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# The Web Magazine 1998, Winter

Matt Webber

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# The WEB

A publication of Gardner-Webb University

Winter 1998

## A Prayer for Russia



*Get a taste of GWU's international flavor throughout this issue of The Web.*

## The **WEB**

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PRESIDENT.

*M. Christopher White*

VICE PRESIDENT UNIV. RELATIONS.

*Drew Van Horn*

EDITOR.

*Matt Webber*

WRITER PHOTOGRAPHER.

*Noel T. Manning, II*

CONTRIBUTING WRITER.

*Christin Stone*

SPORTS.

*Marc Rabb*

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION.

*Office of University Publications*

COVER.

*Dr. Alexandre Stokanov feels the pain  
of his homeland*

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# A PRAYER FOR RUSSIA

Meet Dr. Alexandre Strokanov. Native Russian. Former elected member of that country's first democratic congress. A thoughtful man. A worried man.

As professor of history at Gardner-Webb, he blends in with the faculty ... until he speaks. That's when you begin to experience the many sides of an intriguing personality.

Strokanov is a walking paradox – an intense expression covers his face as he strides purposefully around the school's sidewalks, but there may not be a person at the University who has a more heartfelt laugh or who enjoys joking with his campus family about any number of subjects. Keenly aware of his obviously unique characteristics, he playfully muses about the differences between the former Soviet

Union and the United States.

For example, this summer he burst into an administrative office, paused for a moment to gather his thoughts, then declared: "What I cannot figure out is this – what is the fascination Americans have with this Mark McGwire thing?!" he said emphatically. "I mean, there are serious world issues happening everywhere and Americans are watching this very big man swing a baseball bat.

"Someone please explain this to me."

On a serious note, the explanation he got didn't seem to appease him. Americans need their diversions, he was told – sports, movies, music, etc. To Strokanov, it appears that now is the time for the United States to look beyond its own boundaries and realize that a difficult situation being endured by our Russian brothers and sisters greatly reflects on us Westerners.

He felt so strongly that he wrote an opinion piece for The Chronicle of Higher Education, arguably the most notable forum in this nation for the expression of views and news in the realm of academia. "I want people to wake up and see the very bad circumstances

**"Americans tend to debate issues... Russians debate abstract concepts."**

Strokanov's position:

*"The West again is stepping on the same old rake. It happened first when the West supported Mikhail Gorbachev without seeing that the country was moving ahead of him. It is the same today with Boris Yeltsin, whose problem is exactly the same as it was for Mr. Gorbachev.*

*Consequently, the best choice for the West would be to support the Russian people, to support their wish to live in a free, democratic and economically successful country, but not to support an individual, even if he is "friend Boris." Does it necessarily mean that Mr. Yeltsin must share the fate of Suharto, the Indonesian leader who was forced recently to resign? Probably not. But, obviously the West should be*

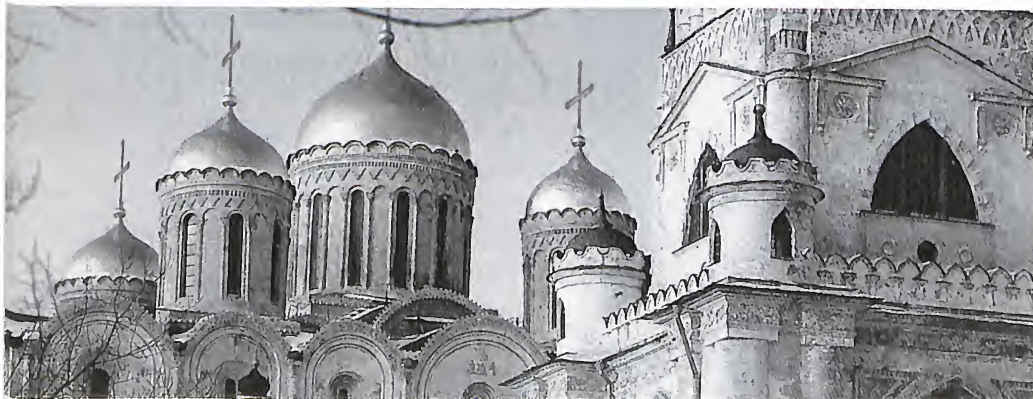
*ready for such development of events in Russia. We must be ready to work with this country after Yeltsin. Leaders are coming in and out, but people remain pretty much the same, in regard to their country, culture, traditions and mentality.*

*We also have to recognize that many Russian people will not see the place in history for both Yeltsin and Gorbachev to be placed alongside Peter the Great or Alexander I, but instead place today's leaders among such personages as Boris*

*Godunov (whose unsuccessful rule and death brought the country to actual collapse in the beginning of 17th century) or Alexander Kerensky (whose regime pushed Russia into Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 and the following Civil War). It remains to be seen how Russian history will remember the*

we are encountering – as a race of people on this Earth. I am not bashful about my concerns. I am being up-front about my concerns. I want people here in the West to realize their role in this crisis."

An excerpt from The Chronicle is indicative of





*legacy of Yeltsin and Gorbachev, but the point is that today's Russia and the whole world is much different from 17th or even the beginning of the 20th century. We live in a much more interdependent world (and in the nuclear age) and we should not forget it."*

To those who keep up with world news, this Russian's thoughts and feelings ring true. Since late in the summer, the former Soviet Union has been caught up in a swell of activity. And it hasn't been a pretty scene.

Banks collapsing and protests against Boris Yeltsin are the stories we read about most. Trouble, indeed. But for Strokanov, the story goes many levels deeper. He confesses that several times a week he is in conversation with old friends and contacts – via the Internet or by phone – who keep him abreast of the myriad changes facing the nation. With each passing day, Strokanov becomes more intense.

In September he had gotten wind of an uprising that was being planned. A march in Moscow would seek to remove Yeltsin from office. Privileged information, it would seem. But Strokanov asked that the public relations office on campus get the word out. Turmoil was coming and he wanted to talk about it. "Call CNN and tell them I have something to say about this," he said.

A few reporters expressed interest in his story, but when the majority of media members cast off this news as hearsay, he could hardly fathom their reactions. "Why this isn't the top story in every paper in the U.S. I can't understand," he said at first. After a few weeks passed and Strokanov pondered this development, he says he came to a realization.

"Russia had tried to copy

**"...the soil is right for a new idea to be planted."**

America's plan for democracy and economy – and it failed. I think media people felt that if they did this story they would be somehow admitting that the U.S. has failed as well. I mean, Harvard professors helped develop the formula that Russia should follow. To say that America's plan didn't work would be admitting weakness. I've learned that Americans don't like to do that."

In his words, Communism didn't work and Democracy didn't work, so the "soil is right for a new idea to be planted," he explains.

So what will work?

"Something that is right for Russia, not something that worked somewhere else and is supposed to work in Russia. This is what the West needs to realize ... that whether their formula works for Russia or not isn't important. It's just important that Russia be healthy. A sick Russia could result in irrational behavior by a discouraged people."

Welcome to Alexandre Strokanov's world. It's unsettling and yet admirable. On the one hand he

feels deep embarrassment for Russia's shortcomings (friends of his who tried to own and manage companies there when privatization occurred failed miserably, he says), but on the other hand he yearns for the life he knew in his native land – scholarly debates on abstract subjects, regular trips to the ballet and the opera, and a culture he knows fondly.

And in one way, he's a man who left Russia saying "I told you so" when democracy was moving the country from one extreme to another, leaving no room for a gentle transition. But in another way, he longs dearly for order and security to be restored.

"I'm in a strange situation. I associate myself strongly with



Russia culturally and emotionally, but not politically. I miss the culture a great deal. But I left because I saw the mistakes coming. While I'm happy here and my family's happy here, we have strong feelings for the people in Russia. I feel so sorry for them sometimes."

Strokanov stops himself after that thought and announces it's time for clarification. "Americans can't understand this, I know. If I took you there right now, you would look around and see Russians with enough to eat and warm houses and you would say 'Alexandre, where is the crisis?' It's not a third-world country. Sure, there have been changes in the economy and people have had to make adjustments, but it is our country's nature to survive ... with all the hardship Russia has been through, I think the country has developed a very strong ability to survive. The crisis is a state of mind. In Russia, there is a lot of criticism and not a lot of answers. That's what I am sorry about."

Yet another side of Strokanov shows itself. You may ask 'Is he happy or sad?' The answer is that he's deep. He has given this issue a lot of thought and he spends hours talking about his opinions to whomever will listen. Not for sympathy, but for the purpose of intellectual discussion. He claims he's that way about a number of things – the meaning of life, the definition of happiness – all the things he enjoyed discussing with colleagues in Russia.

"That is something I miss. Americans tend to debate issues, and more Russians debate abstract concepts. I don't find many people here who want to discuss the same things I do (he uses a popular conversation piece from his native country: "Can a man love only once or many times?"). It's not better or worse, just different."

And while Dr. Alexandre Strokanov might appear on the surface that he's caught between a native land and a new home, you're right. He is.

But he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I look for challenges in life. I'm challenged right now and I like it. Next I think I'll write a book."



**"I'm  
challenged  
right now and  
I like it. "**





# Executive Forum

*National TV Show Spotlights GWU's Emergence*

"Houston, we have a problem." Captain Jim Lovell of the Apollo 13 space mission uttered that phrase many, many years ago, but the power of those words still sends chills down the backs of people who recall the near fatal flight that became the subject of an immensely popular movie.

Fast forward to November 3, 1998, in a New York City television studio and you'll find that Capt. Lovell coined another phrase that made an equally profound impact – "Gardner-Webb, you have a great program."

What prompted such an accolade? The GWU School of Business was selected as one of four "emerging business schools" nationally to appear this month on the television show "Executive Forum." Hosted by Capt. Lovell, the weekly show airs in 90 major markets nationwide to 65 million viewers.

Jim Crawley, dean of the School of Business, and Dr. Arlen Honts, chair of the undergraduate Broyhill School of Management, boarded a plane in November to represent the institution to the United States.

According to Crawley, Gardner-Webb was selected from among 25 business schools in the U.S. that were considered. He was told that the show's producers learned from their researchers that GWU had a business program that was gaining status and warranting regional and national acclaim. Most notably, the School of Business this fall was given special mention for the second consecutive year in

U.S. News and World Report's Guide to America's Best Colleges.

Interviews with Capt. Lovell were shot in the show's New York City studios, and producers used additional footage of the campus to complement the show's forum-style discussion. The Gardner-Webb representatives joined leaders from three other institutions that had been selected as emerging business schools. They included the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin and New Mexico State University.

The show's 30-minute format features Capt. Lovell on the set with a representative from four organizations selected to discuss relevant topics in the business and political realm. Issues, challenges and innovative solutions are presented by the guests in response to Lovell's questions. In most markets, the show airs before or after productions such as "This Week with David Brinkley" or "Wall Street Journal Review." Most top U.S. markets – including those like New York and Los Angeles – air the show on ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, WB or UPN networks.

During the selection process Crawley said several factors seemed to draw interest from Executive Forum producers. National recognition from the Templeton Foundation as a character-building institution was a major selling point, as was the U.S. News and World Report distinctions. Also considered were the remarkably qualified business



faculty, a newly renovated facility (Hamrick Hall), and the University's commitment to using technology in the classroom to enhance the learning process.

"We were told how unique it was that we effectively train 21st century students while also instilling virtues such as morality, integrity and character," said Crawley. "The show's producers told us that a focus on topics like ethics was of special interest and had not been mentioned by any of the other schools being considered."

Honts said, "Sometimes you're good and sometimes you get lucky. I've known all along we had something special going on here, but when a national television show calls you out of the blue like that, you consider yourself fortunate for being in the right place at the right time."

Lovell asked Crawley what specific factors had pushed the GWU School of Business to the forefront as national leader in educating future business professionals. The answer, said Crawley, is complex – it's a variety of things working well together.

"When a small to mid-sized school can feature such prominent faculty, it's going to have an impact. Not only are you able to give personal attention to students, but you're providing personal attention with sought-after educators who are considered tops in their field. The learning that takes place makes a lifelong impression. And because we only hire faculty who possess outstanding character, our students learn from role models as well as professionals."

Honts was quick to add that the University's location along the Interstate 85 corridor, near Charlotte and halfway between Raleigh-Durham and Atlanta, puts the School of Business at an advantage. "We're in arguably the fastest growing business region in America. For instance, Charlotte probably is now considered the banking capital of the United States.

Students, then, are exposed to a variety of internship possibilities and job opportunities. We are living in the heart of progress, and students and faculty make the most of that."

Crawley said location has an equally important impact on the School of Business' curriculum. "We constantly seek the input of business and industry leaders in this area about what to teach our students. These leaders tell us what they need from a business graduate, and we oblige by formulating the curriculum around what's current. It's a wonderful way to combine theory with practical topics."

Both men agreed that the opening of Hamrick

## GARDNER-WEBB, YOU HAVE A GREAT PROGRAM.

- CAPT. JIM LOVELL



Hall this semester as the new home to the School of Business has been the icing on the cake. "It makes us competitive," said Crawley, "because now a student doesn't have to go to Duke or UNC or NC State to have technology brought into the classroom to enhance the learning experience. Every day our multimedia classrooms are in use, using a variety of features to make learning more enjoyable. Many of the larger institutions utilize the same technology in the classroom as we do, but can they do it in a class with only 15 to 20 students? No. Therefore, we are offering a world-class educational experience in an intensely personal setting."

Executive Forum provided Gardner-Webb with 250 custom-made videotapes of Crawley's on-camera interview with Lovell. The tapes were accompanied by a letter of endorsement of the School of Business from Capt. Lovell and are being sent out by the University to people around the country to raise awareness of the institution and its programs.

# Leaving Behind The Comfort Zone

*Professor Enjoys  
"Unsettling" Endeavors*



Scientists make discoveries, right? Well, then, don't be surprised when Dr. Barbara Burkett tells you she's discovered the fountain of youth.

Three times in the last five years Burkett, professor of biology, has taken groups of Gardner-Webb students to the Amazon River for eight-day trips that bring a sense of wonderment to first-time visitors. "It's just my favorite place in the world," Burkett says, a broad smile dawning across her face as she simply talks about her private paradise. "And it's even more special to take students there because I see the Amazon over and over again for the first time through their eyes. It's invigorating. It keeps me young."

And though her next trip won't depart until August 1999, she bellows out an emphatic "Oh, yes!" when asked if she's already anticipating the next installment of the adventure. "All of your senses are on total alert during the time you're there. It's overwhelming, really."

Burkett's groups normally begin feeling the professor's passion for the rainforest by the time the trip is complete. Especially after hearing that the area is a virtual medicine chest – one plant discovered there has led to a 90 percent remission and cure rate of a form of childhood leukemia – members of the groups learn how imperative preservation is of this threatened part of the world.

But as Burkett, who first visited the Amazon 25 years ago, explains that students who make the trip with her are required to write a paper or report detailing their journey, she's quick to add that the experience isn't your everyday class assignment. "The papers they write are more for their own benefit. I've never had a student come back from the Amazon with anything less than a feeling of complete awe. This trip is meant to open their eyes to see a whole new world out there, both from a biology and anthropology standpoint. They recognize that life can be beautiful outside of their American conveniences."

Making camp in Peru without hot water, electricity, televisions, radios or phones may not seem like such a memorable experience, but Burkett beams when she says no student has ever complained about the brief change in



lifestyle. "Meeting the natives, seeing how they use the rainforest to survive, studying the rare plant and animal life ... you find yourself wanting more rather than wishing you were back home."

Challenging students to analyze their place in this world is a common theme in Burkett's professional career. Every other spring semester for 10 years, she has teamed with Dr. Jack Partain, professor of religion, to teach a course called "Issues in Science in Religion." The class has made such an impact that the professors were two of only 100 worldwide to be awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Templeton Foundation to continue bridging the gap between two subjects that many people feel are at war with each other.

"Science asks how, and religion asks why," Burkett explains. "We're not at war. We both want to draw conclusions. But the rewarding part of teaching this class is that Dr. Partain and I don't give these students answers, but we sure do pose a lot of questions."

In her mind, Burkett feels each person must perform a critical self-examination about his or her beliefs in order to find answers, and this class has proven to set that process in motion for a many students. Burkett says this course and her love for the Amazon have both challenged her to take a closer look at her own life. "If I had to do it all over again, I am not sure what I would do - either go into theology or live in the rainforest."

## Time for a Check Up

Recently, Rio de Janeiro was host to the Fourth Congress on Spiritual Awakening, a national Brazilian congress that focused on prayer and spiritual renewal for Brazil and the world. The focus material for this conference, "Time for a Check Up," came from two members of the GWU faculty.

The challenging Christian guidebook, "Time for a Check Up," teaches Christians how to monitor their Christian experience as they focus on their growth in faith. It was written by Dr. Alice Cullinan, chair of the GWU Department of Religious Studies. She enlisted the assistance of Dr. Sophia Steibel (a former student) to translate this book into Portuguese. Steibel says this translation will be utilized by numerous Portuguese-speaking Christians as a tool for churches, workshops and conferences in their own countries.



# I AM GARDNER-WEBB.

*This message brought to you by Keith Cagle, who teaches American Sign Language at GWU.*

## South African Follows A Revelation

**"I**t's a matter of living by faith now. But, I will endure to serve God and be true to the call," said Michael Waddams, a junior at Gardner-Webb.

The call for Waddams came about two years ago when he began feeling a burden for Native Americans. A native of Cape Town, South Africa, he had not realized Native Americans were still in existence until he saw them in a dream.

"I remember seeing the land of America along with a bald eagle and the American flag. Then, I saw an Indian chief crying for his people." This vision prompted Waddams to research the social situation of Native Americans, and the hardships he

**"IT WAS A SACRIFICE, YET I KNOW I WOULD NEVER BE HAPPY IF I SAID NO."**

discovered became the basis for a life-changing decision.

Waddams had spent time in the military and was a prosperous businessman when he was faced with two options – advancing in business or answering his call of ministering to Native Americans. "God really showed me the contrast of climbing the corporate ladder and the poverty of ministry. It was a sacrifice, yet I know I would never be happy if I said no."

Upon making this commitment, Michael attended

the Baptist Theological College of Cape Town. There, he first heard of Gardner-Webb when Dr. Bob Lamb taught one of Waddams' classes through a partnership with the GWU School of Divinity. Then, as he spoke with Barbara Merritt, secretary of the Gardner-Webb education department, who visited Cape Town, Michael's call expanded to include moving to America.

"Her presentation of Gardner-Webb made me want to be there. She described the school as a good place to study and learn, and I am glad to say that the description is correct," he said. So on July 12, Michael and his wife, Lindie, along with their two-year-old daughter, Sabrina, came to Boiling Springs.

Emphasizing that he is trying to make the transition from "outsider" to "American," he says, "God has opened so many doors for us for a reason. I think we are here not only to do mission work but to be assimilated into the American culture. I need to learn all I can to be effective here, and I don't want there to be any barriers just because I am from another country."

Waddams is a Biblical studies major and plans on attending the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity following the completion of his undergraduate degree. As he learns more about mission work, Michael will continue to visit the reservation in Cherokee, NC, a place he found to be emotional and eye-opening. He also plans on traveling to Oklahoma and Cheyenne to do outreach projects at the reservations there.

"In the meantime, I speak at churches and challenge people to consider their roles in society in a country where there is poverty at their back doors. I want the Indians to see that God loves them like He does everyone else, and the way they can see a caring God is through caring people."

He concludes, "I realize that God has gone before me and His accomplishments will be set forth. I will not accomplish anything. All I am is someone from South Africa who has been obedient to God. Now, I can only see a part of the picture God has painted. But one day I will be like a teacher describing the painting and how all the aspects of it came together."



# STAR OF BETHLEHEM

## ***"O little town of Bethlehem..."***

"I consider it a great honor for my home to also be the home of Christ," says GWU freshman and Bethlehem native Nihal Kaissieh. "You can worship Christ anywhere, but when you are in his birthplace, you feel closer to him; your bond feels stronger."

Raised as a Palestinian Christian, Nihal says thousands of pilgrims flock to Bethlehem each Christmas for a time of celebration and spiritual revival. But, this year, for the first time, Nihal will be away from home during this holiday season. "Bethlehem is wonderful at Christmas. People from all over the world visit. I love meeting new people from other cultures and I love to watch them experience the blessings of this holy city. It will be difficult for me not to be a part of it this year. But, God will bless me regardless."

## ***"... How still we see thee lie ..."***

For centuries, this region of the world has been infamous for its political and economic difficulties. From terrorists actions to religious wars, life in the Holy Land is, to say the least, unpredictable. "Because of the problems between the Arabs and the Jews, the educational system is not in a good situation," she says. "The college at home has been divided by ignorance and prejudice. The advanced educational systems have suffered."

## ***"... Yet in the dark streets shineth, the everlasting light ..."***

Kaissieh knew that nothing short of a miracle would allow her the opportunity to seek out her dream of a higher education. "I have always loved to study and I want to have a successful career and future. But, that would have been difficult in Bethlehem." While visiting Bethlehem, GWU President Dr. Chris White met Nihal and learned of her struggles. "Nihal has incredible pride and motivation and has an unyielding thirst for knowledge," White said.

## ***"... How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given ..."***

The president continued, "Her family had no

resources for her advanced education, and I saw that she exhibited remarkable potential and dedication. So, through private funds and scholarships, she was offered the opportunity to come to Gardner-Webb."

It was only after much prayer and deliberation, that Nihal made the decision to attend Gardner-Webb. She had never traveled more than a hundred miles from home, and she had never been away from family and friends.

"The essence of Christianity," says Dr. White, "is helping others and extending opportunities."

## ***"... So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven ..."***

As Nihal stepped onto the campus of Gardner-Webb, she initially faced uncertainty and a little apprehension as a stranger in this strange land. "This was a big adventure for me. Everything was different. I was alone and it was the first time that I ever had to make independent decisions."

Nihal has found a way to overcome every hurdle placed in her path, and in doing so, she has developed an appreciation and admiration for this country and its people. "Today I feel like Gardner-Webb is my second home. These people here are my brothers and sisters. They are my new family."

## ***"...O come to us, abide in us, our lord Emmanuel."***

# I'll be home for Christmas

*Zambian receives the ultimate Christmas gift*

“George Zulu and his family have made a sacrifice and a commitment to God that few of us will ever understand,” says Dr. Stephen Hearne, director of admissions for the GWU School of Divinity. Because of financial difficulties, political situations and a dedication to God’s call, Zulu and his family have been unable to see each other for nearly a year and a half. “It is difficult to be away from your family, when more than anything, you want to be with them,” notes Zulu. “The most important thing in my life, next to God, is my family. And I am certain, that someday, somehow, someday, my family will be here with me to share in this experience. I know that God will provide.”

Through funds raised by divinity school faculty, staff and students, Zulu will receive the ultimate Christmas gift ... a trip home to Zambia for the holidays. “We were excited to offer this gift to George ... and to his family,” says Hearne. “George is full of grace and honor. If anyone deserves happiness this season, it’s George.”

“While I was in high school, I decided to pursue a career in the military,” remembers Zulu. “I wanted to become an officer, so I began taking cadet force training.” And it was while following this goal and moving through the military ranks that at the age of 20, Zulu was called into the service of a different army. “I felt led to be in the ministry, But, I thought that I was too young. Most ministers in my country are about 40 years old when they begin to pastor. But that call was still very heavy on my heart.”

Zulu began work almost immediately with other



Christians to establish a Baptist church in the Luapula province of Zambia. And as a result of those efforts, nearly 40 churches have come to life from that initial seed.

For three more years, Zulu continued his military assignments until he could no longer deny God’s marching orders. In 1986 Zulu applied for admission into the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia and was turned down because seminary officials also thought he was too young (23 years old) to become a minister. But, Zulu remained committed to this direction. He re-applied two years later and was accepted into the program, and upon graduation from this seminary, Zulu took on a full pastorate in 1992.

Zulu made a landmark discovery while serving as pastor. “I saw that the needs of certain Christians were not being met. The well-educated, such as doctors and engineers, were not being educationally challenged in the church. It was then, that I knew my call,” he said. “I felt as though we needed more educated pastors in Zambia if we were going to be effective as Christians. If we are truly going to spread God’s word, we have to be able to speak to Christians on all educational levels.”

Compelled to seek a higher level of education, Zulu and his family selected the Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague and he was admitted in August, 1997. “I had quit my pastorate and sold many of my possessions in order to come to school here. I had to



come alone, because I didn't have all the funds to bring my family (wife and two children) at that time. So we decided that they would join me later." But, within two weeks, Zulu's plans came crashing down around him. "The board of trustees decided to stop offering certain degrees including the program (the Master of Theology degree) that I was involved in. They also decided not to allow anyone else to come onto campus ... which meant that my family would be unable to be with me there."

While searching for a new school, Zulu successfully completed two semesters at Prague. "I applied at three schools, including Gardner-Webb. I was very impressed with the broad curriculum offered through the Gardner-Webb Master of Divinity degree, but finances were still a major concern."

The financial concerns were finally addressed in July 1998 through scholarships, private funds and church donations. Zulu was given funds to assist with tuition, room, board and living expenses. "It is through the generosity and support of these people that I am able to continue my pilgrimage. I am honored that they have faith in me and I will try not to disappoint them," he continued. "The greatest gift I can give to my supporters is to let them see that I am using the knowledge I gain here to teach and minister to others. That will be my repayment."

## WE ARE GARDNER-WEBB.



*This message brought to you by the proud GWU Family.*



## ABOVE THE RIM

### *GWU's Lithuanian Connection*

**G**ardner-Webb's women's basketball program has gone international. Head coach Eddie McCurley and his staff will rely heavily on two players who did not learn to pass, shoot or dribble in the United States.

Sophomore Vaida Turauskaite is no stranger to Gardner-Webb University fans after scorching the nets for a South Atlantic Conference record 89 three-pointers last season. She averaged over 17 ppg in her first season at Gardner-Webb to earn 1997-98 South Atlantic Conference "Freshman of the Year" honors. She was a pre-season All-SAC pick this year.

Turauskaite came to the United States as a high school junior, spending one season at Heathwood Hall Prep in Columbia, S.C., before finishing her prep career alongside current Tennessee superstar Semeka Randall at Trinity (Oh.) High.

The 5-foot-8 guard grew up during a time when Lithuania was part of the Soviet Union, but says communism didn't have much of an effect on her.

"It wasn't bad," said Turauskaite. "We had our freedom, our religion and our culture. As kids, it really

didn't effect us. The hardest thing was learning to speak Russian."

Her involvement in athletics began at an early age, and her love of basketball is evident to anyone who has seen Turauskaite play.

"I've been playing (basketball) since the second grade, but athletics were not a part of school in Lithuania," added Turauskaite. "To play sports, we attended sports school after regular school. Later on I played for amateur club teams before coming to America."

After coming to the United States, Turauskaite quickly established herself as a college prospect. She chose Gardner-Webb over a number of higher profile programs, including Seton Hall and Marist (N.Y.).

"I love it here at Gardner-Webb," said Turauskaite. "I would not be anywhere else. Coach McCurley is great and takes good care of us. He's like my family here."

McCurley continued his collection of talent from Lithuania when 6-foot-4 center Rasa Sukeviciute signed on last spring.



A native of Kaunas, Lithuania, Sukeviciute has only been in the U.S. for three years. She is finally getting used to things stateside after spending her first two seasons at Kansas City (Kan.) Community College.

Unlike Turauskaite, who has been speaking English since the fifth grade, Sukeviciute encountered some communications barriers in her first year at KCCC.

"The first year here in the U.S., I hated it," said Sukeviciute. "It was hard to communicate not knowing the language very well. The second year I got used to things and met lots of people. I like it now."

Known as a dominant shot blocker in junior college, Sukeviciute has shown a deft touch near the basket and is adding scoring punch in the paint this season. She is the tallest member of the Lady Bulldogs' team this season, but that hasn't always been the case.

"In Lithuania I played with a girl who was 6-6," quipped Sukeviciute. "And, in Kansas I played alongside a 6-8 player as a freshman."

Sukeviciute is used to success in athletics after playing on a KCCC team that was ranked #5 in the

nation her first season. The style of play has changed since coming to the U.S., but she has adjusted well. Opportunities to play at Wichita State, Pittsburgh and NCAA Division II runners-up Emporia (Kan.) State were on the table, but Sukeviciute chose to be a Lady Bulldog.

"My game has improved since coming here," added Sukeviciute. "Basketball is much more physical here and you have to get position for rebounds. In Europe, if you are taller you get the rebounds."

Both players grew up less than two hours away from each other, but neither had met until last year. And though they have had limited time to learn each other's style, Turauskaite is not shy when asked for a prediction for the 1998-99 season.

"We're going all the way," Turauskaite said with a smile. "With the talent we have, we have a good shot at winning the SAC."



Check [www.gardner-webb.edu](http://www.gardner-webb.edu) for the Spring sports schedules

Gardner-Webb University is interested in locating its former student-athletes. Activities are being organized in order to encourage you to maintain closer contact with the University. If you participated in a varsity sport at Gardner-Webb please contact us with the following information:

Name:

Current Address:

Current Phone Number:

E-mail address:

Varsity sport(s) played:

Years during which you participated:

## HALL OF FAME

The Gardner-Webb University Athletic Hall of Fame is filled with many notable personalities who made a great impact on this institution through their participation in the athletic program. Do you know of a former student-athlete who is deserving of this recognition? If so, please send your nominations.

Send your  
information to:

GWU Department of Athletics  
P.O. Box 877  
Boiling Springs, NC 28017.

# SINCE WE LAST MET

## School of Divinity Named for President

At its October 22nd meeting on campus, the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees ended the day-long session by voting to name the GWU School of Divinity in honor of President Chris White.

In a unanimous vote, members of the board said it was only fitting for the program to now be called the M. Christopher White School of Divinity. The president is credited with having the vision to create the School of Divinity at a time when the finances were not available and resources were lacking for scholarships, faculty and facilities.

"I'm very honored. This is quite humbling," said White upon hearing the news. "Next to being named president of Gardner-Webb, this is the most significant event in my professional career."

In 1992 the GWU Board of Trustees voted to begin the School of Divinity and in 1993 its

doors were first opened offering one degree, the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry. Gardner-Webb, therefore, became the first Baptist-affiliated university to begin a divinity school. The

**I'm very honored. This is quite humbling.**

*-Dr. Chris White*

School of Divinity has grown to 130 students after beginning with only 35 enrolled. Now offered are the Master of Divinity degree in Pastoral Ministry, the Master of Divinity in Christian Education, and the Master of Divinity in Church Music degrees.

"It was an act of faith to begin the School of Divinity," said John Roberts, a member of the board's Executive Committee that brought

forth the motion to name the School.

## New Programs, Classrooms Result From Gifts

When Gardner-Webb University was named to the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges last year, the University could not foretell how far-reaching the effects of this honor would be. The inclusion of Gardner-Webb on the honor roll incited the administration to take an even closer look at the curriculum and character-building programs offered by the institution. Supporting this review was the Broyhill Family Foundation, which provided Gardner-Webb a grant of \$300,000 to fund an Alpine Tower complex, curriculum development and a faculty endowment.

Bearing the Broyhill family name, the Alpine Tower complex will incorporate several structures, including a

ropes course, a climbing wall and a rescue training center.

Another aspect of the complex will be the rescue exercise. Through a rescue mission scenario, groups from corporate executives to hospital staff will be able to hone team-building skills such as listening, planning and communicating.

"This is going to be an incredible tool for students, faculty, staff and the entire community. Businesses, churches and other organizations will take advantage of the programs that will be offered," commented Jennifer Boroughs, coordinator of leadership and volunteerism.

Operational by August 1999, the Alpine Tower complex will be implemented during GWU freshman orientation, classroom activities and staff training.

"The gift from the Broyhill Family Foundation provides us the means to establish us as one of the foremost institutions in the region in leadership training," said Dr. Gil Blackburn, v.p. and dean of academic



affairs, "and, when the physical aspects of leadership are combined with the intellectual training which we plan to implement, we should have a program second to none."

The intellectual training comes in the form of a new curriculum, approved earlier this year by the Gardner-Webb faculty. Called "Dimensions of Excellence," the

curriculum includes required courses in English composition, rhetoric, foreign language, western history, literature, religion, mathematics and natural sciences.

"Dimensions of Heritage," the centerpiece of the new core curriculum, includes five classes that weave strands of western, non-western and American culture into a single,

*A portion of the Alpine Tower Complex slated for the GWU campus. The Complex should be operational by August 1999.*



## Beloved Trustee and Campus Architect Dies Suddenly

The Gardner-Webb family was deeply saddened in October to learn that John McCulloch, a member of the Board of Trustees and former Board chairman, had died suddenly at age 71. He collapsed while on vacation after taking a walk.



Shortly before his death McCulloch, an architect from Charlotte, was on the GWU campus this fall for the dedication of the newly renovated Hamrick Hall, a facility his firm designed. He was co-owner/founder of

McCulloch England Associates

Architects in Charlotte and was known also as the designer of Noel Hall on campus, which houses the School of Divinity.

GWU President Dr. Chris White said McCulloch was a leader in developing the strategic plan for GWU, and McCulloch just recently had prepared designs for a new fine arts facility and a new educational building for the campus. White added that the Lake Hollifield Complex was constructed under McCulloch's advisement and that he was a consultant for the building of the Hollifield Commons.

He specialized in the design of healthcare, church and college/university projects. McCulloch also was a respected member of Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte where he had served as deacon, a Sunday School teacher for 40 years, and a member of the Men's Bible Study Fellowship International. He was a member of the Executive Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina as well.

Dr. Chris White noted, "Gardner-Webb has suffered a tremendous loss in the death of John McCulloch. The University's progressive direction was greatly influenced by his talents."

*Just a few short days after McCulloch's death, GWU learned that former trustee John Barber had passed away as well.*

coherent civilizational whole. The new core also incorporates "Dimensions of the Self," a cluster of courses that focuses on self-understanding.

An elective, certificate program rounds out the new core curriculum and offers an experiential, depth dimension to the educational experience. The completion of certificate programs such as Great Books, Community Service and International Study will be reported on a social transcript that will become an official part of the student's permanent record.

The final portion of the grant will be allocated for a faculty development endowment also named for the Broyhill family.

It was also announced this semester that The Cannon Foundation, Inc., located in Concord, NC, has given \$100,000 toward the revitalization of E.B. Hamrick Hall. The gift will allow Cannon to name a multimedia classroom within the newly renovated building.

*The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is one of several sites visited during GWU's annual Holy Land trip.*

## Holy Land Travel Grants Introduced

Gardner-Webb School of Divinity students have an opportunity this year to see the town where Jesus was born, hear the rippling of the water He walked on, and touch the path He took to His crucifixion. And, with the creation of the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity Holy Land Travel Study Endowment, they now can visit these Biblically historical sites at a fraction of the cost.

Designed with the hope that more students could participate in Holy

Land travel, the endowment offers \$1500 grants to offset the trip's price. According to Dr. Stephen Hearne, director of admissions for the GWU School of Divinity, Gardner-Webb's divinity program is the first of its kind to provide financial assistance toward this inspirational journey.

"The endowment ensures that every student in the GWU divinity program has the opportunity to enhance his or her studies by actually experiencing the text," commented Dr. Hearne.

The GWU School of Divinity faculty has welcomed this chance for students to visit sites

frequently referenced in classes.

Dr. Wayne Stacy, dean of the School of Divinity, explained that nothing else can reveal the true meaning of Bible stories like being where they took place.

"Once you go to the Holy Land, you never read the Bible the same way again. Several pastors have told me they wished they had gone when they were students because that is a time of really being immersed in Biblical research."

Divinity students have been making a steady path to get applications for this summer's trip to the Holy Land. Those who have completed 45 semester hours toward the Master of Divinity degree at the conclusion of the spring 1998 semester are eligible for the \$1500 grants.

## Unforgettable Dimensions ...

During one fall Dimensions program, Gardner-Webb students were encouraged to take a stand against rape as they heard the story of Katie Koestner. A nationally-known sexual



Photo Credit: Dr. Sue Camp



assault prevention advocate, Koestner was raped during her freshman year of college, exactly eight years ago to the date she visited GWU.

She brings her message of rape awareness to 160 schools and military institutions each year, and has appeared on the June 3, 1991, cover of Time magazine and on numerous television shows, including the "Oprah Winfrey Show," "Geraldo" and "NBC Nightly News." In addition, she completed a project with HBO, the 1993 production of "No Visible Bruises: the Katie Koestner Story."

She emotionally shared the details of her life-changing tragedy, saying, "Some of you may be wondering if my emotions up here are real. I'm not an actress. It's not my favorite thing to tell the story of the worst night of my life, but I tell it because I want a day with no more rape."

"Like most tragedies, until it hits you, it's someone else's problem," she continued. "My message is that this can happen to people you care about."

Koestner's speech was preceded by a visit with about 90 campus leaders.

## A Sleeping Giant Awakens

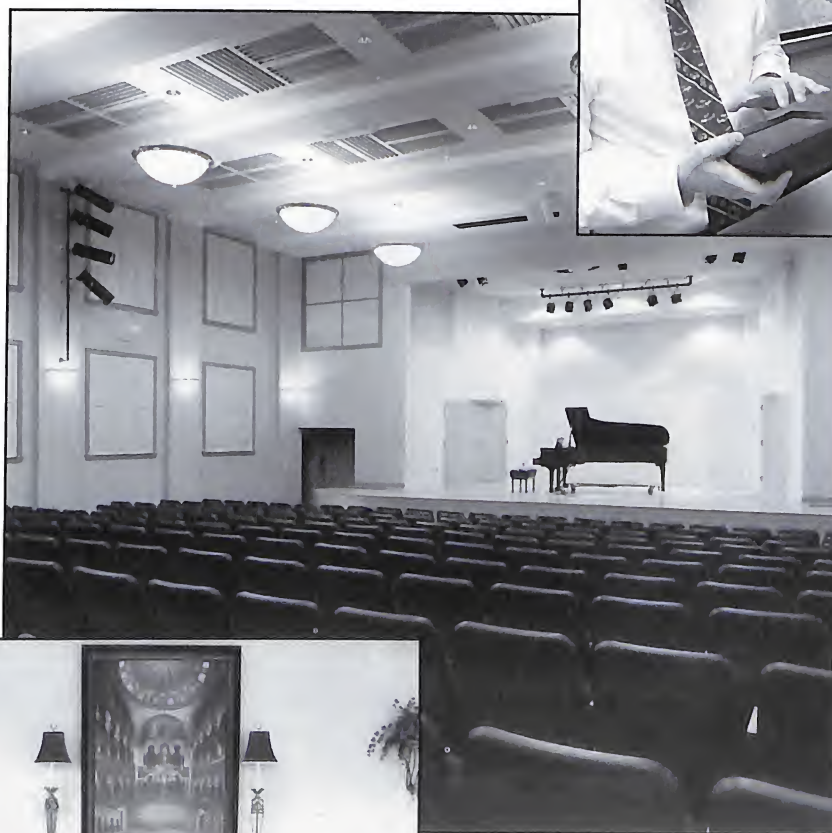
This fall the Gardner-Webb University School of Business moved into its new home. No big deal, huh? Well, consider that this new home is Hamrick Hall, which has stood in silence for the past 11 years, and you'll see why there is a definite air of excitement on campus these days.

Fresh off of renovations, Hamrick was ready for faculty and students when the new semester began. And just before Fall Break, members of the Hamrick family joined GWU faculty, staff and students for the official dedication and "rebirth" of the oldest and most historic building on campus.

Multimedia classrooms, computer labs, sparkling new faculty offices, a grand board room, the Tucker library and a 310-seat auditorium are all features of the structure that were made possible through the "Dreaming, Daring, Doing" capital campaign.



Photo Credit: Shelby Star



# COMING OF AGE

*GWU Alum puts faith into action and finds success along the way*

**I**t was just like every other Sunday morning in the Danville, Ill., First Assembly of God Church. The pastor was delivering a sermon. The choir was singing. The children were laughing. It was just like every other Sunday morning, until ... sounds of joy and hope were devoured by the cries of pain and fear. These excruciating cries were caused by the explosion of a madman's bomb, a bomb that rocked the church, causing over \$120,000 in damages and leaving 33 injured. "These people needed help, and we wanted to do our part," says **Jimi Ray '87**, lead vocalist and founder of the Christian rock band, Age of Faith.

"We offered to perform a benefit concert that would help in raising money for rebuilding the church," notes Ray. "It was amazing to look into the faces of the youth whose lives had been emotionally scarred as a result of this bombing. Although their everyday routines had been completely shattered, they had the courage to face the world again. We went there to give them hope and encouragement, but they inspired us! They made a monumental impact on our lives."

Ray (pictured below, second from left) began his musical pilgrimage while attending Gardner-Webb, and 11 years, hundreds of concerts and seven albums later, his passion for music is still going strong. "I never knew that this kind of Christian music existed until I came to Gardner-Webb. It was incredible to find out that I could play the music that I loved and present a positive message at the same time. Gardner-Webb served as my launching pad. I couldn't get enough of that music thing. I wanted more." And more is exactly what Ray got. "As soon as I graduated from the Webb, I pursued a music career. In fact, one week after I got my degree, I was on the road, and I haven't looked back since."





In 1990, Age of Faith debuted as a power pop-rock duo with GWU alumnus Rick Harwell (class of 1983) on keyboards, and Ray on vocals and guitar. "We were signed to Benson records and had two releases with them. Our sound was kind of a late 1980s rock thing with a lot of keyboards," says Ray. "Some compared our sound to the Bon Jovi and the Bryan Adams scene." The band developed a following and enjoyed regional success, but both Ray and Harwell decided to go separate ways in 1994. "I really wanted to do something new," Ray remembers. "I was getting more into the praise and worship acoustic thing. For the most part, it was me, my guitar and my Jeep Cherokee. I did that for over a year."

Ray says that although he was making an impact on the praise and worship circuit, he wasn't utilizing his gifts to their full potential. He missed the performing aspect of his ministry and he felt as though he was losing that "rock edge." "I decided that it was time to revive Age of Faith, so, in February of 1996, that's exactly what happened. I pulled together some talented guys who wanted to have some fun and play a few gigs along the way. This was just the kind of outlet that I needed."

The new Age of Faith sparked comparisons to Hootie & the Blowfish, Counting Crows and classic rockers, Peter Dinklage and the Allman Brothers. "We have a rawer sound with a lot of life and energy," explains Ray. That rootsy, acoustic-driven sound didn't fall on deaf ears as Age of Faith landed a recording contract in 1996 with Grey Dot records and released the album "Embrace." And in 1997, it was this album that produced the national #1 single (Christian Hits Radio Chart) "The Love of Jesus," and the #3 music video, "Walk in My Shoes." Age of Faith has also worked with producers who have molded projects for Collective Soul, Tom Petty and Smashing Pumpkins.

According to the music industry, Age of Faith had finally made it and the band's latest release, "The Truth," has been heralded as it's strongest effort to date. "Everybody wants to make it. But, you have to define what 'making it' is. You have to decide what success is. Being successful is not how many Dove Awards you win or how many records you sell," Ray continued, "but, it's about being able to do what you love and make a living at it. I'm playing music for a living. I'm performing over 200 concerts a year. I'm recording songs. I'm doing what I love ... that's success!"

Ray believes that his ultimate calling is to show honesty through his life and his songs. "I have evolved as a writer. I no longer write music and lyrics for the purpose of pleasing a record company or the media or a radio audience. I write songs purely from the heart and from life experiences. Writing is about keeping focused on who you are and being true to yourself. I think that you've got to be real among people because that's the greatest testimony. There's a place for words, but putting those words to action are the most important thing. I think that if we can learn to be real, we'll see a change in people ... and a change in the world around us."

# CLASS NOTES

## THE 40S

**Dr. E. Eugene Poston '43** celebrated his 80th birthday July 12, 1998. Dr. Poston was president of Gardner-Webb University from 1961 to 1976 and was named president emeritus by the board of trustees in May 1995.

**Lansford and Cothenia Jolley '47** are proud grandparents of twin boys, born to Lana and Russ Henkel on October 23. Lansford and Cothenia serve as GWU's historian and archivist, respectively.

previously served 20 years at Northside Church in Shelby.

**Tommy Simmons '62** was inducted to the Caldwell County Sports Hall of Fame on Oct. 26, 1998.

## THE 60S

**Stan Webb '61 A.A.** has been called as the pastor of Crestview Church in Shelby. Webb

## THE 70S

**Terry Rogers '71 B.S.** has been named Freedom High School's teacher of the year.



*This message brought to you by award-winning artist Hal Bryant '72.*

**Martha Ann Turner '72 B.A.** has been named teacher of the year at Tryon Elementary School. Turner began her teaching career in 1972 at Furman High School.

## THE 80s

**Sherry Brinton Bostic '82 B.A.** has accepted the position of adult basic education and high school instructor at Isothermal Community College. Sherry and her husband Scott have three children and reside in Ellenboro, NC.

**Dina Smith McClure '85 B.S.** has accepted a position as basketball and volleyball coach,

teacher and athletic director at Landrum Junior High School in Landrum, SC.

**Johnny Richards '85** has been called as associate minister for students and children by Wrightsville Beach Church in Wrightsville Beach, NC. Richards leaves Mt. Vernon Church in Forest City to take the position.

**Patricia B. Medders '87 M.A.** is McDowell County's newest U.S. citizen. A native of Costa Rica, Medders was sworn in July 22, 1998.

**Ron C. Gordon '88 M.A.** has been named principal of Copeland Elementary School. Gordon took his first role in

administration when he was named assistant principal at North Surry High School in 1993. He then went to Westfield Elementary School as assistant principal in 1997.

**Geneva Dockery '89 M.A.** has been named principal at West Stokes High School. Dockery was appointed the director of high school curriculum and instruction in 1995 and assumed the responsibility for vocational education programs in 1997.

**Beth Lamb Manning '89 B.A.** has accepted a position with Cleveland County Schools as kindergarten teacher at Boiling Springs Elementary School. She began teaching there in August 1998.

## THE 90s

**Julie Anne Moore '91 B.S.** and Eric Dale Huneycutt were married Aug. 29, 1998, at Eastway Baptist Church in Charlotte. Julie is employed by the Pic N Pay Stores corporate offices. The groom is employed by Carolinas Healthcare System, Charlotte.

**Penny Nicole Sharts '91 B.S.** and Eric Scott Clontz were married Sept. 12, 1998, at Shelby Presbyterian Church. Penny is employed by Cleveland County Schools at Crest High School. The groom is employed by Farm Bureau.

**Pamela Taylor '91 B.S.** and Joel Beard were married June 27, 1998, at Sandy Ridge Baptist Church in Hickory.

**Kathy Pasour Bradford '92 B.A.** and husband Rodney announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Olivia, born Feb. 6, 1998.

**Emily Whisenant Brown '92 B.S.** and Lance Leon Foss were married Sept. 11, 1998, at The Burleson House in Morganton. Emily is employed at Gardner-Webb University as an instructor of business and academic advisor. The groom is employed by the Burke County Sheriff's Department as a school resource officer.

**Patricia C. Comire '92 B.S.** and husband Don announce the birth of a son, Benjamin.

**Eric Johnson '93 B.S.** and Angela Dawn McCauley were married Sept. 12, 1998. Eric is employed by First North American National Bank in Kenesaw, Georgia. The bride is employed by Motorola.

**Alreda Lavonne Lawrence '93 B.A.** and Perry Lewis King were married Aug. 15, 1998, at First Baptist Church in Lawndale.



## HAS IT REALLY BEEN THREE DECADES?

Almost 30 years after their graduation, the nursing classes of 1967 and 1968 came home for a reunion. Although it had been three decades since many of them had seen each other, it seemed at Homecoming this year that time had stood still.

"Laurie Varley (GWU director of alumni relations) called me," said **Lois Perkins**, a 1967 alumnus of the nursing program, "and asked my opinion about enhancing alumni relations. The main suggestion I had was the need for a nurses reunion."



*From left to right, Lois Perkins, Gay Melton, and Linda Henry*

So, with Varley's help, Mrs. Perkins, Gay Melton and Linda Henry formed the '67 reunion committee. Then, along with the '68 reunion committee chair, Maxine Lyda, they began planning for a time of rekindling friendships made while they were in college.

"We were the guinea pigs and often times did not have proper equipment. But we were willing to share and we all did well on the state board exams, despite a lack of materials," said Perkins.

On Saturday, the '67 and '68 nursing classes joined each other on a float during the annual Homecoming parade. That evening, they gathered at the nurses' reunion banquet during which they continued to share memories and make new ones. A highlight of the reunion was the opportunity for the nursing students to reunite with two of their favorite professors, Glennie Beam and Dr. Shirley Toney. They resolved to plan another event in a few years. "The time we spent together was perfect, and I wouldn't have done anything differently," said Perkins. "I just look forward to the next time."

### *Do you want a reunion?*

The Office of Alumni Relations can:

- \* Meet with the class reunion planning committee in the spring to assist with the planning of your reunion.
  - \* Provide you with the names, phone numbers and addresses of all living members of the reunion class.
  - \* Serve as your contact to the food service provider on campus.
  - \* Secure all campus locations for meetings, receptions and meals.
  - \* Host a reunion phonathon to be staffed by reunion volunteers.
  - \* Assist in the assembling of reunion publicity packages and assume responsibility for mailing the packages.
  - \* Mail reminders for your reunion and publish an announcement.
- Contact Laurie Varley at 704-434-4255.

## ALUMNI CALENDAR '99

### **Saturday, February 6**

#### **Charlotte Alumni Event**

Charlotte Checkers hockey game -  
(Alumni are responsible for securing game tickets.)

### **Tuesday, February 9**

#### **Triad Alumni Event** (Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point) Embassy Suite

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, February 20**

#### **Alumni Association Board Meeting**

Gardner-Webb University

### **Tuesday, March 9**

#### **Asheville Alumni Event**

The Comfort Inn at River Ridge  
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, March 16**

#### **Greenville/Spartanburg Alumni Event**

The Comfort Inn  
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### **Friday & Saturday, April 16 & 17** **25th and 50th Year Class Reunion** **(Class of 1973 & Class of 1949)**

Gardner-Webb University

### **Saturday, October 9**

#### **HOMECOMING**

Gardner-Webb University vs.  
Lenoir-Rhyne College

For more information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 704-434-4255.

**D**uring their days at Gardner-Webb, **Mark and Kim Sanders '86** got involved in school sports by playing tennis and cheering. Now, they still have school spirit, but they've replaced the tennis racket and pom-poms for telephones.

As new members of the Alumni Board, the Sanders have strived to keep in touch with fellow alumni by calling them and encouraging them to stay involved with GWU.

Mark explained, "We met some incredible people there and want to maintain the relationships with them."

But of the people they met while at GWU, Mark and



## Alumni Pair Recalls Fond Memories

Kim, who obtained a B. S. degree in management information systems, is employed as an investment broker for Wachovia and Mark, a management major with a B. S. degree, is a software salesman for Optium, Inc.

"I've discovered that the overall business studies I had at GWU really helped me prepare for the business world," said Kim. "But more than that, my professors taught the value of treating people with respect and kindness."

Mark also remembers being instructed on the value of relationships in business. "I work with many different companies, so it is important to know how to communicate on various levels."

Both of them find that the more intimate GWU community lends itself to maintaining contact with alums.

"We really want to pull together the alumni and involve them in University activities," commented Mark. "Our years at Gardner-Webb were the best ever. The time there was magical because we really knew everyone. Now we want to bring back that feeling of togetherness."

Kim agree that they most enjoyed getting to know each other. Kim grew up in Hendersonville and met Mark, of Monroe, after registration during their junior year. Now residing in Atlanta after being married 10 years,

Mrs. King is employed with the Department of Corrections. The groom is employed with Freightliner Corp.

**Tina McDaniel Wright '93 B.A.** and husband Jeff announce the birth of a son, Hunter Jeffrey, born June 24, 1998.

**Chris Bortnick '94 B.S.** and wife Patricia announce the birth of a daughter, Paige Alexis, born June 28, 1998.

**Noel T. Manning, II '94 B.A.** was recently honored by the Mint Museum in Charlotte for his award-winning video documentary, "Earl Owensby: The Man...The Myth." The documentary also was screened as part of an Earl Owensby film festival and film forum.

**Sherri L. McAbee Morgan '94 B.S.** and husband Jerry announce the birth of a son, Zachary Matthew, born Sept. 16, 1998.

First Lieutenant **Kevin Bess '95** and wife Diana announce the birth of their first child, Emma Macall, born Oct. 30, 1998 at Patilla Medical Hospital, Panama, Central America.

**Kristi Fowler '95** and husband Shane announce the birth of a daughter, Marissa Leigh, born June 30, 1998.

**Jeffrey S. Price '95 B.S.** graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in May of 1998 with a J.D. (Doctor of Jurisprudence) degree. In addition, he has been admitted to the Tennessee Bar and joined the law firm of Lufking Henley & Conner in Knoxville, TN.

**Terry Sherrill '95 B.S.** accepted a counseling position at Lenoir-Rhyne College in May of 1998.

**Julie Ann Bright '96 B.S.** and Ricky Joe Powell were married Aug. 29, 1998. Julie currently attends Converse College, working toward a master's degree in special education. The groom is employed by BellSouth as an electronics technician.

**Roberta Harless '96 B.S.** is Wilkes Community College's new director of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), employment programs implemented by the college. Before taking this position, Harless served as a JTPA case management counselor.

**Julia Lynn White '96 A.A.** and David Sutherland were married Aug. 1, 1998. Julia is employed by Popee Hospital in Charleston as a registered nurse. The groom is employed by the newspaper, Post & Courier.

**Tonia Ballard '97 B.S.** has accepted the position of physical education teacher at East Rutherford High School. Beginning her second year of teaching, Tonia previously taught at Forest Hill Elementary in Morganton.

**Thomas A. Bridges, Jr. '97 M.A.** has joined the administrative staff at Statesville High School as an assistant principal. Bridges leaves South Iredell High to take the position.

**Kevin Neal Hollifield '97 B.S.** and Michele Thompson were married Oct. 10, 1998. Kevin is employed by Scruggs Mechanical Inc. and the bride



# You Can Go Home Again

about a surprise! After the call telling me I had been chosen as alumnus of the year, I told Rachel they must have run out of qualified candidates and elected 'Mr. Congeniality' instead. Seriously, it is an honor and an experience I will treasure always."

At T-GATE (The Great Alumni Tent Event) held at the Lindsay Court of the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center, staff and alumni celebrated and danced to the big band music of "From the Top." Alumni began the day Saturday with campus tours led by the Student Alumni Council, highlighted by a complete look at the newly renovated Hamrick Hall.

Later, 10 new members were inducted to the GWU Alumni Association: **Ronald Heffner '50**, **Noble Ball '51** and **Doris Grigg Ball '51**, **Yvetta**



**Washburn '88**, **Sue Wilson '53** and **Darrel Wilson '53**, **Roger Dixon '64**, **Kim Sanders '86** and **Mark Sanders '86**, and **Evans Whitaker '83**. Also, former director of alumni and parent relations, **Mickey Sharpe**, was honored with an award for his dedication and

service to Gardner-Webb.

Activity surrounded the Homecoming picnic as alumni reunited with former classmates and friends. A live band entertained the crowd of alumni and their families as they ate lunch under tents near the Williams Observatory. At the conclusion of the picnic, participants gathered to watch the Homecoming parade. The football team proved to be triumphant with a 38-17 win over Wingate University. An especially "uplifting" part of the game was Dr. White's show of school spirit by allowing students to toss him in the air 38 times, once for every point scored. During halftime, senior Julie Eades was crowned as the 1998 Homecoming Queen.

Homecoming 1999 has been set for Saturday, October 9.

Black and red balloons and hugs for old friends. Laughter and the click of cameras. These were just a few of the sights and sounds at the 1998 Gardner-Webb University Homecoming celebration on October 2nd and 3rd.

The weekend activities began on Friday afternoon with the Homecoming golf tournament at Riverbend Golf Club in Shelby. Then, that night, five-year and 10-year reunion receptions were held for the classes of 1993 and 1988, as well as the nursing classes of 1967 and 1968.

Also Friday night, Dr. and Mrs. White, University administrators and special guests joined for the announcement of the 1998 alumnus of the year, Dr. Bob Mullinax, recognized for his outstanding leadership as executive director of the Council on Christian Higher Education.

Mullinax '51 responded, "Talk



*Dr. Chris White being tossed into the air by students in celebration of the football team's victory (below) was just one of the highlights of Homecoming.*



## — Turning 40 with *Style* —

After one year of efforts to get an "old gang" of girls together for a reunion/40th birthday celebration, nine out of ten from the group reunited for a weekend last fall in Charleston, SC. Some of the girls hadn't seen each other since graduation day which, for the majority, took place in 1979. Over the years, many had attended the weddings of others, though some had kept in touch only by phone and letters. Those in the group were: Donna Bolton Belue, Cindy Gilbert Bruce, Kathy Mack Grantham, Nancy Clary Green, Marilyn Wallace Holland, Pam Steele Nelson, Cathy Holt Norris, Chandra Masters and Terry Houpe White.

It was a grand weekend, a special reunion and time set aside to catch up on each others' lives and to celebrate a "BIG" milestone on our lives – our 40th birthdays. It included sharing special memories of good times, of the many pranks played during our college days, of old GW friends whose earthly lives ended sadly (those of Shawn Gay Todd and Randy Kilby), of the joys of new lives with husbands and children, and of our work, which resulted from what we learned years ago at Gardner-Webb.

Imagine the stories shared, from those of the old days at Gardner-Webb to the many events and occurrences in our lives over the last 18 years! For two days and nights we talked and talked at a beautiful setting in a gorgeous house overlooking the beach.

The entire living room was covered with photo albums and scrapbooks of the wonderful days shared together at Gardner-Webb, and wedding and baby albums showing the recent years of each others' lives. We ended the weekend on somewhat of a serious note, taking turns sharing what the weekend meant to each of us, and how thankful we were that God had brought our lives together 18-20 years ago. It was so worth all the effort, so much so that we have already planned the next one!

None of us had changed all that much, we have the same mannerisms and expressions; even the comedienne of the group, Marilyn, provided the entertainment that we experienced in the dorm rooms years ago. What a special bond we share – that was reborn during this wonderful weekend. We all promised to keep in touch and to pray for one another as we go through various struggles in our lives. We thanked God for allowing us to begin these special friendships many years ago that still remain today. Thanks to our meeting at Gardner-Webb we share a special bond that is rarely found anymore in our fast-paced, hectic world, one that we all know will continue for the rest of our lives.

Sincerely,

*(Back, left to right) Chandra Masters, Donna Bolton Belue, Pam Steele Nelson, Marilyn Wallace Holland, Kathy Mack Grantham (Front, left to right) Nancy Clary Green, Terry Houpe White, Cathy Holt Norris, Cindy Gilbert Bruce*



is employed at Peachview Medical Park.

**Rev. James Lee Morton '97 B.A.** and Jennifer Dawn Burrell were married June 27, 1998, at Flint Hill Baptist Church in Shelby, where the Rev. Morton is the associate pastor and minister of youth.

**Janet Michelle Philbeck '97 B.S.** and Brian Thomas Ritter '97 B.S. were married Sept. 5, 1998, at Boyce Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Kings Mountain. Janet is employed in sales with Southwestern Wire Cloth. The groom is employed as a sales manager with The Butcher Company.

**Holly Michelle Roark '97 A.A.** and Travis Christian York were married July 25, 1998, at Faith Baptist Church in Kings Mountain. Holly is employed with Cleveland Regional Medical Center as a registered nurse. The groom is employed as a police officer with the Cleveland Regional Medical Center Police Department.

**Jamie Bernard Sprinkle '97 B.A.** and Adrienne Nicole Wood were married Aug. 29, 1998. Both are employed by Renfrow Bros.

**Mickey Marshan Waldrup '97 A.A.** and Cecil Brian Moore were married Sept. of 1998, at Spindale Church of The Brethren. Mickey is a registered nurse employed by UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill and the groom is a student at the UNC School of Dentistry.

**Stephanie Marlene Wheeler '97 B.S.** and Matthew Scott Clifton '97 B.S. were married on Aug. 29, 1998. Both are employed by the Research Triangle Institute.

**Gretchen Fritz '98 B.S.** and Brandon Zoch (GWU director of Sound Support) were engaged



Oct. 25, 1998. A November 1999 wedding is planned.

**Melissa Ann Haynes '98 B.S.** and Christopher Blaine were married October 10, 1998, at Elkin Valley Baptist Church. Melissa is a pharmacy technician for Winston-Salem Health Care. The groom is a programmer/analyst for Wachovia Bank in Winston-Salem.

**Heather D. Lookadoo '98 B.S.** and Carl Cartee were married Sept. 19, 1998, at Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, NC. Heather is employed as assistant director of Alumni Relations at Gardner-Webb. Carl is employed as a Christian musician. The couple resides in Boiling Springs, NC.

**Jennifer Blalock McBride '98 M.A.** has been named assistant principal of St. Stephens High School in Hickory, NC. McBride comes from Freedom High School in Burke County after seven years of service.

**Jennifer Anne Strickland '98 B.S.** and Michael Lee Tate were married June 27, 1998, at First United Methodist Church in Forest City. Jennifer is employed by East Rutherford Middle School as an eighth grade teacher. The groom is employed by C.C. Strickland & Sons Inc.

## DEATHS

John Bethea, former trustee, passed away in October, 1998.

Dr. Alex Booth, Jr. passed away Aug. 3, 1998.

J.D. Cooley '32 passed away Sept. 14, 1998, at Rutherford Hospital.

Jacqueline Elaine Parker Davis passed away Aug. 31, 1998, at Carolinas Medical Center.

## HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

By making a gift to the Annual Fund.

### What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is made up of gifts primarily from alumni and friends of the University. These gifts are unrestricted dollars which means they are flexible enough to be used where they are most needed. Annual Fund gifts benefit everyone at Gardner-Webb. A few areas that benefit from your annual fund support are financial aid and scholarships for students, resources for the library, and technology.

### Why do I want to make a gift to the Annual Fund?

By supporting the Annual Fund, you are casting a vote not only in Gardner-Webb but in the lives of future GWU graduates. If you are a GWU graduate, you are helping your class and your decade improve its alumni participation percentages. Listed below, by decade, are the 1997-98 alumni participation percentages for giving to the Annual Fund. This year, let's try to make those percentages even greater!

#### DECADE PERCENTAGE

1920S	14.0%	1960S	9.2%
1930S	21.3%	1970S	8.2%
1940S	25.8%	1980S	8.7%
1950S	18.0%	1990S	6.7%

Overall: 9.5 percent of alumni gave to the Annual Fund from July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998.

### How can I make a gift to the Annual Fund?

It's easy! Simply make out a check to Gardner-Webb University and designate your gift to the Annual Fund. Mail the check to Gardner-Webb University, Attn: Annual Fund Office, Boiling Springs, NC 28017. Remember your gift is tax deductible so try to mail it before December 31, 1998. If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Broadhurst, Director of the Annual Fund, at (704) 434-4654 or at [dbroadhurst@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:dbroadhurst@gardner-webb.edu).

To all those alumni and friends who have already made a gift to the Annual Fund this year, thank you. And thank you to those who plan to make a gift in the future. Your faithful support is important to the continued growth and success of Gardner-Webb University. THANK YOU!

Jack R. Harmon '57 passed away Aug. 19, 1998, at his home.

The Rev. Steve M. Lewis '76 passed away Nov. 7, 1998. He was pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, NC.

John McCulloch (GWU trustee) passed away Oct. 17, 1998. Thelma Amos Raines (former GWU teacher) passed away Oct. 23, 1998.

Artie Treadway '64 passed away Oct. 2, 1998 in Greenville, SC.

## ALUMNI LINKS



**Phillip Carl Brown, B.S., '86** recently relocated to Leathercraft, Inc. in Conover, NC, where he is a national sales manager. While at his former job, he surpassed sales records and was named as the top leather stocking program sales representative. He also is on the GWU Alumni Board.



**Julie Teresa Huggins Daves, B.A., '83** serves as the A.C.T.I.V.E. coordinator for Shelby City and Cleveland County schools. Within this capacity, she provides at-risk students with positive adult role models. In addition, she is a member of the N.C. Social Workers Association.



**Arnold D. Issacs, A.A., '57** has been the president of F.N. Thompson Company since 1984. He was presented the Gardner-Webb University Alumnus of the Year award in 1996 and the 1997 Golden Hammer Award by the Charlotte Chapter of Professional Construction Estimators.

# GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES



**Mark Edward Smith, B.S., '91** applies his management skills and his sports background as the vice president of corporate sales and marketing for the Charlotte Checkers hockey team. In addition, he is a member of the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Advisory Board.



**Victor Thomas Smith, B.S., '79** continues to be one of the top national salespersons for the Honda corporation, as sales manager of La Pointe Honda in Shelby. He has been recognized for his service and leadership, and he belongs to the National Council of Sales Leadership.



**Richard Lee Wayne, B.S., '97** makes caring for others his priority, as a physician assistant at Gonzales Community Health center in Gonzales, TX. He also has worked as a missionary nurse in Brazil and is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.



# ALUMNI NEWS NOTES

CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Earned: (Example - BS, MA, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ GOAL Graduate \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
If female, include maiden name

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
If alumnus, please include graduation year

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or box City  
State Zip

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS NOTE INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS INCLUDED IN YOUR CLASS NOTE? ☐ No ☐ Yes

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Complete, clip and mail to Christin Stone, P.O. Box 997, GWU, Boiling Springs, N.C. 28017

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Cynthia S. Hamrick, '66  
Lucielle Causby Hamrick, '44  
Tammy Campbell Hoyle, '88  
David Brent Keim, '87  
Randy Mayfield, '69  
F. Craig Meadows, '83  
Julius Pinkston, '51  
Minna Bolling Rice, '38  
Michael J. Rousseaux, '87  
Joanne Caldararo Ruhland, '84  
Keith Taylor, '73  
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