Summer 2007

The Webb Magazine 2007, Summer

Noel T. Manning II

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Gardner-Webb Responds to the Virginia Tech Tragedy

On Monday, April 16 a deeply disturbed young man went on a shooting rampage at Virginia Tech, killing 32 of his fellow students and professors. It was the worst school shooting incident in the history of the United States. As news of this tragedy spread across our campus, Gardner-Webb University students, faculty and staff began contacting friends and colleagues at the Blacksburg, VA campus in an effort to let them know of our concern and prayers.

Our campus responded to the tragedy at Virginia Tech in a variety of ways. For example, a spontaneously planned student-led prayer service was held that Monday evening at 10 pm in the Dover Chapel with more than 100 students in attendance. A time of prayer and reflection was also part of the Dimensions program on Tuesday morning. The student development staff made the university family aware of the various resources available as we all dealt with this crisis. We also communicated ways in which interested persons could let the Virginia Tech community know of our prayers and support. The addresses of the Virginia Tech Student Government Association, YMCA, and Baptist Campus Ministries were distributed campus wide representing a few among many organizations at Virginia Tech with plans to publicly display cards received from all over the nation.

On Thursday, April 19, I received an email from a faculty member entitled “Hokie Hope” It was a declaration of Friday, April 20 as a "maroon and orange effect" day and an invitation for people all over the country to wear maroon and orange on Friday to remember those killed in Monday's tragic events and to show support for Virginia Tech students, administration, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. In response to "Hokie Hope" and sensing that many people would appreciate an opportunity to come together and pray, the office of campus ministries planned a brief service of prayer which was held at noon on Friday, April 20.

At the flagpole on the quad, the Virginia Tech flag flew alongside the Gardner-Webb University flag and the American flag. Students, faculty, staff and members of the community gathered in the chapel and heard opening remarks from President Bonner. We prayed for...

- the Virginia Tech students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends
- the families and friends of the students and professors killed
- the students that were still in the hospital and their families
- the family of the gunman
- the Korean community in Blacksburg and across our nation as some people might be tempted to misappropriate their anger
- the physical, emotional and spiritual stamina and rest for leaders in the Blacksburg community
- Gardner-Webb University – our president, students, faculty and staff and for campuses throughout our nation as we all recognized our vulnerability.

We affirmed the truth of Psalm 62 which says, “Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.”

You see, whether we're “Hokies” or “Runnin’Bulldogs,” hope is found ultimately in Christ alone.

- Tracy C. Jessup
Minister to the University
## The Webb

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**PRESIDENT.**  
Dr. A. Frank Bonner  
**SR. VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND MARKETING.**  
Ralph W. Dixon, Jr.  
**MANAGING EDITOR.**  
Noel T. Manning, II  
**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION EDITOR.**  
Kathy Martin  
**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT.**  
Ray Bryant  
**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS.**  
Paul Foster, Lou Ann Gilliam, Brian Cochrum, Marc Rabb, Jennifer Wilson, Sarah Bentley, Elizabeth Hammons, Nathaniel Hillard, M’lissa Lawrence, Robin Holly, Jessica Lane, Tracy Jessup, Chris Breedlove  
**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS.**  
Rachel Lloyd, Katie Bryant, Haley Black, Ashley Carter, Kate Gazaway, Kaley Potter, Rachel Tucker, Christopher Breedlove, Randy McNelly, Kathy Martin, Commencement Specialist, Inc.

You may contact The Webb at:  
PO Box 997  
Boiling Springs, NC 28017  
Phone: 704-406-4631  
E-mail: ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK**

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Reflecting . . .
and
Looking Ahead

On May 12, Gardner-Webb awarded degrees to over 730 graduates, thus formally concluding the academic year. By almost every measure, it was a great year. There have been advances and improvements in an already strong academic program, including advances in our undergraduate research and study abroad programs. In their quality of teaching, caliber of scholarship, and, most important, dedication to the success and well-being of their students, our faculty continue to be unsurpassed in higher education. Highlighted by Campus Ministries, Student Activities, the Office of Community Engagement, and other fine programs, student life has had a great year.

It has been a year of “firsts” in our athletic program, including our first team (men’s soccer) to advance to NCAA Division I post-season national championship competition. The campus has seen the amazing renovation of the “Caf,” more renovations in the Campus Center are underway, other improvements on campus will be done this summer, and the campus itself seems almost to get more beautiful by the day. Very soon, construction of Frank Nanney Hall will begin. It has been an excellent year in fund-raising, as more and more alumni and friends demonstrate their love and support for Gardner-Webb and its mission.

As we reflect on the past, we look to the future. Yogi Berra famously said, “The future ain’t what it used to be.” Indeed, the outlook for the future can change,
and I believe that the prospects for Gardner-Webb's future are getting better and better. That future will be determined largely by how well we face four significant challenges.

♦ First, we must attract even more of the best and brightest students, so that we can grow our enrollment until it reaches a carefully planned level. We will be very careful not to grow so large that we would risk losing the wonderful sense of community that is so much a strength of Gardner-Webb.

♦ Second, we must clearly communicate the identity of Gardner-Webb—the identity of a University community grounded in faith, dedicated to service, and committed to fostering leadership.

♦ Third, and central to all other efforts, we must intentionally and aggressively advance the quality of academics, student life, and everything we do.

♦ Finally, we must garner the resources necessary to support the quality, growth, and overall advancement we envision.

The potential of Gardner-Webb University is tremendous, and the future is bright. I invite you to be a part of it.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Summer,

A. Frank Bonner
President, Gardner-Webb University
GWU Celebrates 30 Years of the Noel Program

Gardner-Webb has had a long history of reaching out to students with disabilities and this year the GWU Noel Program is celebrating 30 years of assistance to these students. Prior to the existence of the Noel Program, in the 1950’s, Martha Mason attended Gardner-Webb (then a junior college) despite being confined to an iron lung. Many accommodations were made for Mason, including an intercom system that enabled Mason to be an active part of each class even though she was not physically in the classroom. Mason was able to complete her degree at Gardner-Webb with high honors, and then go on to graduate with honors from Wake Forest University.

In 1977, before federal mandates insisted Universities provide programs for disabled students, Gardner-Webb was serving as a pioneer. It was at that time that Gardner-Webb reached out to its first (and at that time only) Deaf student. GWU President Craven Williams approached the Rev. Jerry Potter, a North Carolina missionary for the Deaf, about beginning a grant-funded Deaf Program for the College. The following year, more Deaf students arrived, and Potter’s wife Ruth moved to Gardner-Webb to serve as an interpreter in the classroom as well as assist with extracurricular activities for the deaf population.

In 1983, Nell Kilpatrick was hired to establish a program for Blind and Visually Impaired students, giving Gardner-Webb two programs for students with disabilities, the Program for the Deaf and the Program for the Blind. Three years later Gardner-Webb hired Sharon Jennings to create a joint all-inclusive Noel Program (named after GWU supporters, George and Marguerite Noel) for Students with Disabilities. Under the direction of Jennings, the Noel Program instituted annual campus wide training for the Noel students and all faculty, staff, resident advisors, note takers, interpreters, GOAL professors, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters during orientation periods to ensure a knowledgeable and caring community.

Jennings also insisted on a Career Development Center within Career Services. The Career Development Center for Students with Disabilities hosts workshops on study skills, time management, self-advocacy, and community resources. Each student was also assigned a disability specialist to give personal assistance throughout the challenges of university life.

Graduates of this university program have gone on to become attorneys, university professors, computer programmers, accountants, vocational rehabilitation specialist, Department of Defense employees, YMCA leaders, bankers, ministers and more.

Each day the current students of the Noel Program and its alumni prove that the only insurmountable challenge is the challenge not taken.

ACHINE Lawrence contributed to this article
Frank Nanney Hall to House Classrooms, Production Labs, Testing Centers

Business, political, and community leaders joined with Gardner-Webb students, faculty and staff in March for the ceremonial shoveling of dirt, marking the groundbreaking for Frank Nanney Hall.

This 12,000 square foot building will be the new home for the Noel Program for Students with Disabilities as well as additional programs or departments yet to be determined. The building will consist of classroom space, production labs, testing centers and office space. It will be located near the Lake Hollifield Complex and is expected to be finished by Summer 2008. This project was made possible by many generous donations including a substantial lead gift from Frank Nanney. "I think that helping people is one of the things God wants me to do and I think the Noel Program is truly about helping people," said Nanney. "That is what I want to be remembered for at the University and in the community ... assisting students with difficulties to get an education."

Additional donors include the Dover Foundation, Cannon Foundation, ME Foundation and the Nanney Foundation. Contributions from Mailon and Ella Mae Nichols, Ray and Sara Starnes, and a major anonymous donor were also designated for this new facility. "It has been such an honor to be associated with all of the individuals who made this project possible. From hearing President Bonner’s plan and passion for this concept to every donor’s sacrificial and generous giving, I have witnessed the spirit of ‘For God and Humanity’ in a very real way," noted Steve Varley, vice president for Development at Gardner-Webb.

“We ought to let people who have disabilities know that Gardner-Webb has a program like this and that Gardner-Webb wants people to come and further their education in spite of their difficulties,” added Nanney.

Frank Nanney is a Rutherford County native who spent nearly 50 years with Stonecutter Mills Corporation in Spindale, NC. He attends the Round Hill Baptist Church in Union Mills, NC where he has served as deacon, music leader, and Sunday school teacher and Church Trustee. Nanney has also served Gardner-Webb as a two-term trustee.
Whenever you visit a foreign country for the first time you experience some interesting obstacles. These are understanding the primary spoken and written language, adapting to the food and culture, and trying to find the best way not to get lost. But what if you had to do all those things by communicating with only sign language? That is exactly what a former Gardner-Webb student is doing right now on the mission field in Russia.

Stephanie Zawada '06 of Concord, NC is currently serving a two-year commitment as a Journeyman for the International Mission Board (IMB) through the Southern Baptist Conference in Moscow. The Journeyman program is for single, college graduates (20-30 years of age) who can commit to multi-years of service.

Stephanie, who is deaf, went on several mission trips during her time at Gardner-Webb and was always inspired and fulfilled during each journey. However, it was a Poland mission trip when she says God opened her heart to take her mission work to a higher level. “Afterward, I didn’t feel satisfied. I was like, how can I really communicate with the people if I don’t know their language. God basically told me that is why He needed me to learn their language,” said Zawada. Stephanie credits those mission trip experiences through Gardner-Webb as a key factor for what she is doing now.

Stephanie’s road to Russia began after attending an IMB Candidate Conference in April 2005. At the event, Zawada discovered only three job openings throughout the world for Deaf ministry. “Right now, I’m learning language and building relationships by going to churches, theaters, and meeting people through other connections,” says Zawada. “My average day is preparing my heart and studying language in accord to be able to reach Deaf people with my best abilities.”

So far through her experience, Stephanie has made new friends, both missionaries and Deaf citizens in Russia. She has a deaf roommate, Olga, who has helped her with language skills. Kris and Francis Courson, missionaries from the United States, work with a group called StoryOne Team. StoryOne puts Bible stories in Russian sign language on DVD for the Deaf. One of Stephanie’s most memorable experiences was with a girl named Vika. Stephanie began a relationship that helped lead Vika to accepting Jesus as her personal savior. “My relationship with God is even stronger than before because I totally depend on him for everything here. Also, people back home praying for me are helping more than they will ever know,” says Stephanie.

Stephanie says it is a strong faith that helps her to be so far away from home. A Bible verse she uses for motivation is Isaiah 29:18 that reads, “On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.”

Stephanie says the weather is different from back home with overcast skies most days and temperatures in the winter below zero. “I always said that God has a sense of humor with me because I hate cold and he sent me to a very cold place.”

For those interested in contacting Stephanie, her email is sazawada@hotmail.com

-Paul Foster
A Visionary Sound

GWU GOAL Alumna Offers Unique Insight into Foreign Language Teaching

Have you ever spoken to someone over the phone for the first time and realized that he or she had much to offer the world? It was obvious through the conversation and the passion in that voice, that this person was truly unique. It was a person who was full of life, confident, strong, and someone you could tell had the ability to make others feel special. It was a person of hope and inspiration. That is exactly how this writer felt after first talking with Sandra Moton.

While Sandra Moton '05 of Statesville, NC may be blind, she is also an expert in speaking and teaching Spanish and works as a tutor for Mitchell Community College in Statesville.

Moton was born with an eye disorder and had cataract surgery at only four-weeks-old. She later developed glaucoma and went through numerous eye surgeries before she completely lost her sight at age sixteen. While adjusting to living without the use of her eyesight took some time, Moton had already learned many life lessons from her Father, who is also blind. She had even learned to read braille while still in elementary school.

While Sandra Moton fell in love with the Spanish language at an early age, her passion for the language, culture and its people was enhanced during a 2005 mission trip to Rio Verde, located in central Mexico. "I love the language. It's beautiful. I hear the sounds well and developed the accent at an early age," notes Moton. The trip gave Sandra the chance to work in a Christian camp for kids during the day and hand out Bible literature at night in the town square. "The people stood out to me the most. Many of them had so little but were happy and humble," said Moton. She hopes someday to return to Rio Verde.

Moton gives high praise to Gardner-Webb's Noel Program for Students with Disabilities and the GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) program. "I wasn't ready to leave home and the fact Gardner-Webb was in my hometown and offered night classes through GOAL made it convenient for me," said Moton. She liked the fact she could work during the day and attend classes at night. Resources and services provided by the Noel Program allowed Moton the opportunity to study by braille and tape. This gave her great independence. Sandra received her GWU degree in Social Sciences with a concentration in Human Services.

While Sandra Moton doesn't like to be called an inspiration, countless students have told her that she inspires them daily. They realize and understand that they can overcome the challenging process of learning a new language after experiencing the beauty of Spanish through the teaching of Moton. Her blindness serves as a springboard for their success.

Wei to geu Sandra!

-Paul Foster
At Gardner-Webb’s annual awards luncheon, Apples and Accolades, honors were presented to the educator of the year, staff and faculty members completing ten and twenty-five years of service, male and female staff members of the year, and the president’s awards for community engagement.

Dr. Tamara Cox, Associate Professor of French was presented the Excellence in Teaching Award at the event. Cox makes it a point to stay involved in the lives of her students, and encourage them throughout their college career. She has made an impact in her traditional courses, as well as in University 101 classes. Cox has an obvious passion to help incoming freshman make the transition into college life. She gets involved with all of her 101 students, and maintains contact with them throughout their college career, offering help and advice when needed.

Cox has also assisted in planning and sometimes organizing optional trips to other countries for her students to get a more direct experience of other cultures. It is also common for her to invite students to her home to cook authentic French food.

Holly Sweat, director of Career Services was selected as Outstanding Female Staff Member for 2007. She constantly tries to make a positive impact on the students she works with, as well as her coworkers. She is known for her smile and positive attitude.

Sweat has implemented numerous programs that directly benefit students at GWU. She has frequently been a guest speaker in University 101 classes, and she meets with students on a regular basis to help them prepare for the “real world.” She has also organized numerous career fairs in Charlotte, and has created the competitive edge dinners and opportunities for students to connect and network with professionals.
This year’s Male Staff Member of the Year is Kevin Jones, director of Athletic Training. Jones has invested himself and his family in Gardner-Webb for many years. He is described as a visionary, who identifies what needs to be done, and completes it, with no questions asked. He frequently goes above and beyond the call of duty, while never requesting, or expecting, compensation.

He also coaches Little League, goes camping with the Boy Scouts, and serves as a Lunch Buddy. He has demonstrated the utmost concern and care for all student athletes for a number of years. Jones has also made significant contributions to the academic welfare of the university. He has been instrumental in developing the Athletic Training Program from a minor, into a major, as well as working to get the program accredited. Outstanding staff members are selected through a nomination process from faculty and staff.

The Community Engagement Award for a faculty member was presented to Dr. Roger Gaddis, professor of Psychology. For over three decades, Gaddis has empowered numerous students of Gardner-Webb to become leaders in the community by assisting in placing and supervising interns in a wide variety of community agencies. Gaddis has also been involved in the Cleveland County United Way and has served on the Human Rights Committee at Broughton Hospital in Morganton, NC.

In addition, he has been involved in the Cleveland County Mental Health Association and has presented numerous talks on depression, grief, and single-parenthood.

Other faculty and staff members were recognized for long-term service and retirement from the University.

10-Year Awards

Nathan Alexander
Carolyn L. Jackson
Steven Patton
Linda Kay Johnson
Joseph R. Pizzo
Charles S. Burch
Robert J. Carey
Tajsha N. Eaves

Lou Ann Gilliam
Deidre C. Ledbetter
Charles B. Tichenor
Jerry D. Toney
Lisa D. McFarland
Charles B. Moore
David R. Parker
Timothy J. Zehnder

25-Year Awards

Jeffrey L. Tubbs
Janie M. Carlton

Lynn C. Keeter
Osborne McFarland

Retirement Awards

Catherine L. Chambers
Rebecca A. Daves
Loretta Clemmons

Janet A. Morton
Darlene J. Gravett
Joanne Snyder
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS GENERATES SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT

2007 has been a great year for the GWU School of Business, thanks to an outpouring of donations. A number of recent financial gifts by both individuals and groups are coming at a time when the School of Business is thriving.

According to the Charlotte Business Journal, Gardner-Webb’s School of Business has been listed for seven consecutive years as a business school of notable mention in North and South Carolina.

The recent donations to the GWU School of Business include a general program endowment for the Broyhill School from the Broyhill Family Foundation in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, a fifty thousand dollar estate gift that was presented by a Gardner-Webb School of Business faculty member, Dr. Charles Tichenor, a twenty-five thousand dollar gift from former Cleveland County businessman and GWU School of Business Board of Advisor member, John Godbold and a ten thousand dollar donation from Stonecutter Foundation and Chairman, Jim Cowan of Spindale, NC.

"I have never seen such passion and interest as we’ve seen recently. Excitement is growing and this support for our school will add needed resources for the students," said Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, dean of the Gardner-Webb University School of Business.

FUTURE NURSES TO BENEFIT FOR YEARS TO COME
John and Gerry Perkins Establish Endowed Scholarship Fund

At a time when there continues to be a critical nursing shortage, particularly in the Carolinas, a Rutherford County, NC couple gives from the heart to help the Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing offer a way for future students to attend the program.

John and Gerry Perkins recently established the John and Gerry Perkins Endowed Scholarship Fund for the Gardner-Webb School of Nursing. The scholarship is a significant gift that will help enable someone to continue their education and have the chance to attend Gardner-Webb in the field of nursing.

The Perkins relationship with the university goes back over three decades when their daughter, Janice Perkins Clayton attended the School of Nursing. Janice was a 1975 graduate of Gardner-Webb, who went on to touch lives as a dedicated nurse, working mostly in upstate South Carolina. Janice who passed away in 2000 is still remembered today in part by the Janice Perkins Clayton Scholarship that was established by her parents for the GWU School of Nursing in 1999.

"A lot of students who don’t have the funding to attend our nursing program will now get that opportunity," said Dr. Susie Beck-Little, dean of the School of Nursing.

GWU FILM RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Gardner-Webb’s Department of Communication Studies has done it again. For the 2nd consecutive year the department has earned international acclaim in film making achievement.

In spring 2006, three theatre students, under the direction of Dr. Jim Lawrence, communication studies professor, embarked on a trip through time with a dramatic adventure film set during the Civil War period in North Carolina. The film, “The Atonement” received recognition from the Aurora International Film and Video Competition, in Salt Lake City, UT. The Atonement received the 2007 Gold Award for ranking “High” in three categories; Execution, Content, and Creativity.

"The Atonement," begins on a lazy springtime afternoon in 1864 when two young Confederate soldiers discover an isolated farmhouse and decide to help themselves to a pair of chickens. As they make their escape with the catch, one soldier is cut down by the blast of a shotgun. The farm’s owner, a young widow who only recently buried her soldier husband, has killed the thief who was stealing her few remaining possessions. Immediately she feels devastated by what she has done. Now the surviving soldier must decide what to do, and whether to avenge the death of his friend.

Lawrence was thrilled when a group of Confederate reenactors and a small family in Kings Mountain, NC, graciously donated their time, efforts, and even animals to the project.
Gardner-Webb University students, faculty and staff capped off a memorable spring break trip to the Big Apple by participating in the official ringing of the opening bell for the start of the days trading at the New York Stock Exchange.

On Wednesday morning, March 14th at 9:25 am, Assistant Provost for Gardner-Webb University, Dr. Carolyn L. Jackson signified the start of trade activities by ringing the bell. “To be given the opportunity to ring the opening bell was exciting. This is a day the students will never forget,” said Jackson. Ten individuals from GWU were given the opportunity to stand on the actual stock exchange podium.

The students taking part in this rare venture have been attending “Campus New York,” a class-for-credit opportunity. The trip allowed students to spend five days in New York City visiting locations like Ellis Island, the United Nations, the Statue of Liberty, and Stock Exchange. In all, 48 Gardner-Webb students representing numerous majors took part in the course. Gardner-Webb has been offering the trip to New York during spring break for over 20 years.

NEARLY 750 STUDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES AT GWU GRADUATION

Milton Hollifield of Baptist State Convention Delivers Commencement Address

Graduates received honors for their years of dedication and commitment to the principles of Gardner-Webb as a total of 734 students were conferred degrees in two separate ceremonies on May 12. The 2007 Spring Commencement exercises were preceded by a week of special luncheons, receptions and departmental gatherings honoring these graduates.

Milton Hollifield, executive director-treasurer for the Baptist State Convention (BSC) of North Carolina, presented the commencement address. Hollifield encouraged graduates to have the courage to passionately confront the unknown transitions of life. “Each of you will face challenges for the rest of your life. But you are prepared. The degree you receive today is not a promissory note. No one owes you anything. But in the future when you wonder if you can make it, if you are up to the challenge, when you need some encouragement - remember this day of recognition. Let it be a reminder that you did not give up when your requirements were difficult. You stuck to the task and you earned your degree. Then move forward into your world and make it a better place,” noted Hollifield.

During the commencement exercises, awards were presented to graduates exemplifying excellence in academics and citizenship. Austin Campbell, Religious Studies major, of Anderson, SC, was honored for comprehensive academic achievement during his collegiate career and he was also selected as the outstanding male graduate. Allison Blackwell, English major, of Orangeburg, SC was awarded the outstanding female graduate honor. These students exemplify the Gardner-Webb motto — “Pro Deo et Humanitate” - For God and Humanity.
ON AND AROUND CAMPUS

The Healthy Choice

GWU Making History By Going 100% Tobacco Free

"As a leader in higher education, Gardner-Webb University is making a move that proves we are committed to offering a more healthy environment for our students to learn, our faculty to teach and our staff to work. We will implement a new policy that will make Gardner-Webb the first University in North Carolina, endorsed by the Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF), to approve a 100% tobacco-free campus-wide policy," said Gardner-Webb University President, Dr. Frank Bonner.

The new policy will prohibit tobacco use on campus grounds and in university owned or leased vehicles. The policy takes effect beginning August 6, 2007 and applies to students, faculty, staff and visitors to the university.

"For years, there has been evidence that reducing tobacco usage can greatly decrease the frequency of cancer, stroke, heart and lung disease and several additional health related conditions. By implementing this tobacco-free policy, Gardner-Webb University is seeking to enhance the health of our students, faculty, staff and visitors to our campus. But, Gardner-Webb is also setting an example for other universities nationwide who want to initiate a similar endeavor," added Bonner.

This spring, the University kicked off an informational campaign aimed at promoting this healthy campus initiative.

For several months, a university task force studied the possibility of a 100% tobacco-free campus with the assistance of the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund. On-campus surveys and research examining tobacco use trends, tobacco-health-related issues and desires to adopt a campus-wide tobacco-free policy supported this decision.

"We will provide a clean and healthy atmosphere for our guests as they enjoy and participate in university events and activities."

North Carolina Lt. Governor Bev Perdue and HWTF chair, said that Gardner-Webb's approval of this new policy sends a strong message that the health of their university family is a top priority for Gardner-Webb. "Today, Gardner-Webb has taken a critical step in preventive health by implementing a policy that reduces the chances for tobacco products to become a part of the student experience at their school," said Perdue. "If more policies like this are implemented, North Carolina could have the lowest middle school, high school and college smoking rates of any state in America."

"We take pride in the fact that tobacco has been prohibited within our university facilities since 1996. This is the next logical step in the process of promoting healthy lifestyles," noted Bonner. Tobacco products affected by the University policy include, but are not limited to – cigarettes, cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco. "We understand that going tobacco-free may be difficult for some in our university family. That is why Gardner-Webb will be going to great lengths to offer support for those who choose to quit using tobacco," said Bonner.

This policy places Gardner-Webb as a forerunner in the movement to ban tobacco products on campuses. "This policy will provide an environment that is a healthier and safer center for learning and for working," added Bonner. "Visitors to our campus will also reap the benefits of a tobacco-free campus. We will provide a clean and healthy atmosphere for our guests as they enjoy and participate in university events and activities."

The Webb
Gardner-Webb University has celebrated Disability Awareness Week for several years by bringing in many well-known disabled speakers to share their stories. This year, Gardner-Webb offered a twist to its annual program. "My life changed in the fall of 1964," says Football Coach Harold Jones. Jones does not have a disability, but in 1964 he befriended James "Radio" Kennedy, a man of disability. Jones' story of loyalty has reached millions around the world and the love and kindness he displayed to "Radio" touched the hearts of many.

"We have had speakers in the past for Disability Awareness Week with hearing, vision and mobility disabilities and they have all been excellent. However, the story of Coach Jones embracing Radio approaches the issue of disability from a different angle," adds Tracy Jessup, minister to Gardner-Webb University.

Jones spoke to students, faculty, staff and community as part of a GWU Dimensions Service. During his visit, Jones inspired others to become leaders in their community, urging understanding and tolerance. He shared his empowering life story of hope and unity with a boy named "Radio." "When I grew up, people with disabilities were misunderstood," noted Jones. "Some were locked up in rooms or kept under the house. Thank God that has changed today."

Jones was the football coach for TL Hanna High School in Anderson, SC for forty-two years. His story of friendship and leadership inspired a Sports Illustrated feature article and the critically acclaimed film, "Radio." Starring Ed Harris and Cuba Gooding Jr., the film shares the account of James "Radio" Kennedy and Coach Harold Jones and the struggles they faced while developing a long-lasting relationship. This was a friendship that not only united a football team but an entire community. Jones says that "Radio" taught him many lessons about patience, perseverance and opportunity. "It was difficult at first for some (students, teachers, administration and parents) to adapt to having Radio involved in day to day activities. But he changed that ... he changed them. Radio had so much love to offer and he does today as well," added Jones.

Jones' passion for changing lives continues today in other tangible ways. When Jones is not attending speaking engagements, he is working for the benefit of others. "I am also on the board of the Outdoor Dream Foundation, which is a non-profit organization that sends terminally ill children on hunting, fishing and other outdoor trips all over the world," notes Jones.

"I retired in 1999, but my relationship with Radio is as strong today as it has ever been. One common bond we both share is a desire to help others through service," Jones adds. As an added bonus, James "Radio" Kennedy came for the Gardner-Webb visit as well. "We wanted to bring to Gardner-Webb the awareness of people with a special need and how God led us to do this," Jones said. After Jones spoke, he offered the podium to "Radio" to share a few words. Those words were greeted with a standing ovation honoring this man who continues to break down barriers and misconceptions about disabilities. Both men answered questions from the audience and signed autographs for nearly an hour after the program. "I've learned more about life from "Radio" than I've ever been able to teach him. I still learn from him everyday," added Jones.
Dr. Darlene Gravett is one versatile woman. She was a hardware salesperson, a cashier for an accounting office, a waitress, a weather forecaster for WRBL in Columbus, GA and a foreign language teacher long before her time at Gardner-Webb.

A native of Virginia and a child of a US Army father, Gravett spent many of her growing-up years traveling. That didn't change much when she married Ray, a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. It was actually this connection with the Army that gave Gravett her first teaching job. Now over the past 28 years, Gravett has developed a stellar reputation as a master professor of the English arts, so it may surprise you that instructing English education wasn't her first teaching job. “I got my first teaching position teaching Spanish, because Ray's first overseas assignment was Panama. They needed someone to teach Spanish to the soldiers and their family members over there,” remembers Gravett. “I enjoyed that.”

Gravett earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern Kentucky, her master's degree from the University of Miami, and her doctorate in English from the University of Southern Mississippi. Just prior to coming to Gardner-Webb, Gravett spent ten years teaching at North Greenville College (SC). But for the last 18 years, Gravett has become a fixture at Gardner-Webb and in the Boiling Springs community. She has also become a pioneer in many ways. She was Gardner-Webb's first female dean, first female senior staff member and she was the first woman elected to the Town Council of Boiling Springs. Gravett has also been active in other community pursuits including serving as the President of Boiling Springs Rotary Club, and as a board member of the Broad River Council.

“Besides the skills that have made her an excellent administrator and trailblazer for women in higher education, she has a generous heart and works hard at taking care of people in many ways that people never know about. Besides being the personal beneficiary of those qualities, I’ve learned a lot about that kind of leadership from watching her over the years,” added Dr. Gayle Price, long-time friend and colleague.

Since January 2004, Gravett has served as the Associate Provost for Schools at Gardner-Webb, a key administrative position overseeing numerous aspects of the Schools of Divinity, Business, Education, Nursing, Graduate Studies and Psychology and Counseling. “I have really enjoyed working with the deans of these schools and helping them resolve problems and face challenges,” added Gravett. “Working with this terrific faculty has been incredible. They have such a wide range of interests and talents. It is just unbelievable.”

Upon discussion with Gravett, it was obvious that her true love was the art of teaching. And why not? She did spend nearly two and half decades of her career as an instructor. “Teaching was a great experience for me. It is the fun part of academia and I learned so much from it. I always enjoyed the exchange with students and having good class discussions,” said Gravett. “It has been such a joy to see students go on and build careers and know that you have helped them in that effort. That has been very satisfying.”

This summer, Gravett will retire from Gardner-Webb, and while she admits that she looks forward to sleeping a little later in the mornings and plans to continue to be active in the community, she will definitely reminisce about her time at GWU. “I’m glad that I made the decision 18 years ago to come to Gardner-Webb and I’d do it all over again.”
Gardner-Webb University's Department of Fine Arts is proud to announce the organization of the new Bulldog Marching Band. Director of Athletic Bands, D. Sid Haton, a native of South Carolina, is spearheading the effort. The band is expected to have 80 members in the first year, with performers on the wind band instruments, percussion, dance team, and color guard.

Hatton brings a refreshing spirit of pride, excellence, and the experience to support this effort. Holding both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of South Carolina, he served as the Director of Music Industry at South Carolina State University, as well Director of Athletic Bands for Charleston Southern University, the University of South Florida, and the University of Oregon. For Haton, a university’s band is a piece of the “visual identity” puzzle, which also serves as a support system for intercollegiate athletic programs. The mission of the Department of Fine Arts is to provide musical and visual art education to students and to offer the finest performances to the community-at-large. The new Bulldog Marching Band will serve both purposes.

One of Gardner-Webb’s first marching bands was established in the 1940s and members included GWU students, faculty, staff and the community. This GWU/Community marching band arrangement eventually dissolved. Dr. Oland Summers, professor of Educational Music, worked diligently to restore the marching band upon his employment with the University in 1976. “I was a marching band fanatic,” admits Summers, “so I turned the concert/pep band into a marching band that Fall when I came.” Students received no scholarships, but could earn one academic music credit. “The Marching band existed 13 years,” shares Summers “and boy, did we have fun!” The students and community supported the band and enjoyed the entertainment it provided during football games, as well as the local parades. Due to the maturity of the band’s older students the group sounded larger than it actually was. “We became known by our title, ‘The Mighty Mites’ when we would play next to a high school band twice our size,” reflects Summers.

The marching band wore red windbreaker jackets and black pants, which students purchased from the bookstore. Later through fund raising, a marching hat was added. When the State Department of Public Instruction ruled that Coaches and Band Directors could not serve as educators while directing a university organization, Summers elected to go full time into music education. Summers had been a high school Band Director for 19 years as well, giving him a total of 32 years band directing when he finished. Eventually this installment of the Marching Band dissolved as well.

According to Haton, who is also a published arranger and composer, the new band will be an outstanding assemblage of talent, capable of performing in a variety of contexts and styles, while serving as the newest support to university athletic teams. It will also serve as a unique recruiting tool for the University. “All students may play in any of our ensembles,” adds Dr. Patricia Sparti, Department of Fine Arts chair. “We are confident that our programs will thrive for years to come,” assures Sparti. “With clearly defined great things in mind, it is the “department’s” goal to be the finest in the Southeast.”

What excites Haton most about making the marching band dream a reality is working with “talented individuals (from all campus life) who have a vision of what they want to add to the traditions of the university.”

-M’Lissa Lawrence, GWU Student
The month of March is known for many important events: the first day of spring, St. Patrick’s Day, and March Madness. But for the past seven years, the National Education Association (NEA) has made the month of March even more special by sponsoring a highly successful campaign called Read Across America. According to Reg Weaver, NEA president, the campaign aims to “show young people that reading is not only the gateway to success in school, but that it’s fun as well.”

Sophomore Bree Tharpe, a member of the GWU Track Team, called the event a “really good experience,” saying the elementary students were “really interested and fun to read to.” Junior volleyball player Audra Harrison participated in the event again this year and plans to participate next year as well. Harrison, who read *The Cat in the Hat* to a class of kindergartners, said, “It was fun seeing the reactions of the kids.” She recalled that “one kid jumped up and screamed” with excitement when GWU athletes walked into his classroom.

This year, on Friday, March 2, participants in Read Across America celebrated two historic events in children’s literature: the 50th birthday of Dr. Seuss’ famous book, *The Cat in the Hat*, and what would have been the author’s 103rd birthday. To commemorate these two events, volunteers read *The Cat in the Hat* to elementary school students all across America at exactly 2:36 p.m., which is the number of words (236) Dr. Seuss used to write the children’s classic.

Once again this year, Gardner-Webb athletes took part in this momentous event, traveling to James Love Elementary School in Shelby, NC to read Dr. Seuss books to students in numerous classrooms. Many members of Gardner-Webb’s track, volleyball, and golf teams participated in the event for the second consecutive year, demonstrating Gardner-Webb’s commitment to community involvement.

Like Tharpe and Harrison, sophomore Elliott Haynie felt the experience of reading to children was very “fulfilling.” A pole-vaulter on the GWU Track Team, Haynie read the Dr. Seuss classic, *Oh, the Thinks You Can Think* to second graders and greatly enjoyed being able to “do something for someone younger.” This was Haynie’s first experience with this event, and he looks forward to reading another Dr. Seuss classic to students next year.

Pamela Merritt, principal of James Love Elementary, loved seeing how enthusiastically her students welcomed all the Gardner-Webb athletes who visited the school. Their enthusiasm assured her that her students would continue to participate in Read Across America for years to come. Merritt, like others who helped bring the campaign to life, recognizes the value of events like Dr. Seuss Day, which remind children: “you’re never too old to enjoy reading.”
The Honorable Thing

GWU Alpha Chi Society Receives National Awards and Scholarships

Nine Alpha Chi students represented Gardner-Webb at the national Alpha Chi convention in San Antonio, TX, March 15-17. All nine students presented well-received papers or projects, and four received national honors. Matt Walters was one of ten students nationwide to win a Nolle Scholarship for undergraduate students and Katherine Warden was one of ten students to win a Benedict Fellowship for graduate studies. Gabrielle McClure won a presentation prize in the Art category, and Matthew Dimick won the religion prize for his paper “The Queer Messiah: An Examination of the Gospel Utilizing Queer Theory.” Other presenters were A.J. Quinn (math), Austin Campbell (theology), R.J. Dowden (original short story), Vanessa Hodge (ASL) and Andrew Bradshaw (psychology).

Induction into Alpha Chi is the highest academic honor for College and University students. Juniors and seniors with a (GPA) grade point average in the top 10% of their classes and records of academic integrity are eligible for Alpha Chi. Its members promote scholarly activities while vying for national scholarships by presenting papers and art at the annual Alpha Chi convention.

Gardner-Webb students compete against the nation’s best and brightest. “People say you’re only as good as your competition,” comments English Major R.J. Dowden. “To be at the convention among so many people who wanted to learn and wanted to succeed was very inspiring.” Gardner-Webb’s Alpha Chi also won a Star Chapter award as one of the best chapters in the nation.

“Gardner-Webb’s Alpha Chi chapter has a fine reputation at the annual Alpha Chi conferences,” says Advisor June Hobbs. “Gardner-Webb’s students are often the only group in which every student makes a scholarly presentation. They are beginning to win presentation prizes and national scholarships every year as well. In athletic terms,” adds Hobbs, “our students are regularly winning national championships.”

Alpha Chi is a general honor society admitting students from all academic disciplines with nearly 300 chapters across the country. The Name Alpha Chi is the initial letters of the Greek words ALETHEIA and CHARAKTER, meaning Truth and Character.

Gabrielle McClure, English and Art major, believes that her experiences at Gardner-Webb and through Alpha Chi have served to enrich her life. “It is also rewarding to know that the challenging, academic goals you set for yourself are appreciated by someone. Alpha Chi is about being dedicated to academic excellence and academic integrity. I have benefited from knowing that all the hard work that goes into being the best student that you can be is of value to someone.”

- Melissa Lawrence, GWU Student
The Splashdown
Women’s Swim Team Wins 4th Consecutive Northeast Conference Title

The GWU Women’s Swim Team attributes all successes to God first and foremost. “Without Him, we would never have been given the ability to do what we do, so no one can be thanked other than God Himself,” remarks swimmer Whitney Beachum. The team finished 30th at the NCAA tournament this year and added their first NCAA All-American swimmer to the GWU history books. Terra Wilson placed 6th in the 200-freestyle at the NCAA National Championships and has also made the Olympic trial cut. Success in the pool was remarkable again this season as was their classroom performances.

The team finished tenth in the nation amongst NCAA Division I Women’s Swim Teams for their academic performance for overall GPAs (grade point averages). That is nine semesters in a row where the team has ranked in the top ten nationally. “The girls work very hard to succeed in the classroom, but again, God gets all the praise,” ensures Head Coach Mike Simpson. “I think our team is blessed with a great coach who cares about us, even outside of swimming,” comments Isabel Olivas, GWU swimmer. The Gardner-Webb swim team’s success in the classroom is one result of having a strong support system within the coaching staff and University professors.

“If we are struggling or need extra help,” adds GWU Swimmer, Whitney Beachum, “the professors, coaches and Mike Roebuck (Assistant Athletic Director of Academic Advising) are there to help us in the classroom.”

“I feel that we are a very close group of girls who have learned to lean on each other,” reflects Olivas. “Coach Simpson taught us to glorify God in all we do, and that the rest will take care of itself...that’s where our success comes from.”

With the success of the women’s swim team, expectations are running high for the men’s swim team which will begin competition this fall. “We are very excited that recruiting for a team from scratch is winding down,” admits Simpson. It has been a lot of hard work on both the coaches and the athletes to, “recruit what seemed like a million guys in order to get the right group,” noted Simpson. “This right group will hopefully be a great fit for the university, work hard in the classroom, and use their God-given swimming talent to honor Him,” explains Simpson. “I am confident we can have the same success academically and athletically that we’ve enjoyed with the women’s program for the past seven years.”

-M’lissa Lawrence
contributed to this story
Hometown Hero

Hoops Leader Chris Gash Shoots His Final Gardner-Webb Basket

In the upper section of the stands in Paul Porter Arena behind the Gardner-Webb bench, one can find the most dedicated cheering section in the arena. They have been at every home game for four straight years cheering the Runnin’ Bulldogs through victory and defeat because of one young man. Forward Chris Gash attracts these fans consisting of his family and friends. “It means a lot to see my family up there,” Gash said. “I have someone to play for, and they give me the extra confidence I need when I step out on the court.”

Gash is a local product having grown up in nearby Kingstown, NC. He played basketball under head coach Eddy Taylor at Burns High School until his move to the collegiate level. There was plenty of interest in Gash from a variety of universities during the recruiting process. After a lot of prayer, Gash signed with Gardner-Webb. “I felt like this was the best fit for me,” Gash said. “I liked that my family could watch me play, and it didn’t hurt that some of the upperclassmen really sold me on this place.” Gash was the first North Carolina product to sign with Gardner-Webb since its move to Division-I.

Gash credits his father for his own passion for basketball. His father was a highly recruited basketball player out of high school. He had the opportunity to play professionally, but he got hooked on drugs, and his life fell apart. By developing a relationship with Christ and refusing to give up, his father eventually got his life back on track. He is now a proud husband and father of three. “My father is my hero,” Gash said. “He taught me how to play the game and to be a man. There’s no better person in my life than him.”

The 2004-2005 season saw the Runnin’ Bulldogs have a breakout year. They won the regular season conference title and made it to the finals of the post-season conference tournament. In the 2005-2006 season, they lost a heartbreaker to UNC-Chapel Hill at the buzzer. They beat East Carolina at home in Paul Porter Arena and Minnesota on the road. “Winning the regular season conference title is the one memory that will always stick out in my mind,” Gash said. “Gardner-Webb has been good to me. I have been truly blessed to be apart of this family for four years.”

- Jessica Lane, GWU Student

www.gwuathletics.com
There is a tropical paradise located in Central America that borders both the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. It is a place where beautiful landscapes provide views of water, mountains, and forest. But, it is also a place where the hungry people go to bed without food, where needs are numerous, and where the story of Jesus needs to be heard. This country is Costa Rica, the location of a music/mission trip led by a group from Gardner-Webb.

During spring break 2007, the Gardner-Webb University Department of Fine Arts Concert Choir with Director of Choral Activities & Coordinator of Sacred Music, Dr. Paul Etter visited Costa Rica. The group went to perform a number of concerts but they also rolled up their sleeves to provide physical labor to a seminary as well. “It was a wonderful trip as the students grew closer to each other and our Lord,” said Etter.

Etter says a highlight of the event was working with the group Food for the Hungry. Food for the Hungry was founded in 1971 and according to its website, “Is an international relief and development organization that answers God’s call to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the poor in over 45 countries.”

“Our students fed children, possibly the only meal they would have all day, and sang for them,” said Etter. During this time of fellowship between the choir and the children in need, a local TV station was producing a feature story on Food for the Hungry. They interviewed Etter, and shot footage of students feeding the children and singing.

Etter said, “It gave Food for the Hungry exposure that they would not have been able to financially promote in the more traditional ways.”

“The trip was just another way that the Gardner-Webb family continues to minister to others in non-traditional ways,” noted Etter. “Our trip to Costa Rica opened the eyes of our students to ministries beyond the borders of our nation and the need of doing missions with whatever resources are available, letting God take care of the rest.”
I can imagine hearing the voice of legendary master of ceremonies for some of boxing’s biggest bouts, Michael Buffer, standing in the center of the ring and speaking those famous words, “Let’s get ready to rumbleeeeeee!” Next, I hear Buffer introduce the Fighters. “First, in this corner, the legendary Italian Stallion, Rocky Balboa ... and his opponent, the Waldorf Cannonball, Frank Shelton.”

You may be asking, “Frank Shelton?” Well, keep reading and I’ll let you know about two unique meetings Shelton has had with Rocky Balboa himself, Sly Stallone. You will also learn how Shelton delivers a knockout punch for Capitol Hill and more importantly the Lord.

Frank Shelton ’96 of Waldorf, MD is one busy man. Since departing from Gardner-Webb University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Religious Studies, he continued his education with the Billy Graham School of Evangelism and the New Orleans Seminary.

Today, Frank has become an in-demand evangelist and motivational speaker taking part in events all over the nation (152 last year alone). Shelton says, “It is important to touch folks. It’s not your title but your testimony that counts.” Frank not only preaches the gospel but also has ties to politics in Washington, DC. His full-time work is in the nation’s capitol where he is the fifth generation of his family to serve on the US Capitol Police Force. He helps to protect the entire Capitol Hill complex daily. Frank has also spent fourteen years with congress in numerous congressional capacities including working with the House, Senate, and the Bush and Clinton White House.

But, there is also the unique story of how Shelton would meet and spend time with film star Sylvester Stallone on two different occasions in his life. One of those meetings included a role in the 2006 movie “Rocky Balboa”. It all started in 1985, when Frank at the age of thirteen and his Godmother, Judy Henderson, had both signed up for a chance to win two free tickets to Hollywood and meet Stallone. “The two of us joked around saying if either one of us won the contest we would take the other on the trip,” said Shelton. Soon afterwards, Henderson was the random drawing winner and Frank was on his way to meet his film hero Stallone, the star of “Rambo II” at the time. Even at the age of thirteen, Frank’s love for God stood out as he presented Stallone with a Bible that included Stallone’s name engraved on the inside and a signed note from Frank.

Fast forward 20 years - Frank is speaking at a Christian event in Richmond, VA and tells the crowd about the new Rocky Balboa film being made. He mentions how he met Stallone as a teenager, and joked that he would love to somehow be an extra in the movie. Someone in the crowd had Hollywood connections because a short time later Shelton received an email and was invited to come to Las Vegas and serve as an extra in Rocky’s return to the big screen. “He (Stallone) is not as big as you might think,” added Shelton. “He is like 5’9 but very nice. I even showed him our picture together from over twenty-years ago and he laughed out loud.”

More information is available on Frank Shelton online at frankshelton.com
at Gardner-Webb. I think that the spirit that’s created because of the community atmosphere and shared values are such a blessing to all students that attend Gardner-Webb,” Combs added.

Combs remembers leadership roles provided to her at Gardner-Webb and opportunities she had because of the close family-like atmosphere. “I remember the times that I would go with the BSU (Baptist Student Union) choir on weekend trips to sing at various places. Those memories are still with me today and have carried forward with my love of music throughout my life. Something else too, the (Gardner-Webb) president’s wife was also my Sunday school teacher. She did something very, very special for those of us ladies who were on campus and came to Sunday school. Every so often we would get invited to their house for Sunday dinner. It was special to get to know the president and his wife in that way. That was something unique about Gardner-Webb.”

Prior to her service in the White House, Combs spent several years working as an executive for the Wachovia Corporation. She was responsible for the general management of the National Direct Student Loan Operations (with an expense budget that affected several million dollars of annual revenue). She also spent over a decade working in instructional and administrative capacities in a local school system. In 1980, Combs was asked to serve on the Board of Education in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (NC), and not long after that, she received a phone call that would change her life. “I got a call from the White House and they said we’ve read about you. They said they were curious about whether I would be interested in serving in the Reagan administration. I really thought it was a joke at the time,” added Combs. “One of the reasons that I was an attractive candidate to the White House was because I had a multiplicity of experience. I had background in education, business and I was also an elected official. That was a combination that they felt was well suited for some of the positions they were looking to fill.”

Combs accepted that position with the Department of

Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of the Treasury. She also served as Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Transportation and for the Environmental Protection Agency. “I’ve tried to walk through doors as they’ve opened for me and to do the best that I can each time,” said Combs. “I try to encourage people not to limit themselves… to be open to the blessings and potential that is out there for you. And when a door opens, don’t be afraid to walk through it. Take advantage of all opportunities available to you.”

Combs and her husband, David, founded a successful recording label and music catalog company focusing on worldwide distribution of music books, compact discs and video media. She is also a published author on family caregiving. Combs’ mother was the victim of Alzheimer’s Disease and that personal journey of daughter and parent surviving that odyssey together was the inspiration for the book, A Long Goodbye and Beyond.

Over 40 years after her initial Gardner-Webb experience, Combs still feels the connection and kinship to her alma mater. “Gardner-Webb was the right school for me. It was a small school that offered a lot of individual attention. It was a place that provided a positive community where students could feel enriched.”
Mike Anthony is the new site director for the SweetHEARTS program. He taught math and science at Grandview Middle School as well as Newton-Conover Middle and the ACT program.

Darren Wilson B.A. was promoted to assistant principal at Fort Mill (SC) High School on January 2, 2007. Wilson has been a teacher and coach at Fort Mill High since 1997.

Donald Woods ’52 A.A. and Annette Woods ’53 announce their retirement. Donald retires after serving with State Farm in the insurance claim department, while Annette is retired from Union Kemet Corporation.

Ron Beane ’57 has been inducted into The Caldwell County Schools (NC) Hall of Honor. He is a member of the Caldwell County Education Foundation and the Appalachian State University Reich College of Education Advancement Board of Directors. He and his wife, Christine, sponsor an annual scholarship for a senior at West Caldwell High School. He also served as a Caldwell County Commissioner from 1996-2004 and was re-elected to the Commission as its vice-chairmen in 2006.

Dr. Doris Walters ’59 A.A. has drawn from her years of counseling children of missionary parents to publish a book entitled, The Untold Story: Missionary Kids Speak from the Ends of the Earth. The book is available directly from Chapel Hill Press, Inc., at many regional booksellers, as well as on major online bookstores.

Dorothy Miller Almond ’61 A.A. mourns the passing of her husband, Don, on November 20. Don was a 1958 graduate of Wake Forest and a 1962 graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Kentucky as minister of Music and/or Education.

Jim Watson ’72 was inducted into the Caldwell County, NC Sports Hall of Fame. Jim began his teaching and coaching career right after graduation, coaching football at Gamewell-Collettsville. During his time at the school, Jim improved their football record. Jim also served as the athletic director and assistant football coach for South Caldwell High.

Michael Beckwith ’73 B.S. and his wife Marilyn announce the birth of their second grand-daughter Katharine Marie Jerrell, on March 27, 2007.

Les Costner ’73 B.S. retired from United Technologies Corporation after 30 years. He will now reside in Florida.

Lavonda Shires ’73 AA is currently serving her third year on the Board of Directors for the American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN). In January 2007 she was elected to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors until June 2008. ABOHN is the sole certifying body for occupational health nurses.

David Best ’75 M.B.A. is now serving as Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, NC.

Arlar Carthel Crout ’65 A.A. retired from teaching and coaching after thirty-eight years. During those years, he coached his team to four State Championships in football.

Randy Bruce Sanders ’65 A.A. and Mandy Mathis Martin were united in marriage on August 19, 2006 at First Baptist Church in Camden. Randy is a retired S.C. State Trooper and currently works as a substitute teacher for the Kershaw County School District. Randy and Mandy will make their home in Camden.

Robert Jones Burton ’66 A.A. recently retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Philadelphia, PA after 28 years of service. He retired as a supervisory CP/WR&E Officer.

William Boggan Cash ’71 B.S. retired from Burke County Schools (NC) as a biology teacher at Freedom High School. He is now running his twenty-eight year old fly fishing store and guide service.

Jerry Simpson ’71 A.A. is serving as one of two interim vice presidents to Rockingham Community College (NC). He is overseeing the department of student development after having over twenty one years of experience with North Carolina community and junior colleges.

Joseph Southards ’71 B.S. received a District Award of Merit from Heartland District Piedmont Council BSA, in March 2007. He is currently the Department Head of Math and Science at Cleveland Community College NC.
JOHNNY RICHARDS '85 B.A.
SEE KATHY HAGLER RICHARDS '87 B.S.
Marilyn Sellers '85 B.A.
was hired by Kings Mountain City Council and the first woman to serve as the chief executive officer. She holds an associate degree from Montreat-Anderson College and a Bachelor's degree from Broxhill School of Management at Gardner-Webb University. Mrs. Sellers has worked closely with five city managers over the past 19 years.

GARY PAUL COX '86 B.S.

CHARLOTTE HIGH HARRIS '86 B.A.
was recently promoted to the position of Writer for the Christian Guidance Department at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Charlotte and her husband Scott live in Gastonia, NC with their daughter Jenni. They are actively involved at Parkwood Baptist Church.

KATHY HAGLER RICHARDS '87 B.S.
and JOHNNY RICHARDS '85 B.A.
joyfully announce the adoption of Christopher Daniel Richards in September 2006. Christopher was the Richards' foster baby from the age of 13 months. He joins siblings Heidi, Nathan, and Caitlin. Johnny is currently serving as pastor of Mountain Creek Baptist Church in Oxford, N.C. Kathy teaches the adult GED class at Piedmont Community College in Roxboro, NC and homeschools their children.

KATHY CARSWELL '91 B.S. is the new finance officer for Newton-Conover City Schools. She comes from Burke County Schools (NC) where she was the assistant finance officer from 1999-2006.

ANGELA LANE EHRENREICH '92 B.S. and her husband Scott recently purchased The Shade Parlor retail store in downtown Hickory, NC. The store specializes in lamps, lamp shades, lamp repair, and custom lamp building.

ELAINE HOLMAN '92 B.S. has joined Coldwell Banker Horn Real Estate as a full-time sales associate. Prior to joining, Horn Real Estate, and her husband Aaron would like to announce the adoption of their daughter, Sara Elizabeth. Fran is currently employed as a licensed professional counselor by Crossroads Counseling Center in Hickory, NC.

MICHAEL ALAN JORDAN '94 B.A. and his wife Shelby are proud to announce their adoption of James Christian Jordan born on November 6, 2007.

CHRISTY MARKELL LYNCH '95 B.S. has relocated to Raleigh, NC after 10 years in Michigan. She is working as a creative director/print buyer/graphic designer for GetItQuick.com. markelllynch@hotmail.com

MELISSA ELAINE SEBASTIAN '95 B.S. is currently working as an accountant for the NC Division of Coastal Management in Pine Knoll Shores, NC.
CRYSTAL DAWN BAKER '96 B.S. and James Gaston Rambeau were united in marriage on November 11, 2006 at Piney Grove Baptist Church in Angier, NC. She is employed as a family physician at Benson Area Medical Center in Benson, NC. He is employed as a group manager with the North Carolina Department of Revenue in Raleigh. The couple will reside in Angier.

LEAH E. CARTER '96 A.A. is currently residing in Boulder, Colorado with her husband Michael. apriljaney@bellsouth.net

APRIL CHERRY JENKINS '96 A.D.N. and husband Jamey announce the birth of their second daughter Kloe Olivia, on January 11. Their oldest daughter is Raleigh Iris.

JENNIFER KYLES SPENCER '96 A.D.N AND CHAD EDWARD SPENCER '05 A.D.N announce the birth of their daughter Sydnee Brooke Spence in August of 2006.

MISTY SIMMONS BRUNER '97 B.S. and husband Travis welcomed the birth of their son Luke Martin on October 6. Luke has a big sister named Kylie McKynzie. Misty is a Health Education teacher at East Surry High School in Pilot Mountain, NC. simmonsm2000@yahoo.com

ANDY GARDNER '97 B.S. serves as the director of financial aid at Cleveland Community College (NC) and was recently honored with the 2007 Outstanding Staff Award.

ROBERT HELTON '97 B.S. was promoted to captain of the Gastonia (NC) Police Department. He holds the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and has served in patrol, D.A.R.E. and juvenile investigations. He was promoted to sergeant in 1998.

BEVERLY IMES '97 B.A. published her first book "You can make a Difference... because you ARE the difference.

JAMES PADGETT '97 B.S.
He is responsible for recognizing the Hexastylis at the Broad River Greenway. It was this discovery that led to the funding from NCDOT for the purchase of the additional property at the Greenway.

MATT PARKER '97 B.S. has been hired as the new Wellness Director for the YMCA of Avery County (NC).

MELISSA WELSCH DURHAM '98 B.A. and Larry Durham Jr '01 M.B.A. have moved to Pendleton, SC, where Larry is working on a new job assignment at the Gooch Nuclear Station. ldurham@duke-energy.com

SHAWN RICHARD HINSON '98 B.A. and Amanda Sparks Stove were united in marriage on September 30, 2006 at First Presbyterian Church in Belmont, NC. He is employed by Oakley in Foothill Ranch, California and she is employed by COMAG Marketing Group in Charlotte. The couple will make their home in Gastonia.

ALLISON DANIELLE MARANO '98 B.S. and Tony Marano announce the birth of their second child Anthony Blake Marano. He was born on January 5, 2007. They also have a daughter, Paxtn.

ERIC PLEMMONS '98 B.S. is the new Director of Human Resources at CCC&TI in Lenior, NC.

BRAD TEAGUE '98 B.S. has been appointed principal of East Rutherford Middle School (NC). Brad has experience serving as Assistant Principal of R-S Central High School, a special education teacher, and a physical education teacher. His promotion was approved by the Rutherford County Board of Education in December 2006.

CHRISTOPHER GREEN '99 B.A. has been busy in the non-profit performing arts world, starting many new groups and ensembles. He has recently finished a run in the World Famous Meyerson Symphony Center with the Turtle Creek Chorale, which he is a singing member of. This summer he and his team members plan to open for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra as well as a joint performance with the Dallas Wind Symphony and the WaterTower Theater Troupe.

SUSAN ANN HENDERSON '99 ADN and Ian Charles Eastman were married Aug. 12, 2006 in Yanceyville, N.C. She is an RN at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. He is surgical sales representative for Johnson and Johnson Ethicon Endo Surgery Division. The couple resides in Greenville, NC. sanhenderson@hotmail.com

YEN-KWANG LIN '99 B.S. AND AMY ARROWOOD LIN '02 M.DIV. rejoice over Yen-Kwang's recognition with the "IBM Means Service Award" in 2006. He was also promoted to manager of his organization.

EMILY JOHNSON PARKER '99 B.A. and her husband David (faculty) announce the birth of their second son, Finnian Andrew, born December 27, 2006. He joins proud brother, Jack. Emily, David, Jack, and Finn live in Boiling Springs, NC.

CATHY CUTTER '00 B.S. was awarded her National Board Certification as a Middle Childhood Generalist on December 13, 2006. This is her 7th year teaching 4th grade at Astatula Elementary School for the Arts.

MARK DOUGHERTY '00 B.S. AND AMANDA DOUGHERTY '02 B.A. announce Mark's completion of a Master of Arts in Higher Education in December 2006. In July 2006 the couple relocated to PA, where Mark began a new job as the Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. gwuresed@gmail.com

JULIE CLINE ESTES '00 B.S. and her husband Steve announce the birth of their second child. Sarah Elizabeth Estes was born on April 2, 2007. Her older sister is Rachel Joy.

CYNTHIA EVERSON '00 B.S. was recently admitted into the Charlotte School of Law as a part of its inaugural class. She is one of only eighty five students to be admitted into the program, which will begin in August of 2007.

NATHANIA JOHNSON '00 B.A. was married to Josh Johnson on January 12, 2007. She is a search marketing copywriter at Fortune Interactive, and he is a software developer at Avatech Solutions.

DANIEL JOSEPH PLANCK '00 B.S. and his wife Leah celebrate his promotion to Associate Manager of Training and Development with Reliant Pharmaceuticals in Liberty Corner, NJ. Leah works with Bank of America in the Human Resources Department, and the couple resides in Pennsylvania. planck18@yahoo.com

TONYA MICHELLE GEIGER PRICE '00 B.S. and her husband Stephen welcomed the birth of twin boys, Patrick Stephen and Garrick Thomas, on October 26, 2006. The proud new family makes their home in Stanley, NC. tspake1@carolina.rr.com
AMANDA DOUGHERTY '02 B.A.,
and her husband Michael McCauley '02 B.S.
and Cristen Jenkins Watson '00 A.D.N. are the proud parents of
Rusell Weldon '98 M.A.
teaching at the American School of Kuwait.

AMANDA BRADY SUMMEY '00 B.S.
and Barron Eli Summey were married August 5, 2006. Amanda is a kindergarten teacher at Fallston Elementary School, and the groom is a firefighter for the city of Gastonia. The couple resides in Iron Station, NC.

JOSHUA HOLLIS WATSON '00 B.S.
and CRISTEN JENNINGS WATSON '00 A.D.N. and their daughter, Lily Kate, recently moved to Salt Lake City, UT. Josh is the Admissions-Director and Cristen is the Registered Nurse for a High Adventure Outdoor Therapy program for adolescents called Aspiron. jchw@gmail.com

BRANDON ZOCH '00 B.S. and GRETCHEN ZOCH '98 M.A.
are the proud parents of

AMBER SOMERS AIKEN '01 B.A.
and Elliot announce the birth of their son, Wesley Crawford Aiken, born on March 1, 2007. The family resides in Brevard, NC where Amber serves as a small group director with Brevard Community Church, and Elliot works as a builder with Reese Custom Homes.

HALEY TYCER JULIAN '01 B.A.
and her husband James Julian welcomed their second child Natalie Parker Julian on November 17, 2006.

ROBERT L. KEELS '01 B.S.
completed Doctor of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC.

AMY REBECCA SISK '01 B.S.
is getting married June 23, 2007 to Eric Wilkie. Amy is currently working for Rutherford County Schools (NC) as a Computer Skills teacher.

ANGIE D. WELDON '01 B.A.
and CLINT WELDON '01 B.A.
were married in August of 2003 and after moving to China to teach English and work with the underground church, moved back to the US and gave birth to their son Foster Kade on June 13, 2006. They are enjoying life and loving being parents. angiedweldon@gmail.com

RUSSELL RYAN WILLIAMS '01 B.A.
and His WIFE MONICA HOUSER WILLIAMS '04 B.A. will be moving to Kuwait in August to begin teaching at the American School of Kuwait.
russelw@clemson.edu

AMANDA DOUGHERTY '02 B.A.,
SEE MARK DOUGHERTY '00 B.S.

KELLIE MARIE ESTES '02 B.S.N.
and Phillip Anderson Kerley were united in marriage on December 16, 2006. She is employed by Irissell Memorial Hospital as a registered nurse. He is employed by City Electric Supply as branch manager. The couple will reside in Statesville, NC.

MICHAEL MCCAULEY '02 B.S.
is the co-owner of the Fleet Feet Sports Franchise in Greenville, SC.

BRIAN TYLER NUCKOLS '02 B.S.N and TIFFANY TAYLOR NUCKOLS '02 A.D.N have a baby girl, Aubrie Elise, born September 26, 2006. They currently live in Augusta, GA.

MIKE PRITCHARD '02 B.S.
a CommScope purchasing manager, received the Thomas Award at the 2006 winter meeting of the Institute of Supply Management Carolinas-Virginia Region. The award is the highest honor presented by the association.

DEBRA SHELTON '02 B.S.
has been promoted to Assistant Vice President and Assistant Secretary of Surrey Bank and Trust. She has almost 30 years of banking experience. She had retired from another financial institution before joining Surrey Bank in June 2006.

JASON EDMOND BURTON '03 B.A.
accepted a position as minister of music at Pinecroft Baptist Church in Greenboro, NC.

CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL '03 B.A.
and his wife Natalie gave birth to their daughter Sarah Neeley Campbell on November 2, 2006.

SHARON LAUGHTER CHERRY '03 M.A.
married Michael Cherry on July 15, 2006 and they are expecting their first child in August of 2007. Sharon has been recently promoted to assistant principal at Park Road Montessori School in Charlotte, NC.

ELIZABETH PARHAM DENNIS '03 B.A. AND KERRY JULIAN DENNIS '05 B.A.
He recently graduated from the fire academy and is now a full time firefighter for the city of Rocky Mount, NC. Elizabeth was recently accepted into a doctoral program at East Carolina University and will begin her Ph.D. in Professional and Technical Discourse this fall.

MARCUS HOLT HUFFSTETLER '03 B.S.
was wedded to Sarah Brantley Graham on January 6, 2007 in Nassau, Bahamas. Marcus is currently working with a family business while his wife is employed as a third grade teacher at White Plains Elementary School. They will abide in Mount Airy, NC.

AMANDA KATHLEEN HUFFSTETLER '03 B.S.
graduated May 4, 2007 with a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy, California Baptist University in Riverside CA.

EMILY KILLIAN '03 B.A.
was awarded first place in the NC Press Association's 2006 awards for graphic design, and second place for feature page design. She was also promoted to Lifestyles Editor at the Shelby Star.

AMANDA YARBROUGH MCDANIEL '03 B.A.
and Eddie McDaniel announced the birth of their first child, Jessie Lynn McDaniel. She was born on October 14, 2006.

JODI TILLEY PROVINCE '03 B.S.
was approved as a licensed professional counselor by the N.C. Board of Licensed Professionals Counselors of North Carolina on Dec. 8.

RICARDO ROMERO '03 B.S.
has accepted a position at First Bank in Troy, NC to manage First Bank's Primer Banco, an outreach program which provides financial products and services to the North Carolina Hispanic community.

SHALON PEREA TURNER '03 B.A.
and her husband Robert announce the birth of their first child, a daughter named Aslin Gayle on February 3, compelledbylove@yahoo.com
DARRYL NELSON '04 B.A., SEE AMANDA NELSON '04 A.D.N
JONATHAN MARK TERRELL '05 B.S., SEE AMANDA MARIE TERRELL '06 B.S.
ALICIA WATSON '05 B.S.
was married on November 19, 2006. She is now Alicia Watson Coleman.

CHRIS AND KIRA ARMSTRONG '05 B.A.
as a PR assistant.

MICHELLE TRIPLETT '04 B.S.
would like to announce the birth of her son Corbin Michael Tripelt. He was born on January 5, 2007 at 11:19 pm. He weighed 6 lbs. 3 ounces and was 18.5 inches long.

SARA WAUGH '04 B.A.
was promoted to the position of tournament coordinator by Kia Motors. She came to the tournament in 2005 after working with the event's public relations managers as a PR assistant.

CHRIS AND KIRA ARMSTRONG '05 B.A.
announced the birth of their daughter, Lilia Kate Armstrong on January 19, 2007.

PAULA LYNN GALLOWAY '05 B.A.
and Jason Scott Haigler were united in marriage on October 14, 2006 at Ocean Isle Beach Chapel in Ocean Isle Beach. She is employed by Harris Teeter in Wilmington and he is employed by Pure Care of Hickory.

ROSS SCOTT '88 M.A.
is Mount Airy City Schools' 2007 Principal of the Year. Ross serves as Principal for Mount Airy Middle School and will go on to compete for entire Northwestern region. A native of Dobson, NC Ross has served in the field of education for twenty nine years.

MARY THORNBURG '89 M.S.
was voted the 2006-2007 Teacher of the Year at Carr Elementary School. Her husband, David, is a retired businessman. The couple has three children and five grandchildren. She currently teaches first grade, but has taught third and fourth grade as well.

KAREN G. STEELE '93 M.A.
joined Morganton Counseling Group as a licensed professional counselor. She has had eleven years of experience in mental health, and twenty-two years of experience as a registered nurse.

MICHELLE BRIDGES STANLEY '95 M.A.
and her husband Robert Jason Stanley announce the birth of their daughter, Zachary Thomas Stanley on November 16, 2006. mbbridge@bellsouth.net

TIM WALLACE '95 M.A.
was recently named the 2006 Diamond Sports American Baseball Coaches Association's (ABCA) Regional Coach of the Year for Division I of the National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA). He is a three-time Region X coach of the year and has seen 42 of his former SMC players sign professional contracts. Wallace is a second round pick for the St. Louise Cardinals and played professionally for seven years prior to beginning his coaching career.

ALICIA WATSON '05 B.S.
graduated with a Master in Physician Assistant Studies from Madison University on May 5, 2007.

MICHELLE BRIDGES STANLEY '95 M.A.
was named vice president and manager of the Catawba Valley Bank's Newton office. He is a native of Iredell County with 35 years of banking experience. He and his wife Lori have three daughters and one son, and they reside in Statesville, NC. Mr. Overcash serves as treasurer for the South Iredell High School Band Boosters Club and is a former board member for the city of progress Linc Club.

ANN AND JOHN TIMOTHY MILLER '05 B.A.
were married on May 21, 2005 and are currently both pursuing their Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care and Counseling at Gardner-Webb School of Divinity.

JAMEE TYREE MILLER '04 B.M.
and JOHN TIMOTHY MILLER '05 B.A. were married on May 4, 2006 at Evangel Fellowship in Spindale. Janna is employed by Lowe's Companies in Wilkesboro an

JANNA ROBINSON MARTIN '06 B.S.
was united in matrimony with Brandon Lee Davidson on September 30, 2006 at Mount Hermon Baptist Church. She is employed by Lowe's Companies in Wilkesboro and he is employed as the director of the Yadkin County (NC) Pretrial Release Program and part time as deputy sheriff at the Yadkin County Sheriff's Office.

NATALIE BROWN '04 B.A.
will graduate from Clemson University May 2007 with a Master of Art in Professional Communication with an emphasis in Health Communication.

MARVIN JOINER '04 B.S.
was promoted on March 9th to Engineering Manager at Haemonetics Pharmaceutical Solutions Division.

AMANDA NELSON '04 A.D.N. AND DARRYL NELSON '05 B.A announce the birth of their first son, Gavin Robert, on February 20. dnelson@uncet.org

CARRIE RENAE WHITE '06 B.S.
has been invited to take part in the inaugural class at Charlotte's Law School. Leslie is one of only eighty five students admitted into the school out of more than one thousand applications.

CHRISTIAN NOEL MARSHALL '06 B.A.
was married to Jonathan Daniel Hughes on July 22, 2006. They were ordained as ministers on July 30, 2006 and serve as co-pastors of Revolution Church in Charlotte. http://www.revolutioncharlotte.com

ROSS SCOTT '88 M.A.
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ALICIA WATSON '05 B.S.
graduated with a Master in Physician Assistant Studies from Madison University on May 5, 2007.
GRETCHEN ZOCH '98 M.A., SEE BRANDON ZOCH '00 B.S.

ANGELA EVANS '99 M.D.
was married to Jason Patterson on January 6, 2007 at Zion Baptist Church in Shelby, NC. Angela is the director of family ministries at Zion Baptist Church and Jason is a sergeant on the third shift security crew at Entertainment Distribution Center in Grover.

BRETT FANSLER '99 M.B.A.
was hired as director of the Mooresboro Center of Mitchell Community College. He is on the Board of Directors for the National Council of Workforce Development and has worked on the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools self-study committee focusing on educational programs. He is currently working towards his doctorate degree at UNC-Charlotte.

JANIE EDWARDS FRANKLIN '99 M.DIV.
has published her first book, entitled "Willis Cove through the Eyes of Miss Bonnie." The demand is so high printers are having difficulty keeping up with the demand. The book is a dedication to the memories and experiences of her mother and contains information and stories Janie has been collecting for many years.

DAWN NEELY '71 B.S., '91 M.A., '99 M.A.
recently graduated from Progress Energy's Executive Institute for Leadership, and was awarded the 2006-2007 Superintendent’s Award for Leadership. She is currently the Principal at Hendrix Elementary School in Boiling Springs, SC.

BRANDY CLEMMER '00 M.A.
and her husband Gregory announce the birth of their second child, Gracie McLain Clemmer born on September 25, 2006.

H. LAWTON NEELY '71 B.A. '00 M.D.V. graduated from Erskine Seminary in 2006 with his Doctorate of Ministry degree. He is currently the pastor of Gilead Baptist Church in Jonesville, SC.

ANDREA BUTLER ARTERBURY '01, '05 M.A. was named a Certified Internal Auditor by the Institute of Internal Auditors. The CIA designations are awarded to internal audit professionals who have met the rigorous requirements of the IIA's CIA program.

LARRY DURHAM JR '01 M.B.A.
SEE MELISSA DURHAM '98 B.A.

ALTHEA LORRAINE ABERNATHY '02 M.A. and Partell Wright were united in marriage on December 16, 2006 at Friendship Baptist Church in Gastonia, NC. She is a music teacher for Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools. He is a soccer coach for Charlotte YMCA and is employed by Bank of America in Charlotte. The couple will reside in Dallas.

AMY ARROWOOD LIN '02 M.DIV. SEE YEN-KWANG LIN '99 B.S.

AMY ARROWOOD LIN '02 M.DIV.
has started a new position as Youth and Children's Minister at Youngsville Baptist Church in Youngsville, NC. wilflh29@hotmail.com

DENISE QUITINA PATTERSON '02 M.A.
will graduate in May 2007 from UNCC with a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

ERNEST SMITH '02 M.B.A. and his wife Helen rejoiced over Ernest's election to Vice President of the North Carolina Society of Surveyors at the annual convention in February. smmhpls@carolina.rr.com

ANGELA WILLIAMS '02 M.A. will serve as the new Liberty Middle School principal. She has 17 years of teaching and school administration, 15 of which we spent in Burke County public schools.

BRIAN GWYN '03 M.B.A. has officially made the transition of serving as chief operating officer and chief executive officer to being named the CEO of Franklin Regional Medical Center. Born in Mount Airy, NC. Brian has served in the medical field since graduation. He and his wife Stephanie have two children, Alec and Isabella.

GARY NANCE '03 M.A.C.
has joined with B&D Marine and Industrial Boilers as the director of accounting and finance.

REBECCA LOVE '04 I.M.B.
and her husband Thomas Love announce the birth of their daughter, Elana Grace Love on June 28, 2006.

KIMBERLY MICHELLE PHILBECK '04 M.A. and Todd Anthony Baker were married on November 8, 2006 at Putnam Baptist Church in Shelby, NC. Kimberly is currently employed by Rutherfordton County Schools and the couple now resides in Ellenboro.

ASHLEIGH ELIZABETH TRAVIS '05 M.A. and Jeffrey Alan Miller were united in marriage on October 20, 2006 at Belk Chapel of Queen's University in Charlotte, NC. She is employed as a teacher for Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools. He is a project manager in construction for B. E. and K. Building Group in Charlotte. The couple will reside in Matthews.

TERESA A. BAILEY '06 M.DIV. is currently serving as a chaplain resident at Spartanburg (SC) Regional Healthcare Center. tbailey9917@hotmail.com

AMANDA JANELL DEVORE '06 M.A. and Cody Timothy McLain were united in marriage on March 10, 2007 at Landmark Church of God in Statesville, NC. She is employed by Piedmont HealthCare as an application specialist. He is employed by the Town of Troutman. After a cruise to the Western Caribbean, they will make their home in Troutman.

CHARLES EDWARD GRANT '06 M.DIV. and his wife Denise are currently serving at First Baptist Church in Mount Olive, NC. Charles is the Minister of Music and Families. fbcmomusic@bellsouth.net

TONYA HERRING HOLCOMB '06 M.S.N. was recently approved as the Nursing Instructor for Rowan-Cabarrus Community College by the Board of Trustees. Tonya has experience as a clinical nursing instructor at Cabarrus College of Health and Sciences, and also East Carolina University.

REIMUND SERAFICA '02 A.D.N., '06 M.S.N. is currently employed at Carolinas Medical Center as the Director of Education and will be attending the doctoral program (PhD in Nursing Science) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa starting the Fall of 2007. reimundserafica@yahoo.com

JONATHAN WALKER '06 M.B.A.
has been hired by Carolina Alliance Bank as a customer service representative. He is responsible for opening new accounts and ensuring customer satisfaction.

JENNIFER ROBIN ZOELLNER '06 M.D. was united in marriage to Walter Munson Summer on December 6, 2006 at Central United Methodist Church in Newberry, SC. Jennifer is employed at Colony Lutheran Church and Munson Music and is also a graduate music student at Winthrop University.
Change brings about great excitement, but also a sense of loss. I was made aware of this when my five year old, Matty Grace, recently lost her first tooth. She was excited about this new phase, but I felt grief over this rite of passage. I expressed my sadness that my little girl was growing up. In her great wisdom she replied, “Mom, I will always be your kid.”

Another transition for the Gilliam family brings me great excitement as well as a sense of loss. My husband, Trey, has been accepted to the PhD program in New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. My family enthusiastically embraces what may be a once in a lifetime opportunity. Nonetheless, I must confess that leaving Gardner-Webb causes me great sadness.

I have enjoyed my days as a student and a staff member. My education has been priceless and I treasure my relationships with the entire Gardner-Webb community. I experienced many rewarding days in Student Development assisting the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program; in undergraduate admissions working with students and their families; and finally in Alumni Relations where I have become personally acquainted with our wonderful alumni. These alumni have taught me much about Gardner-Webb’s rich history.

As my family awaits the details for our departure, I savor each day I have left here at Gardner-Webb. Memories seem to surface more frequently and the time with colleagues has become more sacred. There is comfort in my grief as I say to my Alma Mater, “I will always be your kid.”

With Bulldog Pride,

Lou Ann Gilliam ’94 ’98
Director of Alumni Relations
SUSAN L. CLEMENT 
died December 25, 2006. She was employed by Honeywell in Shelby and was a member of Boiling Springs Baptist Church and she loved to help with the children’s choir. Survivors include her father, husband, mother-in-law, son, two daughters, sisters, one grandchild, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

JUANITA CASH COOK 
died November 28, 2006. She was a teacher with the Cherokee County School District for thirty-one years. She was also owner/operator of Nita’s Bridal Shop for sixteen years. Mrs. Cook was a member of West End Baptist Church. She is survived by three sons, three brothers, three sisters, and seven grandchildren.

PHYLLIS MEREDITH 
died January 11, 2007 at Iredell Memorial Hospital. She attended Gardner-Webb to be certified in sign language interpretation. Ms. Meredith was also of the Baptist faith.

GLORIA MANGUM PROVEAUX 
died February 1, 2007. Mrs. Proveaux was a contemporary gospel singer and a former Mrs. South Carolina Congeniality winner. She is survived by her contemporary gospel singer and a former Mrs. South Carolina Congeniality winner. She is survived by her husband, a son, an adopted daughter, her father, a brother and wife, and a beloved companion. She leaves behind her companion, children, nieces, nephews, and a host of friends. He was a member of the Gardner-Webb basketball team.

JAMES WILLIAM ROBERSON 
'49 A.A. died on November 13, 2006 in his home in Linville. He is survived by his wife, daughter-in-law, daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers. He served as Team Manager for the Appalachian State basketball and football teams and also served in the United States Air Force with a special division stationed in Chile as an Analysis Specialist in a Classified Electronic division. He spent most of his life working in automotive related fields and was employed by Keeter Ford in Shelby. Surviving by him is his wife, son, two granddaughters, mother, brothet, and nephew.

ARTHUR LEE ROBERTS '70 
died November 26, 2006. He honorably served in the United States Air Force with a special division stationed in Chile as an Analysis Specialist in a Classified Electronic division. He spent most of his life working in automotive related fields and was employed by Keeter Ford in Shelby. Surviving by him is his wife, son, two granddaughters, mother, brother, and nephew.

JOSEPH MICHAEL HEGARTY '85 
of Huntersville died on November 7, 2006. He was employed by Hearst Corp., and is survived by his wife of 19 years, named Lisa. Other survivors include his sons, mother, grandmother, and sister.

JAMES HAMRICK '49 
passed away January 22, 2007 at his home. He is survived by his mother, a brother and wife, and a beloved niece. He served aboard the U.S.S. Ranger CV61 Aircraft Carrier and retired from Rieter Corporation after thirty years of service.

SAMUEL LARRY HOPE '60 
passed away January 22, 2007 at his home. He is survived by his mother, a brother and wife, and a beloved niece. He served aboard the U.S.S. Ranger CV61 Aircraft Carrier and retired from Rieter Corporation after thirty years of service.

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of Huntersville died on November 7, 2006. He was employed by Hearst Corp., and is survived by his wife of 19 years, named Lisa. Other survivors include his sons, mother, grandmother, and sister.

BILLY HENSON SR. '64 
died November 19, 2006 at his home. He enlisted in the Marine Corp at the age of seventeen and served during WWII. He was employed as a manager for State Capital and Durham Life Insurance Company and a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church. He was survived by his wife, brother, daughter, son, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

JAMES LEWIS WHITAKER '79 B.S. 
died November 26, 2006. He honorably served in the United States Air Force with a special division stationed in Chile as an Analysis Specialist in a Classified Electronic division. He spent most of his life working in automotive related fields and was employed by Keeter Ford in Shelby. Surviving by him is his wife, son, two granddaughters, mother, brother, and nephew.

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VANDA RAMSEY 
died November 27, 2006. After retirement she volunteered with the local school system, her church, and Cleveland Regional Medical Center. Surviving by her is a niece.

RUTH HAMRICK '43 
passed away January 23, 2007. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, three sisters, two brothers, five grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Mrs. Hamrick and husband started Maxwell B. Hamrick Insurance Agency, Inc. in 1953.

JOE HAMRICK '49 
passed away January 26, 2007 at Cleveland County Regional Medical Center. She is survived by three daughters, Cindy, Mitzi, and Meloni along with son-in-laws, grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was a former piano, voice and glee club teacher at Maiden High School and former choir director at Maiden Baptist Church.

BETTYE LOU FALLS MCCRAW '49 
passed away January 26, 2007 at Cleveland County Regional Medical Center. She is survived by three daughters, Cindy, Mitzi, and Meloni along with son-in-laws, grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was a former piano, voice and glee club teacher at Maiden High School and former choir director at Maiden Baptist Church.

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died November 19, 2006 at his home. He enlisted in the Marine Corp at the age of seventeen and served during WWII. He was employed as a manager for State Capital and Durham Life Insurance Company and a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church. He was survived by his wife, brother, daughter, son, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

ARTHUR LEE ROBERTS '70 
passed away March 5, 2007 at Sinai Grace Hospital in Detroit. He is survived by his mother, wife, sister, children, nieces, nephews, and a host of friends. He was a member of the Gardner-Webb basketball team.

JAMES LEWIS WHITAKER '79 B.S. 
died November 26, 2006. He honorably served in the United States Air Force with a special division stationed in Chile as an Analysis Specialist in a Classified Electronic division. He spent most of his life working in automotive related fields and was employed by Keeter Ford in Shelby. Surviving by him is his wife, son, two granddaughters, mother, brother, and nephew.

JOSEPH MICHAEL HEGARTY '85 
of Huntersville died on November 7, 2006. He was employed by Hearst Corp., and is survived by his wife of 19 years, named Lisa. Other survivors include his sons, mother, grandmother, and sister.

BILLY HENSON SR. '64 
died November 19, 2006 at his home. He enlisted in the Marine Corp at the age of seventeen and served during WWII. He was employed as a manager for State Capital and Durham Life Insurance Company and a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church. He was survived by his wife, brother, daughter, son, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

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died November 26, 2006. He honorably served in the United States Air Force with a special division stationed in Chile as an Analysis Specialist in a Classified Electronic division. He spent most of his life working in automotive related fields and was employed by Keeter Ford in Shelby. Surviving by him is his wife, son, two granddaughters, mother, brother, and nephew.

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of Huntersville died on November 7, 2006. He was employed by Hearst Corp., and is survived by his wife of 19 years, named Lisa. Other survivors include his sons, mother, grandmother, and sister.

MATTIE CUFFEE FLETCHER '97 
died February 23, 2007 at her home. She worked at the Wilkes County Department of Social Services as a child protective services social worker and case manager. Mrs. Fletcher was a member of New Damascus Baptist Church, where she was a pianist for 54 years. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, her mother, two sisters, one brother, and three grandchildren.
Alumni Board Gets Down and Dirty

So, who or what do you expect to see at Lake Hollifield early on a Saturday morning in late April?

Wild and crazy geese? No. Kids chasing after the wild, crazy geese? No. Students cramming for finals while being distracted by the kids chasing after the wild, crazy geese? No. If your answer was the Alumni Board beautifying the gazebo area at the Lake, then you were correct.

The Alumni Board? That’s right! On Saturday, April 28, with direction and support from the University Grounds Department staff, members of the Alumni Board and representatives from the Alumni Relations Office took on the task of sprucing up the gazebo area at Lake Hollifield.

This effort involved placing several new plants around the gazebo area in addition to covering the ground with two and a half truckloads of mulch. Keep your eyes on this area as additional plants and flowers will be added in the near future.

The group decided to vary from the typical business meeting (one of three during the year) and instead chose to invest a bit of sweat equity in a visible and well-traveled area of campus. During our time, we discussed the happenings at the university and strategized about further engaging the alumni population in Gardner-Webb. Several members of the Alumni Board serve the University by joining the Admissions team on local recruiting functions (by serving as mentors to recent graduates or those approaching graduation). If you would like to serve in a capacity such as this let us know.

Don’t be surprised to see the Alumni Board further making a presence on the campus in the future and please pull one of the members aside and share your GWU stories as there are plentiful memories to go around once you get a few students or alumni together. You may contact the Alumni Relations Office if you have questions about the Alumni Relations Board by calling 704-406-4255.

-Larry Durham
A Legacy of Ministry and Service

As you have read in this issue of the Webb Magazine, the Noel Program for the Disabled has provided an important ministry and service to students for 30 years.

Of all the quality programs at Gardner-Webb University, I can say with conviction that the Noel Program is one of the clearest and strongest ministries at Gardner-Webb.

This important service opens doors for students with disabilities and is one of the ways we work to create an environment that integrates students of all backgrounds and types. The Gardner-Webb community is a strong one because of this type of diversity.

As we celebrate the progress of Frank Nanney Hall, we are at the same time keenly aware of the ongoing needs of the Noel Program for the Disabled. The University family has been tremendously proud and supportive of those needs, and I know that everyone who reads this issue of the Webb Magazine will be touched by the special stories and people involved with that program. We are making a difference in the lives of these young people and a difference in the world with this special ministry by opening doors for students with disabilities. You can help open doors, too, with your financial support and involvement, as a partner in this work:

♦ $100 will support the purchase of a web site reader program for deaf students to be able to complete their classroom research assignments on the web.

♦ $500 will buy a Texas Instruments "talking scientific calculator" for a deaf student to succeed in natural science or mathematics classes.

♦ $1,000 will buy a SenseView Portable Video Magnifier to assist visually impaired students with reading class handouts, books, and looking at small items in lab classes.

There are many other great ways, both small and large, to help open doors for these students, including naming opportunities throughout Frank Nanney Hall.

I know that the Noel Program will be excited to have you as a partner. If you would like to help make a significant, real difference in the lives of Gardner-Webb students, I would be delighted to speak with you at any time at (704) 406-3251 or varley@gardner-webb.edu. Our web site, http://www.gardner-webb.edu/gift is also set up to accept your online contributions to this important work. The Noel Program has established a strong legacy of ministry and service, and I know that as you consider your own legacy of ministry and service through Gardner-Webb, you will be impressed with and blessed by this opportunity.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and involvement.

Steve Varley
Vice President for Development
Gardner-Webb University

Make an online gift at www.gardner-webb.edu/gift

www.gardner-webb.edu Summer 2007
We’re Great Because of You!
Pledge your Gift to the Gardner-Webb Fund Today

Each year more than 90% of Gardner-Webb’s students receive financial aid. The Gardner-Webb Grant, provides scholarship money to almost every University student (based on academic merit or financial need). This is one of the most significant forms of financial aid that each student receives… but where does Gardner-Webb Grant come from?

It comes from you!

Your gift to the Gardner-Webb Fund goes directly to provide our students academic and need based scholarship assistance. And since so many GWU students take advantage of the grant, your support is vital to our students’ success.

To make a contribution, simply detach the payment card on this page and send it to the address provided.

If you have any questions about the Gardner-Webb Fund, please call Matt Williams at (704)406-3984, or email at mwilliams@gardner-webb.edu

Make a gift to the GARDNER-WEBB FUND, and help a Gardner-Webb student see their dreams come true!

AMOUNT OF YOUR GIFT:
- $1000.00 (University Club)
- $500.00 (Carillon Society)
- $250.00 (Springs Club)
- $100.00 (Centennial Club)
- $____ A gift of ANY size will help!
- $____ (Class Year Club-example-grad year-1994=$19.94)

PAYMENT METHOD:
- My check is enclosed.
- Please bill my:
  - Mastercard
  - Visa
  - Discover

Account # ____________________ Exp. Date ____/____/____
Name on card ____________________
Billing Address ____________________
3 Digit card verification code (on back of card) ________________

Email ____________________
Phone(s) (____) ________________

If you have any questions about the Gardner-Webb Fund, call Matt Williams at (704) 406-3984 or email: mwilliams@gardner-webb.edu.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:
GWU  Office of the Annual Campaign  P.O. Box 997  Boiling Springs, NC 28017
A Time of Change

Mixed Feelings, Many Blessings

Change is in the air around college and university campuses all across our country. It comes in many forms throughout the year. However, May and June seem to be the most active times. Graduation, retirements and career changes seem to occur all at once. These events bring about celebration, some sadness and many blessings.

Life is no different at Gardner-Webb. We are in the process of saying our “goodbyes” to a number of students, colleagues and friends. It is a special time in their lives. We share in their happiness. We will miss them. But, we continue to be blessed by these special relationships. Allow me to share a few with you.

I feel especially close to the Class of 2007. I remember well new student move-in day in August, 2003. It would be my last class as Vice President of Enrollment Management. I believed this group to be special. They did not disappoint me. I celebrate their success. As alumni, they are continuing to make me proud.

Darlene Gravett joined our University family in 1989. She will retire June 30. She has been a very special part of Gardner-Webb these eighteen years. Her love of teaching, her sense of fairness, her honesty, her commitment to teamwork, her caring nature and her willingness to serve her community are just a few of the things I admire most. Above all, I cherish her friendship!

Lou Ann Gilliam arrived at “The Webb” as a student in the early 90s. She will be leaving us soon to move with her husband and daughter to Scotland. While with us, Lou Ann has been very busy. She earned two degrees and has served in three divisions. She excelled as an Admissions Counselor and has proudly and ably served as our Director of Alumni Relations. Working with Lou Ann has been an absolute pleasure.

For the majority of my seventeen plus years at Gardner-Webb, the first person I saw each day was Loretta Clemmons. Loretta served as the housekeeper for my building. She always greeted me with a kind word and a sweet smile. She has been sharing her time with us for thirty-four years. She recently retired. Today, I miss her words of kindness and her beautiful smiles.

A time of celebration, yes. Some sadness as well, certainly. Blessings galore, without a doubt. Thank you Class of 2007, Darlene Gravett, Lou Ann Gilliam and Loretta Clemmons. Your time at GWU made a difference in the lives of many. We wish you well!

Until Next Time,

Ralph "Scoot" Dixon
Senior Vice President for University Relations and Marketing
Make plans now to attend next year's celebration on the campus of Gardner-Webb University.

Saturday, April 19, 2008
Congratulations, GWU Graduates 2007