidated University of North Carolina.

It was only five months ago that President Spangler, amid similar pomp and ceremony, took the oath of the presidency at his own inauguration after having been named president in March of 1986. In the brief period of his administration he has already won the confidence of the citizens of a grateful state. He has taken the reins of the country's sixth largest public university system, which enrolls 130,000 students, employs 25,000 individuals, and operates under an annual budget of over a billion dollars. Mr. Spangler has truly been invested with a tremendous responsibility and is pressing forward to build on the work of his illustrious predecessors in keeping the University of North Carolina system one of the finest in the nation.

President Spangler is a product of both public and private higher education. After earning the Bachelor of Science in Business degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1954, he went on to Harvard University where he was awarded the Master of Business Administration degree. He then spent two years serving our nation in the

United States Army and returned in 1958 to work in the construction business founded by his father. He later became president of C. D. Spangler Industries as well as president of Golden Eagle Industries. He has also distinguished himself and the organizations as a member of the boards of Hammermill Paper Company, NCNB Corporation, Aeronca, Inc., and as chairman of the board of the Bank of North Carolina.

It is of special significance and cannot go without mention that our speaker is not a stranger to Cleveland County and Gardner-Webb College. Indeed, his parents, C. D. and Vera Yelton Spangler, grew up here in Cleveland County. In addition, the immediate area is home for many proud, close and distant, relatives of President Spangler.

Throughout his business career, President Spangler has been an intense supporter and facilitator of excellence in education. He was a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education in the 1970s. In 1982, he was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to chair the state board of education.

He is a man of great character and wonderful temperament who enjoys a splendid reputation for integrity, courage, honesty, and loyalty. He is known as an individual who never lets the prevailing opinion divert him from the course he thinks is right.

It is altogether fitting and appropriate that this leader of proven commitment to the universal cause of education speak to this special convocation today.

It gives me great pleasure to present to you Mr. C. D. Spangler, Jr.

Inaugural Speech

Preserving the Right Traditions

C.D. Spangler Jr.

President of the University of North Carolina

Chairman Bost, Trustees, President White, dedicated faculty, students, and friends of Gardner-Webb College:

Your new president is about to join that elite and tiny core of Americans who have been inaugurated. If you think about it, really, there can't be more than a couple thousand of us in the whole country. Having broken in to their ranks about six months ago, I can tell you it is a wonderful thing, and I only wish I could get inaugurated more often.

Franklin Roosevelt had more than his share of inaugurations, and while preparing these remarks I decided to check out whether he had any special observations about them. I ran across a little story that might amuse those of you who have been involved in planning today's events. It seems that, by mistake, President Roosevelt was sent an invitation to one of his own inaugurations. In reply he mischievously sent regrets to the social office of the White House, saying the press of his public responsibilities would make it impossible for him to attend. My own inauguration was so well-planned that I suspect it could have gone off beautifully without me. Your planning for today is also magnificently evident, but I am glad to see that your tenth president is evident also.

If everyone knew what a thrill it is to be inaugurated, I suspect all presidents—bank presidents, PTA presidents, any old president—would insist upon an inauguration. Yet outside government, it is mainly college presidents who get this special treatment. I believe colleges and universities cling to inaugurations because they remind us of the special place of higher education in the history of mankind since the eleventh century. Inaugurations are also a time of looking back to the roots of our own institutions and for celebrating change in the company of scholars from sister institutions. Inaugurations, then, are part of a tradition. They are full of anachronisms perhaps—starting with these fantastic hats, robes and hoods we all wear—but inaugurations are a grand tradition, and one worth keeping.

When I think of my boyhood visiting in Cleveland County, and the values I learned from my parents, I am reminded of other traditions worth keeping, and of some traditions that, quite frankly, are not worth keeping. Growing up in these splendid, stubborn, red-clay foothills, most of us were taught to value education, and indeed to sacrifice for it. If this were not so, there would be no inauguration here today. Gardner-Webb was saved from extinction several times by the sacrifices of the local citizens. And indeed something about the institution's very precariousness appealed to your great benefactor, O. Max Gardner. He once confided to Yates Webb, Mrs. Gardner's uncle: "Of course, you and I know that the life of a denominational college is always hazardous. If it had not been so, I doubt that I would have taken the interest in it that I have." Gardner thought correctly that this institution would have to "win the confidence of our people"—he meant the local people—if it was to survive rather than die from neglect. Over time, the faculty, students, and administrators of this place have earned the confidence of the citizenry by helping to transform young people into ministers, nurses, teachers, businessmen, and—just as important—by turning out enlightened young citizens and future parents imbued with a love of learning. The tradition of supporting education, and sacrificing for it, is one that must be preserved if colleges like this one are to continue to flourish.

As a boy, I picked up a lot of other old-fashioned ideas that are part of the tradition of this locality and this state. I learned that hard work is one remedy for hard times. I learned what a bulwark a strong family is for each of its members. And I grew up, if not in fear of God, at least in fear of not going to church. I saw my mother's family, the Yeltons, faithfulness to their Union Baptist Church just down the road. And my father's family, the Spanglers, faithfulness to Double Shoals Baptist Church, a strong and good tradition in this community. On the other side of the ledger, I saw racial prejudice all around me when I was a boy—white people who viewed black people with condescension, and often with scorn.

Today racial prejudice is fading, and we must continue working to eradicate it.

On other fronts, many worthy traditional values are under attack. It is said that the young do not like hard work, and it is a fact that they are not



C. D. Spangler, Jr.

churchgoers like we used to be. It is also a fact that their parents are far more likely to be divorced than ours were, and that many do not get the support from home that was so important to me and my friends in our upbringing.

The influence of a church-supported institution such as Gardner-Webb cannot change these trends, I am sorry to say, but by standing for the traditional values, Gardner-Webb can be an inspiration for its students and for those citizens of this community who seek to conserve the best from its past. More important, Gardner-Webb, because it is a liberal arts college, can help young people cope intelligently, creatively, and justly in an era of radical change.

Perhaps the greatest social change in the twentieth century is the one that has taken women out of the kitchen and into jobs that pay. The feminist movement has enormous implications for society—for women, for men, for marriages, for children, and for the workplace. Women have almost as many options today as men do, and that kind of equality is a good thing. But it is not necessarily making women's lives easier—or men's—and the truth is we are not sure what the lasting effects of women's new freedom will be. It is clear that the traditional role of the husband and wife—the husband as provider and maker of big decisions, the wife in charge of keeping house and taking care of children—is being altered, probably permanently. This is a profound change, and an unsettling one because we cannot be sure exactly what arrangements will take the place of the old ones. Young Americans are living with that question now, and struggling with it.

I cite this example of a changing tradition to make a special point about the liberal arts. We know that women are making their mark in the graduate schools of law, medicine, and business all over the United States. They are getting the best training this nation has to offer. There has never been any question, not in my mind anyway, that women can "make it" in nontraditional fields. But I believe the salvation of this generation, men and women, will come through study of the liberal arts, which addresses the real unknowables of life and probes for answers. What are the politics, if you will, of marriages in which the wife is the bigger money-earner? What will ultimately be the effect on husbands and marriages and children if the career of the wife is rival to all three? Answering questions like these may be the greatest challenge for this generation of young people, and for the next. And all of this is grist for the mill of the liberal arts.

Yet, in spite of all this, many people denigrate the liberal arts; the argument usually takes the form that it may be a nice thing to study history and literature and art, but how will it look on a resume? Or how can my son or daughter get a job with nothing more than a liberal arts degree? This kind of thinking also has a long history. One of my predecessors as president of the University of North Carolina, Edward K. Graham, addressed the issue when he was speaking at an inauguration at another Baptist college in this state, Meredith College in Raleigh, back in 1916. "Indeed," he said, "the thought now and then assails us that material efficiency and the passion to 'get on' in the world of things is already making it so that the liberal arts college cannot exist. But this is a

passing phase, and it is still the great function of the college to put above the essential of making the means to live the supreme necessity of creating the true wealth of life. 'There is,' as Ruskin says, 'no wealth but Life—Life, including all of its powers of love and joy of admiration.' "

This college and other colleges and universities in this state and throughout the nation, have a special respect from our people. This is because education, an informed electorate, is grease for the engines of democracy. We need enlightened leaders, and enlightened voters to pick them. And enlightenment is what we are all about: this is just as true for small campuses such as Gardner-Webb as for giant multi-campus institutions such as the University of North Carolina.

President Graham also thought a lot about the role of education in a democracy, and in his own inaugural address in 1910, speaking of the University at Chapel Hill, he said, "... it is a living entity, an organism at the heart of the living democratic state, interpreting its life, not by parts, or by a summary of parts but wholly—fusing the functions of brain and heart and hand under the power of the immortal spirit of democracy as it moves in present American life to the complete realization of what men really want. The real measure of its power will be whether, discarding the irrelevancies of the past and present, it can focus, fuse, and interpret their eternal verities."

What Graham was saying, I believe, is that our government, of and by the people, is dynamic, and that our educational institutions play a crucial role in determining what the people want to discard and what they want to keep, the eternal verities. No wonder colleges and universities have such respect. And no wonder the job of running them is so challenging.

We live in changing times, which are the best kind. We move forward, and yet we try to find enduring values and cling to them. This is as it should be. And being here today—thinking about how much the world and I have changed, and how little—gives me great hope for the future, and for the future of Gardner-Webb College.

Good luck to you, President White, and welcome to the magical world of the newly inaugurated.



Presidents Spangler and White



Hobart C. Smith

Introduction of President White

Hobart C. Smith
Chairman of the
Presidential Search Committee

Chairman Bost, President Spangler, Dr. Walker, Dr. Smith, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Henley, Mayor Washburn, Mayor Clay, ladies and gentlemen:

This historic morning, I have the great privilege of presenting the man who will shortly be officially installed as the president of this grand institution. Many prominent citizens have graced the presidency of Gardner-Webb college. It is a high honor and distinction to become its head. The office of president requires an individual of experience, ability and fortitude, with a knowledge of life, and imbued with a passion for excellence in education. We are fortunate, indeed, that Christopher White was selected to this office. By dint of his own energy and ability he has achieved a notable career, and by devotion he has attained a reputation of being among the most able of academic administrators.

From the outset of his career in higher education 17 years ago, his concern for students as individuals and his dedication to educating as his life's call have always been apparent. His life has been characterized by service to others.

During his teaching career as a professor of religion, Dr. White published in such professional outlets as *Religious Studies Review* and

The Journal Of Biblical Literature.

Most recently over the past twelve years, President White has served as an effective administrator along with Dr. Fred Young in leading Elon College to new heights. There he served as chairman of the department of religion, associate dean for academic affairs, dean, and vice president for academic and student affairs, during one of the most fruitful eras in Elon's history. His accomplishments have earned him recognition in *Who's Who In Religion* and *Who's Who In the South and Southeast*.

While managing the many tasks as an executive administrator at Elon, he has also been active as a Sunday School teacher and part-time pianist at the First Baptist Church in Burlington and as pastor and interim pastor of numerous churches. He has served and continues to serve as a member of visiting committees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. White's desire to serve his Lord and fellow man has enabled him to accept the challenges and circumstances which have prepared him and led him to where he is today. Small wonder then that so many people have gathered here to pay him tribute. We extend to him a hearty welcome. I predict that he, too, will become one of our great presidents.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, at Harvard College in 1837, said in his famous speech, "The American Scholar." "The day is always his who works in it with serenity and great aims." For President White and Gardner-Webb College, today and tomorrow are yours, for the future is indeed bright.



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Fleming, parents of Mrs. White



Mr. and Mrs. Martin White, parents of President White

Inaugural Address

Gardner-Webb College: The Only Place of Its Kind

Dr. M. Christopher White

Mr. Spangler, distinguished delegates and guests, the trustees, faculty, staff and student body, family and friends, gathered here on this occasion which is so meaningful in the life of Gardner-Webb College and to my life personally—thank you for your presence. I wish that I had the pleasure of extending to each of you in a very personal way my gratitude to you for taking the time to journey to the Gardner-Webb campus for these ceremonies.

For the balance of my lifetime, I will treasure this special day of privilege and honor. As the tenth president of Gardner-Webb College, I feel unreserved pride to share with you and others the opportunity to help share its future and its contribution to society's future. As with every generation in relation to the next, we hold the future in trust. While we do not know what the future holds for us, this much we do know: if we wait until the future is upon us, it will be too late to respond. We must orient ourselves in the present, firmly rooted in the past, but with our eyes always scanning ahead.

In his inaugural response, President Philip Elliott cited one of Arnold Bennett's stories. The story had two travelers. One of them did not know where he was going; the other knew that he was going to Timbuktu but did not know why. President Elliott argued that we must know both where we are going and why. His lengthy and successful tenure as president is evidence enough that he knew.

Generally, new college presidents being inaugurated are expected to make some observations about the future of higher education or the achievements which will take place during their tenure of office. For example, I could tell you that I think microprocessors will indeed drastically change the nature of teaching and learning in the next decade; or I could tell you that demographic data may be misleading in regard to prospective higher education enrollments the rest of this century; or I could tell you that inflation, aging facilities, and the curtailment of financial aid to students is causing colleges monumental difficulties; or I could exude optimism and tell you that the rest of this century offers one of the most formidable but exciting eras in higher education in this century.

However, some of us who are reasonably experienced are a bit reluctant to try to predict the future too precisely. As stated in the Carnegie Commission report, *More Than Survival*, "It takes a dash of bravado to make projections and a touch of madness to believe in their invincibility." Notwithstanding this warning, I want to share with you several of my hopes and expectations for this College over the next ten years, particularly since I know full well that whatever we achieve will come about principally because of the capable and dedicated efforts of our trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni and

friends.

As many of you know, Gardner-Webb College was chartered as a high school by the State of North Carolina in 1905, with its founders committed to the belief that humankind is the most important aspect of God's universe and that all our freedoms, including religious freedom, will best be maintained and enhanced by a broadly educated society. Throughout our 82 years, Gardner-Webb has remained true to its Christian heritage as she grew from high school status to a junior college and then to a senior college. During my tenure as president, I pledge that we will continue to remain true to that heritage and respond faithfully to the trust granted us. We will, to paraphrase Will and Ariel Durant, "gather up as much as we can of our civilized heritage and transmit it to our children," all within the framework of a community of Christian teachers and scholars.

Robert Penn Warren, distinguished poet, once described Vanderbilt University as "a rare place, the only place of its kind." I submit to you that these words also describe "the Web," as our campus is so often called. My vision of the future is to help make Gardner-Webb College into "the only place of its kind." In so doing I will only be continuing the work of my predecessors, Dr. Elliott, Dr. Poston, and Dr. Williams.

If our vision is to become reality, it must be anchored today, as it has been in earlier days, with exceptional faculty and exceptional students. Our faculty is, and has been, the bedrock upon which Gardner-Webb is built. If any college is to be great, its faculty must lead the way toward that greatness. But, once having started toward greatness a college has no guarantees that it, or its faculty, will continue toward greatness. To do so requires continued attention to the development and nourishment of that faculty, making the difficult choices, putting aside pettiness and bigotry in any form, and reaching toward the goals of superior talent, intellect, and values. Down through the years Gardner-Webb's faculty has worked harder and sacrificed more than any other group to advance the causes of this institution. They believe in the College's purposes and render a level of service that can never be demanded of them. They are deeply dedicated Christian teachers and scholars, more than worthy of their hire and of our constant devotion to their welfare and best interest—which they shall always have as long as I am president.

And with equal attention, faculty development must be complemented by the commitment to vigorous recruitment of students who are exceptional. Faculty and students together challenge each other's dreams and visions.

These commitments—faculty development and student recruitment—are not new com-



Dr. M. Christopher White

mitments at Gardner-Webb College; but the vigor with which they are pursued must be rekindled.

Our academic philosophy and priorities for the next decade will be clearly demonstrated through the continuing expectation that our faculty **must first and foremost teach exceptionally well**; through the research and creativity that will not be demanded but encouraged; and through an emphasis on quality instead of quantity. To paraphrase an idea from O. Max Gardner, past governor of N.C. and whose name dignifies this College, we face the peril of having everything to live with and nothing to live for. Man is more than a collection of chromosomes; he is more than a product of his economic surroundings; he is even more than his heredity, his environment, or his formal schooling. He is a part of the eternal, a son of God. To awaken the instinct for reality, or God, within him is our chief concern. It takes devout Christian teachers to make this a reality.

Students will remain the focal point of all Gardner-Webb programs and will never be relegated to a place of secondary importance because of any confusion on the part of our faculty and staff as regards priorities set by the administration. A great deal will continue to be expected of our people but if something has to give, it must not be quality teaching time and time spent with students.

The overall philosophical and economic conditions of our country require that we strive to an even greater degree that we may be able to use our resources wisely. If we are to avoid unusually high charges to the families and students who seek Gardner-Webb College as their choice of institutions, then we must work diligently during the next decade to substantially increase our endowment, particularly in the areas of student scholarships, professorships and chairs. It is not unrealistic but rather necessary for us to set as our goal a \$10 million endowment at least by the early 1990s, and we shall pursue that goal as determinedly as possible. Simultaneously, we shall also seek to sustain and enhance our deferred gifts program to create a viable legacy for future generations.

Our vision for the future must begin now--in our curriculum, in our students, in our faculty, in our relationships with society, in our shaping the vision for Gardner-Webb's future in all respects; in our dream to make Gardner-Webb College "a rare place, the only one of its kind."

The poet William Wordsworth wrote, "Whither has it fled the visionary gleam? Where is it now, the glory and the dream?"

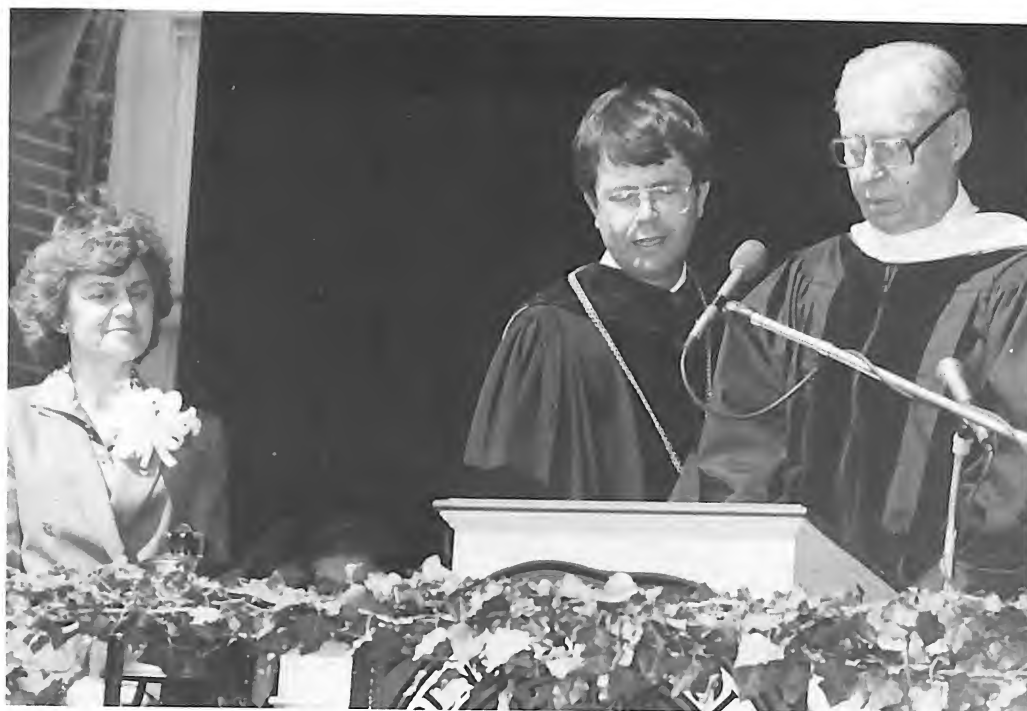
Can we answer the poet Wordsworth that it is here; at this College; within our faculty; within our students; within our legacy; and, within our grasp?

As I bring my remarks to a close, I want to express my lasting gratitude to my wonderful wife of 21 years, our children, my mother and father, Linda's father and mother, and all of my family and friends for their love and forgiving spirit throughout all my years. I also want to express publicly my thankfulness for all that has gone on before at Gardner-Webb College, to the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees for their considerable confidence in me, to my predecessors in this office, to the Gardner-Webb faculty for its acceptance of me as a colleague, to the Gardner-Webb staff for their acceptance of me as a co-worker, and to the Gardner-Webb students, past and present, who have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate that they are worthy of our very best efforts and who hold within their hands the heart of our heritage and the hope of our future.

May each of you have a safe return to your respective institutions and to your homes. I thank you again for honoring me and this fine College with your presence here today.



The President's wife, Linda, and their two sons, Marty (left) and Andy (right)



The President takes oath of office.

Installation of the President

Lloyd C. Bost

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Former presidents E. Eugene Poston and Craven E. Williams will please join me to assist in the installation. President and Mrs. White will please join us.

Martin Christopher White, I am authorized by the Board of Trustees of Gardner-Webb College to invest you with all the rights, powers, and responsibilities of the Presidency. In token thereof, I commit to your keeping this Charter of the College, which sets forth and empowers our operations; under the laws of North Carolina and of the United States of America.

(Dr. Poston presented the Charter to Mr. Bost.)

(Mr. Bost presented the Charter to Dr. White.)

The Seal of the College binds all our institutional documents and is impressed upon every diploma the College issues. As a symbol of the official Seal in your custody, I present this Presidential Medallion to you and now place it around your shoulders. It is to be worn with your Robe of Office.

(Dr. Williams presented the medallion to Mr. Bost.)

(Mr. Bost placed the medallion around Dr. White's shoulders.)

Dr. White: Mr. Chairman, in receiving and safeguarding this Charter, and in receiving and wearing this emblem, I accept the Presidency of Gardner-Webb College with all its obligations to serve our community, our region, and our nation, endeavoring always to advance the worthy purpose of this institution.

Mr. Bost: Christopher White, you enjoy the confidence of the students, the alumni, and the faculty. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I give you assurance of its endorsement and support in the attainment of the ideals to which Gardner-Webb College is dedicated.

On behalf of all those present and those who have sent their regards, I wish for you a long and successful career in this special office which you now hold. Our prayers and hopes will be with you in the days ahead as you guide Gardner-Webb College to an even greater future in service to mankind and God.

I pronounce you President of Gardner-Webb College.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1987

Dear Dr. White:

Senator Jesse Helms has let me know that you are becoming president of Gardner-Webb College. You have my congratulations and good wishes.

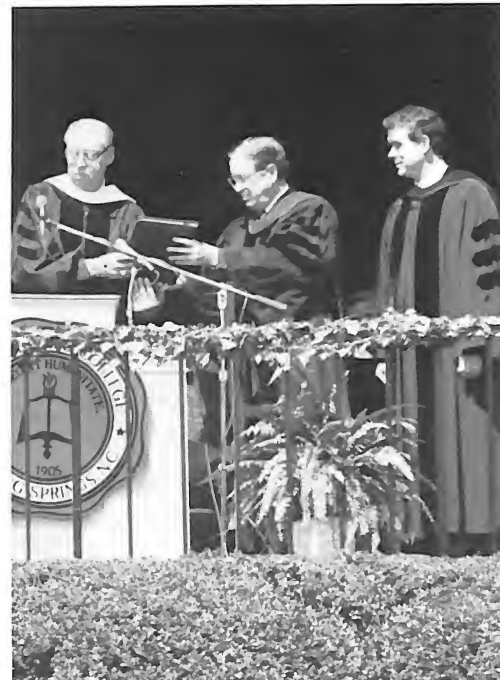
The history of Gardner-Webb College is a testimony to what faith and a sense of purpose can achieve. You will be carrying on a rich tradition; Gardner-Webb College offers a concrete example of what the insight of faith can do for education, and what both faith and education can do for society.

Again, congratulations. You have my very best wishes. God bless you.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

M. Christopher White, Ph.D.
President
Gardner-Webb College
Boiling Springs, North Carolina 28017



Dr. E. Eugene Poston, eighth president of the College, presents the College's Charter to Lloyd C. Bost as ninth president Craven E. Williams looks on.



Student marshals (l to r): Michael Wilkie, Lenoir; Gerald Thomas Jr., Spartanburg, S.C.; and Sally Owens and Dwayne Duncan, Forest City.



Newly installed President White leads the recessional.

President, Gardner-Webb College, April 8, 1967

THEIR SOUND HAS GONE OUT

SATB Choir and 4+ Brass

Text from Psalm 19
Music by Douglas Smith

With determination ♩ = 92-108

The musical score is handwritten on a page with a central text box. The score includes parts for Brass (Tuba, Trombone, Trumpet) and Choir. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is in 4/4 time and features a variety of musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Brass *f* *ff* *mf*

Choir

THEIR SOUND HAS GONE OUT

Their sound has gone out
And their words to the end of the Earth.
The heav'ns declare the glory of God
And the firmament showeth His handiwork.

Their sound has gone out
And their words to the end of the Earth.
Day unto day speech and
Night unto night knowledge.

Let the words of my mouth and the
Meditation of my heart be acceptable,
Acceptable in Thy sight,
O Lord, my strength, my redeemer.

Their sound has gone out
Their sound has gone out
Their sound has gone out .

Out. And Their Words To the end of the Earth

Their Sound Has Gone Out, the anthem commissioned by the college for the inauguration, was composed by Dr. G. Douglas Smith, professor of church music at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. The text of the anthem came from Psalm 19.

"The Psalm seems to say just exactly the kinds of things I would want to say in the kind of triumphal experience that will soon be yours," Smith said in a letter to the Gardner-Webb Concert Choir.

"The 'Day unto day speech, and night unto knowledge' seems to capulate the nuts and bolts of education, and the 'Let the words of my mouth . . .' seems to capture the innate dedication so necessary for professors and students alike," he wrote.

The Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Phil Perrin and accompanied by the Foothills Brass Quintet, performed the anthem. Interpreter Mary Ruth Dixon signed the anthem text for the deaf.

Inaugural Dinner Tuesday evening, April 7



Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hamilton of Shelby.



Student leaders Michael Rousseaux and Mickey Sharpe unveil the official portrait.

Unveiling of the Portrait

By Evans P. Whitaker
Executive Assistant to the President

Mr. Bost, distinguished guests:

It is my delight to be able to narrate the unveiling of President White's portrait.

The portrait is a handsome, 30 by 40 heavy oil painting commissioned by the donors through Lem Lynch Photography of Shelby. After being unveiled tonight, the portrait will be on display in the Charles I. Dover Campus Center tomorrow and will then be placed in the Conference Room of the Webb Administration Building.

On behalf of all the members of the College, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the donors, the two most significant women in the President's life: his wife, Linda, and his mother, Mrs. Martin White.

Inaugurations are a direct inheritance from the Middle Ages. Rightly or wrongly, I have always assumed that part of my role in connection with this week's events was to bring the lessons of the past to bear on the needs and opportunities of the present.

Over the last six months I have often wondered just how things were carried out back then. And with a little digging I found some interesting information which I'd like to share with you about how a president was celebrated in those days.

At Bologna all we are told is that in 1432 the

newly invested rector was escorted to his house, where wine and spices awaited the students. More action was present at an Italian university, where the rector was forbidden to feast more than twelve people or to "dance or make to dance with trumpets or without" for a month after the installation.

An odd 16th-century custom was to seize the newly chosen official, tear off his clothes, and then force him to redeem the fragments. Again at the Oxford convocation in 1669 the vice-chancellor found it necessary to imprison the student representative, whose public comment on the eminent figures of the university was more frank than discreet.

After all that information, we could be dangerous. But surely we wouldn't treat a president like that in the Twentieth Century.

But to lighten things up, I would like to suggest that instead of calling this formality the "Unveiling of the Portrait" that we call it the "Exposing of the President."

Mr. Michael Rousseaux, President, and Mr. Mickey Sharpe, Vice President of the Student Government Association, have joined me now to do just that.

Congratulations, Mr. President, you've now been made public.



John Mull Gardner tells dinnergoers that his grandfather, O. Max Gardner, "would be very pleased over what has happened to the college in the last 40 years."



Welcoming college attorney Joe Mauney and his wife, Sue, is Kitty Eeds, secretary to the President.



Dr. H. Gene Washburn ('52) welcomes the tenth president to Boiling Springs.

The Observer-News-Enterprise

NEWTON/CONOVER, CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA 28658

A PARK PAPER

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1987, VOLUME 108 NUMBER 50

Something to live for

Prepositions have always given me problems. I know what they are for, but I always seem to use them poorly.

School reinforced my ignorance. I struggled with basic grammar until gaining some mastery. Spelling, however, has always been beyond my grasp.

When I was a college freshman my English professor quickly picked up the fact that I could not spell. She said, "I can't spell myself, so I can't teach you how to spell. But I will teach you how to use a dictionary."

Many of these thoughts of education came flooding back to me this week as I sat in the beautiful garden of Gardner-Webb College at the inauguration of their new president, Dr. Christopher White. Joining me on that marvelous Spring morning were over 200 representatives of colleges and universities.

We were there in all our academic regalia: caps, gowns, hoods of different colors and shapes. There were more there with doctorates than people. It was an academic ghetto. And I felt the same old intellectual intimidation from my college days.

In A Mirror--Dimly by Rev. Charles Durham

Of course, I discovered that most were alumni like myself or other college presidents who spend all their time raising money rather than lecturing students. The greatest number were ministers partly because of Gardner-Webb's Baptist affiliation or because ministers can get away during the week for such an occasion and usually have robes of their own.

The parade of pomp is also appealing to pastors. There was plenty of it. The choir sang. A brass quintet played along with nature's sweet breezes. And there were an abundance of speeches.

The key note speaker was Dr. C. D. Spangler, Jr., President of the University of North Carolina. He made a passionate plea for liberal arts education. It was music to my ears.

He criticized the current notion that education should be directed

entirely toward a profession. Many feel that courses in the humanities detract from the central thrust of learning a marketable skill.

Dr. Spangler stressed the need for a general education which would prepare students for more than a job-for life itself. Enlightenment is the key, he said, and it only comes from learning for the sake of learning.

The new president, Dr. White, built upon that theme. He quoted O. Max Gardner, former Governor of North Carolina, for whom the college is named in part, who lamented some years ago, "... People have plenty to live with and little to live for ..."

How true of today! Seems like I'm not the only one to have problems with prepositions. So many of us have had as a goal money to live with.

We need to be inspired to aspire toward goals that give us a reason to live for.

We need to be inspired to aspire towards goals of achievement and excellence. We need to go beyond the yell of leisure heard on the golf course, "fore," to the point we can loudly proclaim a purposeful preposition: "for!"

Editor's Note: The Reverend Durham is pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Newton. He attended the inauguration as a delegate from Rhodes College.



Trustee robing: Dr. Betty E. Knox ('54), left, and Gladys B. Boronghs ('42), right, adjust hood for Ann B. Hardy ('47).



Mrs. Mangum helps her husband, trustee Bill Mangum of Moravian Falls, robe. Already robed for the processional is trustee John L. Bethea Jr. of Matthews.



Retired professor S. L. Lamm



Professor emeritus Deck W. Andrews of Forest City (right) greets Mrs. J. O. Terrell of Boiling Springs, wife of Dean emeritus J. O. Terrell (center).

The Shelby Star

Cleveland County's Home Newspaper Since 1894

VOL. 94, NO. 84

SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA

TELEPHONE 484-7000

PRICE: 25¢

Commission to receive water district petitions

By Robert Field
Star Staff Writer

Representatives of a proposed water district in southern Cleveland County will take their first steps this month toward becoming a legal entity.

J.D. Ellis, a county resident who has been working to establish the district, said that on April 21, he will give Cleveland County commissioners petitions with more than 1,000 signatures calling for the creation of a 135-mile

water district extending from Boiling Springs to Kings Mountain and a portion of Gaston County.

Ellis said volunteers have been drumming up support for the district ever since Kings Mountain Mayor John Moss proposed the \$30 million project last summer.

Now, after more than 15 percent of the voters in the area have indicated their interest by signing petitions, it is up to commissioners to request state approval of the district.

Under North Carolina state law, two or more towns may join together to create a metropolitan water or sewer district. Once established, the district's governing board may raise finances for the district however it chooses, including by issuing bonds.

Ellis said his group submitted petitions bearing 1,985 names to the Cleveland County Elections Board, which confirmed this month that 1,231 were registered voters. Of the 7,981 voters who reside in the six voting

precincts in the proposed district, 15.3 percent signed the petitions, according to the elections board.

Ellis said a group of Gaston County volunteers submitted petitions to their county elections board, which confirmed that the signatures comprised more than 15 percent of voters in the proposed area.

"I see (the water district) as a great asset," said Ellis. "Let's face it, we've all got to live together and the better we can work together, the better world

we're going to make."

Cleveland County Manager Joe Hendrick said if the commissioners vote to accept the petitions and approve the proposed boundaries, the next step would be to contact the N.C. Division of Health Services and ask them to hold a public hearing with the county.

The N.C. Commission for Health Services would then review the project

☆ See DISTRICT Page 14



Dr. Christopher White, left, chats with C.D. Spangler Jr. during the processional

for White's inauguration at Gardner-Webb College this morning. Others pictured are,

from center, Hobart C. Smith, Lloyd C. Bost and Craven E. Williams.

Dover Foundation, family provide gift

By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

BOILING SPRINGS — The Dover Foundation and family last night made a gift of more than a half million dollars to Gardner-Webb College.

The gift is in connection with the college's upcoming \$5.95 million fund-raising drive.

Hoyt Bailey made the announcement during the inaugural dinner for Dr. Christopher White, who was installed as the college's 10th president

today.

Bailey, president of the Dover Foundation and son-in-law of Charles I. Dover, said the foundation was giving \$250,000 and that the family had more than matched the amount for a total of \$540,000. Contributors include Dover, Bailey and his wife, Anne; Dorothy Dover Dykers; and Kathleen and Harvey Hamrick. (Bailey's daughter, Cynthia Irvin Bailey, a nurse at Emory University, donated the \$100 in honor of her grandfather.)

The gift, said Bailey, is in keeping with the goal of the new fund-raising drive: "Keeping Gardner-Webb on a firm foundation."

Noting the personal interest Charles I. Dover has had in Gardner-Webb over the years, Bailey recalled how Dover and his brother, the late Jack Dover, had begun the Dover Foundation in 1944 with a primary goal of financial aid to the college. He also noted that Charles I. Dover and

☆ See DOVER, Page 7

Firemen approve directors

By Robert Field
Star Staff Writer

Danieltown volunteer firemen



Suttle's Drug Store will move to former Winn-Dixie building

By Michael Goforth
Star Staff Writer

Suttle's Drug Store, which has operated at the corner of East Warren Street and South DeKalb Street in uptown Shelby for more than a quarter century, is moving

far too large for a drug store alone, he said. Suttle's, he said, will use some 6,500 to 7,000 square feet, or double what the store has now. The remainder of the building will be available for lease by a compatible business or businesses, he said.

The closing of Winn-Dixie marked the end of

President installed at G-W

By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

BOILING SPRINGS — Pledging to remain true to the same Christian heritage that has characterized Gardner-Webb College throughout its 82-year history, Dr. Christopher White was inaugurated the institution's 10th president this morning.

Trustee Chairman Lloyd C. Bost of Shelby officially invested White with the rights and responsibilities of the Gardner-Webb presidency before a crowd of several hundred people on the campus lawn in front of the O. Max Gardner Recital Hall.

In White's address, he quoted American poet Robert Penn Warren's description of Vanderbilt University as a "rare place, the only place of its kind."

White noted: "I submit that these words also describe 'The Web,' as our campus is so often called. My vision of the future is to help make G-W into 'the only place of its kind.' In so doing, I will only be continuing the work of my predecessors."

To bring this vision to reality, White said, the college "must be anchored today, as it has been in earlier days, with exceptional faculty and exceptional students. Our faculty is, and has been, the bedrock upon which G-W is built. If any college is to be great, its faculty must lead the way toward that greatness."

Doing so, he said, "requires continued attention to the development and nourishment of that faculty, making the difficult choices, putting aside pettiness and bigotry in any form, and reaching toward the goals of superior talent, intellect and values."

Faculty development must be complemented by what White called "the commitment to vigorous recruitment of students who are exceptional. Faculty and students together challenge each other's dreams and visions."

White said the college's academic philosophy and priorities for the next decade will be "clearly demonstrated through the continuing expectation

☆ See DR. WHITE, Page 7

Dr. White inaugurated as new GWC president

☆ From Page 1

that our faculty must first and foremost teach exceptionally well — through the research and creativity that will not be demanded but encouraged, and an emphasis on quality instead of quantity."

Students will remain the focal point of all G-W programs, White said, and "will never be relegated to a place of secondary importance because of any confusion on the part of our faculty and staff as regards priorities set by the administration."

If the college is to avoid unusually high charges to families and students "who seek G-W as their choice of institutions," White said, "then we must work diligently during the next decade to substantially increase our endowment, particularly in the areas of student scholarships, professorships and chairs."

A \$10 million endowment goal by the early 1990s is "not unrealistic but rather necessary," he said. "We shall pursue that goal as determinedly as possible. Simultaneously, we shall also seek to sustain and enhance our deferred gifts program to create a viable legacy for future generations."

White concluded: "Gardner-Webb's vision for the future must begin now — in our curriculum, in our students, in our faculty, in our relationships with society, in our shaping of G-W's future in all respects; in our dream to make G-W a 'rare place, the only one of its kind.'"

Hobart C. Smith of Charlotte, president of the presidential search committee, introduced Dr. White.

The keynote speaker, C.D. Spangler Jr., newly inaugurated president of the consolidated University of North Carolina system, spoke on "preserving the right traditions." Spangler recalled boyhood visits to Cleveland County to see family members and the values he developed during that time, values such as the need for education and the willingness to sacrifice for it. "The tradition of supporting education and sacrificing for it must be preserved if colleges

like this one are to continue to flourish," said Spangler who recounted that Gardner-Webb had been saved several times from near-extinction by the sacrifices of local citizens.

Continuing on his theme of preserving worthy traditions, Spangler said, "Gardner-Webb can be an inspiration for students and citizens who seek to conserve the best from their past ... and can help young people cope in an era of radical change."

Spangler also expressed great hopes for the future of the nation in general and for that of Gardner-Webb College in particular. He said colleges will continue to have an important role to play in securing that future as "education and an informed citizenry are grease for the engine of democracy."

This morning's audience included some 180 delegates from colleges, universities and learned societies. Former Gardner-Webb presidents E. Eugene Poston and Craven Williams were also present. The last inaugural ceremony was held 24 years ago when Poston became president. Also on hand was James H. Bishop, director of the governor's western office in Asheville, who appeared during today's program to bring greetings from the governor and his wife. Bishop also read a letter of congratulations to Dr. White from President Reagan.

Inaugural activities began Monday evening with a concert by the college choir. Last night, an inaugural dinner was held in the Paul Porter Arena. During the dinner, a 30-by-40 oil painting of White was unveiled. The portrait is a gift from White's wife, Linda Fleming White, and his mother, Mrs. Martin White of Hartwell, Ga., and it will hang in the conference room of the Webb Administration Building.

Today's activities began with a faculty/delegate breakfast. Following the breakfast ceremony, which began at 10:30 a.m., a picnic lunch was held on the college grounds. A reception honoring Dr. and Mrs. White was to be held this afternoon in the O. Max Gardner Fine Arts Center.



Trustee emerita Mae Cline Stroup of Shelby and her niece, Louise Stroup

Dover Foundation, family provide gift to college

THE SHELBY STAR Wednesday, April 8, 1987-7

☆ From Page 1

the institution that later became Gardner-Webb, were both born in the same year — 1907.

"Their origins are closely related," said Bailey. It is a school "he (Dover) lovingly supports." The John R. Dover Library, Dover Chapel and Charles I. Dover Campus Center are a few of the major contributions the Dover Foundation has made. Recently, Charles I. Dover gave a concert grand piano to the college. Last night's contribution will go toward revitalizing the campus center building.

"He (Dover) has given his philosophy to us as guidelines for future generations to follow," said Bailey, pledging that he and others would follow those guidelines.

Lloyd C. Bost, chairman of the G-W board of trustees, presided over last night's program,

which included the unveiling of a 30-by-40 traditional oil painting of White. The portrait was commissioned through Lem Lynch Photography of Shelby and will hang in the conference room off White's office in the Webb Administration Building. The painting is a gift to the college from White's wife, Linda Fleming White, and his mother, Mrs. Martin White of Hartwell, Ga.

Hobart Smith of Charlotte, chairman of the presidential search committee, spoke briefly, followed by Dr. H. Gene Washburn, who welcomed White on behalf of Boiling Springs.

Washburn recalled how Hubert Dixon, a former professor at G-W, had told him: "A person is a newcomer in Boiling Springs until he's been there 40 years."

Speaking to White, Washburn said, "We hope you'll be in Boiling Springs long enough to know all the Hamricks and Greenes and Bridges and

Lovelaces and McSwains. When you know all these people, you'll no longer be a newcomer."

Afterward, Bost quipped, "He (White) might be here longer than any other president we've had."

John Mull Gardner, representing the Gardner and Webb families, also welcomed White. Gardner said his grandfather, O. Max Gardner, had a "real interest" and concern in the college that bears his name. "He was concerned about the future of Christian colleges in general," Gardner said. "He felt there was a real need for Christian education."

In White's remarks, he issued a challenge to "dare to dream" in relation to Gardner-Webb. A beautiful campus can become "more beautiful —

a garden spot," he said.

White said his dream for Gardner-Webb includes such elements as excellence in faculty teaching being the norm; graduation within the reach of everybody; creative teaching methods "always undergirded by Christian values"; and an endowment large enough to withstand the fluctuations of enrollment.

White recognized the efforts of his predecessors in the president's office, including Dr. E. Eugene Poston, who attended the dinner; Dr. Craven Williams; and the late Dr. Phil Elliott. White also recognized Dr. Fred Young, president of Elon College, whom he described as "the nearest person to my mentor."



Hoyt Q. Bailey announces the gift of over half million dollars from the Dover Foundation and family.



Longtime benefactor of the College, Mr. Charles I. Dover, and his daughter, Mrs. Hoyt Q. (Anne) Bailey, of Shelby.

The Charlotte Observer, April 9, 1987

The Web has on hand extra copies of the Inaugural Program. If you will send your name and address to *The Web*, we will be happy to mail a copy to you.

The Web
P.O. Box 976
Boiling Springs, NC 28017

The Charlotte Observer



JEEP HUNTER/Staff

New Gardner-Webb College President Christopher White (with medallion around neck) leads procession after his inauguration as the Baptist college's 10th president in Boiling Springs on Wednesday.

Gardner-Webb Inaugurates President

By PAM KELLEY
Staff Writer

BOILING SPRINGS — Former Elon College administrator Christopher White was inaugurated Wednesday as the 10th president of Gardner-Webb College, a Baptist school of 1,900 students situated in North Carolina's foothills.

The Southern Baptist minister and New Testament and Greek scholar pledged to remain true to

Inauguration

A photographic look at Christopher White's inauguration as the president of Gardner-Webb. **Page 2C**

the school's Christian heritage. He also told an audience of about 1,200 that he would work to recruit exceptional students,

develop the private school's faculty and increase the school's endowment of about \$3 million to \$10 million by the early 1990s.

"The overall philosophical and economic conditions of our country require that we strive to even a greater degree that we may be able to use our resources wisely," he said.

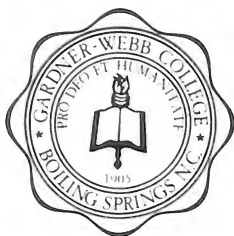
Wednesday's inauguration was Gardner-Webb's first in 25 years. White's predecessor, Cra-

ven Williams, elected not to have one in 1976 to save money. The school was in "a marginal situation," Williams said, using financial reserves to pay operating costs.

Known as "the college that wouldn't die," the school had weathered even tougher times.

Founded in 1905 by Baptists to provide area youths with a high school, the college nearly closed

See **PRESIDENT** Page 6A



The Charlotte Observer President Inaugurated At College

Continued From Page 1A

during the Depression. One year, a local businessman fed the students, and the school's president worked without pay.

Today, the school is financially healthier, officials say.

While one private college is closing in the United States each month, White says he is confident Gardner-Webb will survive.

"When times are easy, you can put up with mediocre programs," he said in a recent interview. "When times are hard, it forces us to look at each program critically. Hard times force quality."

The school is trying to raise about \$6 million, about \$3 million of that for its endowment. A son-in-law of Charles Dover, a Shelby textile mill owner, announced at Tuesday's inaugural dinner a gift from the Dover family of \$540,100.

Wednesday's inaugural speaker, University of North Carolina system President C.D. "Dick" Spangler Jr., said liberal arts colleges such as Gardner-Webb will be instrumental in helping young people tackle tough questions about a changing society.

They must aid students in determining what traditions of our society should be preserved and which should be discarded, he said.

"The tradition of supporting education and sacrificing for it is one that must be preserved if colleges like this one are to continue to flourish," he said.

As Spangler spoke, an interpreter for the deaf signed his speech. Gardner-Webb is one of only a few colleges that provide services for deaf and blind students.

The school also is only one of three in the country refusing to accept federal money. Students may pay for college with federal grants and loans, however.

Its stance, White said, "has to do with the free enterprise concept prevalent in this part of North Carolina. That's the kind of climate that formed the college and permeated the college all its years. Part of it has to do with pride. We don't need to be dependent on anyone else."

The program concluded with the school's song: "At the foot of the mountains is our college. Proud she stands, serving all who want her service, blessing all with outstretched hands."



The Inaugural Concert, April 6, featured the G-W Concert Choir.

The Shelby Star

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Editorials

Dare to dream; support G-W

GARDNER-WEBB College is obviously on the threshold of "a new day." The college, which already has an 82-year tradition of service to the region, has new leadership that aggressively seeks to enhance the school's image, substance and financial foundation. Those efforts deserve the support of everyone who cares for what many Cleveland County citizens feel is "our" college.

Gardner-Webb's newly inaugurated president, Dr. Christopher White, is asking people to "dare to dream," to work toward making the college a "rare place, the only place of its kind." And there's movement toward that goal judging by the initial success in the \$5.95 million fund-raising campaign and some of the spruce-up efforts that are already evident on the Boiling Springs campus.

To do the things everyone — students, faculty, alumni and the general public — would like to see done at the college will require money, and lots of it. To acquire money, you must aggressively seek it. The image of the college will ultimately play a key role in whether or not the venture is successful.

There were some mutterings among a few faculty members and students on the campus this week about Dr. White's "coronation" (which, according to college officials, cost less than \$10,000). Those mutterings are understandable in light of existing building, equipment and salary needs on the campus. Those complaining felt, with some justification, that the money could have been better applied to something other than a high-profile bit of pomp such as an inauguration ceremony. But maintaining a high profile and putting on an occasional "big time" display will be absolutely necessary if the college is to attract attention, attract donors and attract students.

There are thousands of causes, including hundreds of private schools, out there clamoring for attention. Gardner-Webb must do a bit of clamoring, too, if it is to be noticed and is to gain the attention and support it needs to grow and improve.

So, put the mutterings on the shelf — at least for the time being. Acknowledge that there's a need to do some attention-getting projects on behalf of the school. Give the new president some time and support, especially support. Allow him to work in his own fashion. Dream with him and work with him in the effort to enhance Gardner-Webb and to put the school on a firm foundation. That is, after all, exactly what we all want, isn't it?

Inaugural Breakfast April 8



Dr. Barbara Burkett, chairman of the Department of Natural Sciences, challenges the College to reaffirm its spiritual heritage.



LUNCH—Gardner-Webb College was host to hundreds of guests for a picnic lunch served on the West Lawn of the Charles I. Dover Campus Center. President and Mrs. White greeted guests during a reception held in the Recital Hall of the O. Max Gardner Fine Arts Center.



IT IS OFFICIAL—Board of Trustees Chairman Lloyd C. Bost places the Gardner-Webb College medallion around the neck of President M. Christopher White as the tenth president of the school while Mrs. Linda A. (Fleming) White looks on.



VISITING—Baptists from all over the state attended the inauguration. William Leathers (left), pastor of First church, Rockingham, and a trustee at Wake Forest University, talks with Ray K. Hodge, pastor of Kinston's First church and chairman of the General board, BSC.

**Biblical
RECORDER**

April 25, 1987

Biblical Recorder

'WRITE THE VISION, AND MAKE IT PLAIN...' HAB. 2:2

VOL. 153, NO. 20

MAY 16, 1987

Puckett's Perspective

'Preserving the Right Traditions'

WERE IT POSSIBLE, every North Carolina Baptist should have been present at Gardner-Webb College for the inauguration of M. Christopher White as the tenth president of the institution. It was a moment to make us proud as the largest religious body in the state.

More than eight decades of devotion and service at Gardner-Webb have moved the school from a much-needed high school in 1905 to a junior college in 1928 to a fully-accredited four-year college in 1971. The name of the school was changed to honor the generous support of Governor O. Max Gardner and his wife, Faye Webb Gardner.

In the tradition of such occasions, thousands of persons witnessed the long processional which included representatives from approximately 200 colleges, universities, seminaries and learned societies. Music by the college's Concert Choir was superb. Greetings included everybody from the president of the Student Government Association to the president of the United States, including the brief but well-chosen words of Executive Director-Treasurer Roy J. Smith when he affirmed that the state convention places high priority on the mission and purposes of the churches. He pointed out that when the state convention was formed in 1830 that one of its earliest objectives was Christian higher education and that Gardner-Webb College came into the family as part of that worthy goal.

The lawn of the beautiful campus was the setting as Hobart C. Smith, chairman of the Presidential Search Committee, commented appropriately that "even nature has indicated its approval of this occasion" with the delightful spring weather. Loud speakers were well placed so the gathered throng could hear and Mary Ruth Dixon, wife of the pastor of Flint Hill church, signed the entire service for those who could see but not hear. It was a meaningful touch to the entire proceedings. Lloyd C. Bost, chairman of the Board of Trustees, presided over the session with support from other leaders such as Samuel H. McMahon, Jr, vice chairman, who stated clearly that the trustees of G-W College are determined that "this great institution of our churches shall continue to be the beacon of hope in moral and spiritual goals in America" that it has been throughout its 82-year history.

The principle address by C. D. Spangler Jr., president of the University of North Carolina, delivered an excellent message on "Preserving the Right Traditions." The second chief executive of the consolidated system of colleges and universities in our state began by noting the special place of higher education in society as illustrated by the traditions of academic robes and hats in the processional at inaugurations since the 11th Century.

He observed that his boyhood experiences in Cleveland county had taught him to respect and preserve the value of education. He reminded the audience that it was the local people who had more than once saved what is now Gardner-Webb College from extinction. Spangler quoted Governor Gardner about the difficult role private institutions have to endure but that they are preserved by the trust of the people, especially those in the immediate area.

Reared in a Baptist family, the president of the North Carolina university system, admitted that one of the negative traditions that we need to abolish is racial prejudice. He noted that many values such as hard work, the church and the family were under attack and that young people needed a fresh affirmation of these values.

"Gardner-Webb cannot change the trends but it can offer encouragement and inspiration to traditional values," he observed. Spangler said that the women's movement has not necessarily made life easier for men or women, that the results are not yet known and that the matter is a little "unsettling because we do not know what will replace our present system."

He made a strong case for liberal arts education, noting that too many people are interested only in a course of study which will develop skills to obtain a good-paying job. "Liberal arts education is important and it is our salvation because liberal arts probes the unknowables," Spangler added.

"We need enlightened leaders and enlightened people to vote for them. That is what Gardner-Webb is about, as well as the large state campuses. Our government is dynamic and our colleges and universities help people decide what they want to discard and what they want to keep—the eternal verities," he concluded.

President White received the medallion of the college, the formal and official act of installation, from Board Chairman Bost, with the assistance of former presidents E. Eugene Poston (1961-1976) and Craven E. Williams (1976-1986).

In his inauguration response, White expressed his gratitude to family members, friends, the college family and supporters of the school.

"I feel unreserved pride to share with you and others the opportunity to help shape its (GWC) future and its contribution to society's future. As with every generation in relation to the next, we hold the future in trust. While we do not know what the future holds for us, this much we do know: if we wait until the future is upon us, it will be too late to respond. We must orient ourselves in the present, firmly rooted in the past, but with our eyes always scanning ahead."

North Carolina Baptists can be confident and comfortable with such leadership as we face the next century. Congratulations to President White and the whole Gardner-Webb family. April 8 confirmed that many of us shall be busy "Preserving the Right Traditions."—RGP



LONG PROCESSIONAL—Representatives of approximately 200 colleges, universities and learned societies formed a long processional. The oldest school represented

was University of Edinburg (1583) and the youngest was the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg (1967). Gardner-Webb traces its beginning to 1905.



Dr. Norman Wiggins, president of Campbell University in Buies Creek, couldn't wait to disrobe before launching into his fried chicken lunch following the inauguration.

Local/State

Thursday, April 9, 1987 — Page 15

The Shelby Star

Inauguration at G-W

By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

BOILING SPRINGS — Christopher White joined elite company yesterday.

The 43-year-old White entered history as the 10th president of Gardner-Webb College.

Wednesday's ceremonies concluded a three-day round of special meals and speech-making, long in the planning. The final touch, the actual inauguration, took place on the O. Max Gardner lawn under a clear-blue sky and classic spring weather.

Into the soft air, The Foot-hills Brass Quintet of Greensboro sprinkled some of Handel's "Water Music" as more than 200 people in caps and gowns — representatives from colleges, universities and learned societies — marched across the bright green lawn to their seats. Among them were Cleveland County native Bruce Whitaker, president of Chowan College, and Norman Wiggins,



Linda White and her sons, Marty and Andy

president of Campbell University. Fred Young, president of Elon College, was there along with James B. Hemby Jr., president of Atlantic-Christiana College; Stephen H. Wurster, president of Catawba College; and Limestone College President G. Frederick Payne.

In the audience were White's

parents, his wife's parents and other relatives. Many dignitaries were on the program, including the executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention and the executive director of the Baptist State Convention. White's former pastor, the Rev. Dale O. Steele of First Baptist

Church of Burlington, would give the benediction. C.D. Spangler Jr., president of the University of North Carolina, told the audience, "Your new president is about to join that elite and tiny core of Americans who have been inaugurated. If you think about it, really, there can't be more than a couple thousand of us in the whole country. Having broken into their ranks about six months ago, I can tell you it is a wonderful thing, and I only wish I could get inaugurated more often."

If everyone knew about the thrill of getting inaugurated, Spangler said, "I suspect all presidents — bank presidents, PTA presidents, any old president — would insist upon an inauguration. Yet outside government, it is mainly college presidents who get this special treatment. I believe colleges and universities cling to inaugurations, because they regard us of the special place of higher education in the history of mankind since the 11th century."



Dr. Christopher White delivers his inaugural address.

Photos
by
Jeff Melton



The Rev. Dale Steele, pastor of First Baptist Church of Burlington, (left), is assisted with his robe by Dr. Arthur L. Walker of the Southern Baptist Convention (center) and Dr. Roy J. Smith of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention before the inauguration begins.



Mary Ruth Dixon of Boiling Springs, an interpreter for the hearing impaired, signs Lloyd Bost's remarks during Wednesday's inauguration ceremony at Gardner-Webb.

Tuesday, April 14, 1987

Lifestyles

County stands for education

When President C.D. Spangler Jr. of the University of North Carolina spoke at Gardner-Webb's inaugural ceremonies for Chris White, he said that Cleveland County families instilled in their children a dedication to education. He added that education should be sacrificed for if necessary. His statement was entirely true and Gardner-Webb has been a big factor in that dedication and sacrifice.

As we watched the academic procession we recognized many local citizens who were representing their alma maters. Little had we realized what a broad field of education, schools and universities are represented among us.

Local delegates to the inauguration and the schools they represented included: Dr. F.E. Richards, Route 2, Shelby, University of Arkansas; Edwin F. Hahn, Cherryville, Idaho State University; Dr. Charles D.H. Reynolds, Boiling Springs, University of Chicago; Joyce Summers, Shelby, Indiana State; Dr. Richard F. Wilson, Boiling Springs, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; J.M. Collins, Shelby, Louisiana State; L. Paul Eeds, Shelby, Louisiana Technical University; Betty McGinnis Smith, Ellensburg, Tulane University School of Medicine.

Also, Dorothy Roark, Shelby, Michigan State; Barbara C. Taylor, Boiling Springs, Mississippi University for Women; Anthony F. Eastman, Boiling Springs, University of Southern Mississippi; Dr. Bruce Whitaker (native Cleveland), president, Chowan College at Murfreesboro; Hoyle Blalock, Jr. (native of Boiling Springs), Central Piedmont Community College; Dr. Emile L. Gebel, Chagrin Farm, Route 5, Kings Mountain, Elizabeth City State University; Aileen Watson Ford, Shelby, Fayetteville State University; Betty Ellington Pope, Boiling Springs, Greensboro College; Lincoln D. Lee, Shelby, North Carolina State University; Mrs. Lloyd Bost, Shelby, Queens College. Also, Dr. Launita E. Proctor,



Grace Hamrick

Boiling Springs, Oklahoma Baptist College; Robert Y. Hamrick, Boiling Springs, Clemson University; Noel R. Lykins, Shelby, Cleveland Technical College; Edward B. Clayton, Boiling Springs, Furman University; Dr. Vann Murrell, Gardner-Webb, University of Edinburg; Russell D. Woy, Shelby, East Tennessee State University; Joetta Eastman, Boiling Springs, Union University; John E. Roberts, (native Shelby) Vanderbilt University; Eleanor Brackett Buse, Shelby, Mary Washington College; Dr. Eric M. Faust, Kings Mountain, Union Theological Seminary; E. Tyree Greene, Shelby, Shenandoah College Conservatory of Music.

These were just a small sampling of the many institutions of higher learning represented by Clevelanders.

The more than 12,000 living Gardner-Webb alumni throughout the world would have been exceptionally proud of the dignified ceremonies on April 7-8 for their alma mater's 10th president, just as the present student body should applaud the prestigious event and its favorable publicity. The occasion brought many to the campus who had never been there before or may never have had reason to stop there.

And they were impressed. Legislator John Henley, president of the N.C. Association of Independent College and Universities and a long-time friend of our family, was interested in the school's unique history, its facilities and impressed with the flawless events of the ceremonies.

It was a great day for an out-of-doors inauguration. From improvised facilities on the veranda of the O. Max Gardner Fine Arts Center it seemed

fitting that the approximately 1,200 in the audience would face the building which was among the first of the special gifts of the Gardner and Webb families for whom the college is named. Birds were chattering, flags rippled in the breeze and stark limbs of trees not yet showing foliage were outlined against the blue and white sky. One pink crabapple accented a touch of real beauty.

Mention was made that in its interesting, enduring and sacrificial history that college students were fed without charge for one year by a Boiling Springs merchant and another served as president without pay.

The man who fed the students was E.B. Hamrick, my husband's grandfather and for whom the E.B. Hamrick auditorium, oldest building on the campus, is named. Naturally we are proud of him. The president without pay was the beloved Dr. Zeno Wall, for 23 years pastor of Shelby's First Baptist Church. Afterwards, in his twilight years as pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church, he led the congregation there in a re-building program following a

disastrous fire. Devoted families, such as the Dover, Porter, Lutz, Stroup, Bost, Spangler, Yelton and many others, too, are benefactors that have strongly upheld the Baptist college which has received no federal funds for its existence except for student loans.

The school song renders a special message: "At the foot of the mountains is our College; proud she stands, blessing all with outstretched hands. With our hands we will serve thee, Gardner-Webb, our College fair; In our love we will uphold thee; Our wealth we'll gladly share."

—The Shelby Star

.....Twenty-five years ago



Inaugural speaker Olin T. Binkley with Governor Terry Sanford, President E. Eugene Poston, Mrs. Faye Webb Gardner and Dr. William Friday.



Inaugural Picnic



Former first lady Beth Williams chats with G-W's Joann Lutz (right).



Inaugural Reception

Benediction

The Reverend Dale O. Steele
Pastor of the First Baptist Church
Burlington, N.C.

Eternal Father,
We have shared a very special moment
in this very special place,
and we are thankful to Thee for
every evidence of Thy guiding hand with
us.

We have looked back in appreciation
and we have seen your hand at work,
lovingly guiding us to this moment.

We have looked around in appreciation
and we have seen the love and respect
of this host of witnesses for this place,
and we have sensed Thy guiding hand
even now.

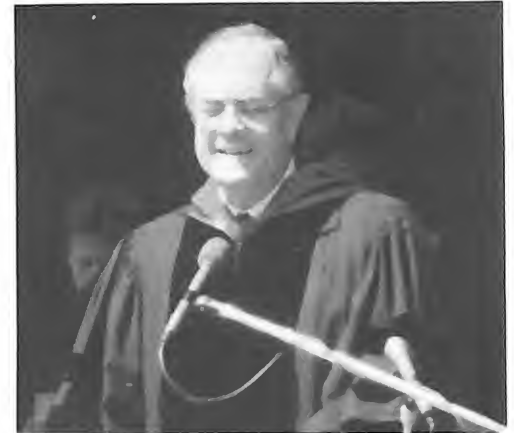
We have looked ahead, appreciating the
excitement and anticipation that over-
whelms us;
and we thank Thee that we can trust that
guiding hand
to lead us from this very special moment,
that this very special place would be fully
under Thy watchcare.

We thank Thee for Thy servants,
Christopher and Linda, Marty and Andy.
We thank Thee for the Hartwell homes
that reared them,
the love for Thee and the respect for truth
that was there,
and Thy hand at work all the while.

We thank Thee especially for this place
and for those who labor in efforts to learn
and teach and gladly grow.

We yield now ourselves to the exciting
future as followers of Thy guiding hand.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



The Reverend Dale O. Steele



Gene Puckett of N. C.'s BIBLICAL RECORDER (left) and John Roberts of S. C.'s BAPTIST COURIER get together at the Inaugural Picnic.



The Reverend Cline Borders ('52), director of missions of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, and his wife, Doris.

The Web

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