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The Webb Magazine 2008, Spring

Noel T. Manning II

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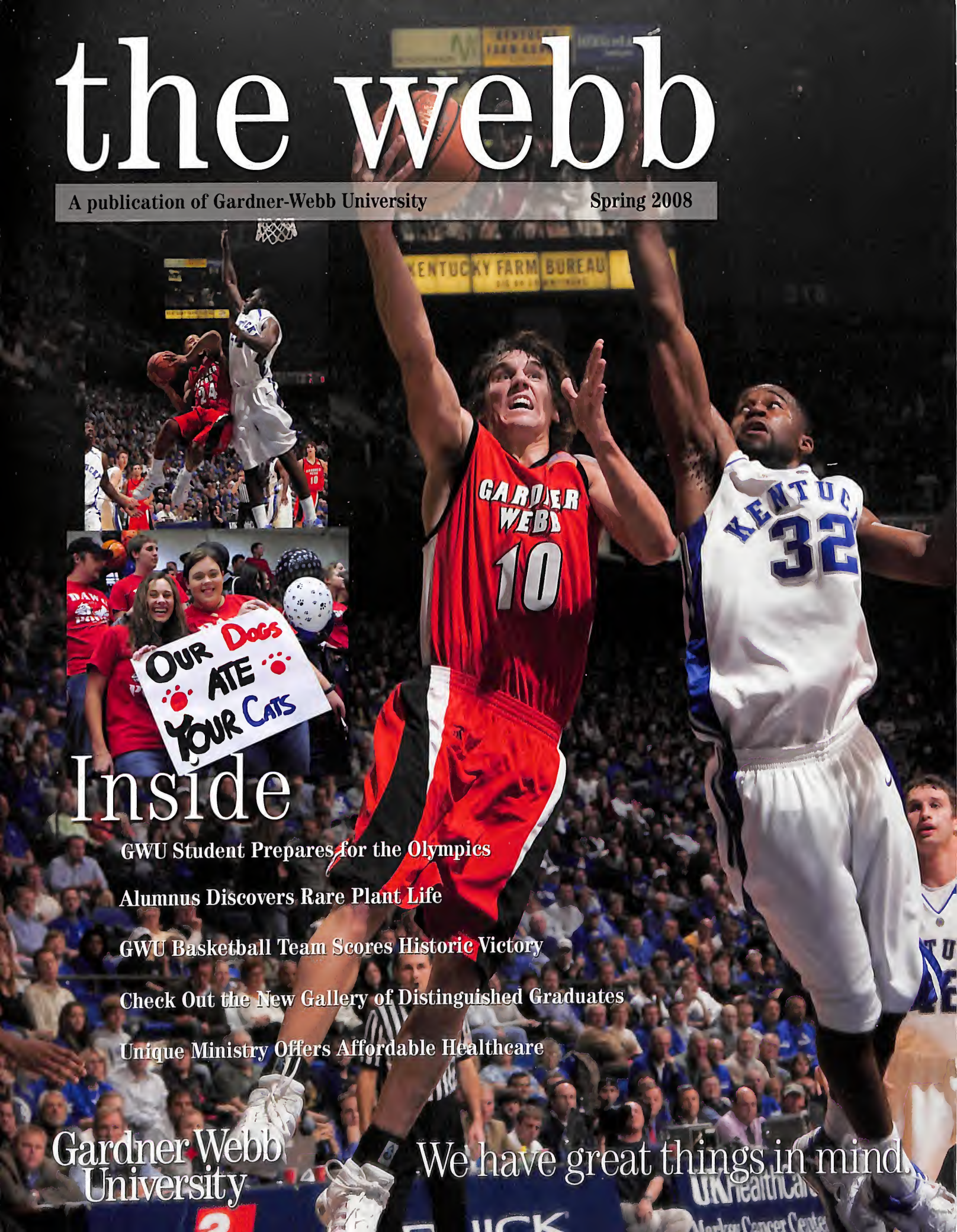

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GWU Student Prepares for the Olympics

Alumnus Discovers Rare Plant Life

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Check Out the New Gallery of Distinguished Graduates

Unique Ministry Offers Affordable Healthcare

Gardner Webb University

We have great things in mind.

"Never doubt that
a small group of
thoughtful committed
citizens can change the
world; indeed it's the
only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead
the great people of Gardner-Webb

The Webb

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Good Works Influence Future Generations

Although I have lost count of how many times I have watched it, each Christmas season I enjoy Frank Capra's 1946 classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life," with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed. I imagine that you too have seen it more than once and know the plot quite well. George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) is given the opportunity by his guardian angel Clarence to see what his town and its people would have been like if he had never been born. In a particularly poignant scene, George sees the tombstone of his brother Harry, whom George in reality had saved from drowning years before. George protests that Harry is alive—a war hero who was decorated for saving the lives of many sailors. "Those men drowned," Clarence replies. "Harry wasn't there to save them, because you weren't there to save Harry." Part of Clarence's implied message is that our good works are often "played forward" and have exponentially more positive effect than we could have imagined.

We can never know the full impact of the positive influence and good works of Gardner-Webb people over more than one hundred years. As important as education is, our University's purpose is to serve an even greater good—to inspire and prepare our graduates to live lives of meaning and purpose, and to leave the world a better place than they found it. The focus of our academic and student development programs is on faith, service, and leadership. In an environment that encourages and supports spiritual growth, students are encouraged to explore avenues of service and are

provided numerous opportunities to develop leadership skills. Academic programs--such as study abroad and interdisciplinary studies--are growing in breadth as well as quality, as are programs such as volunteerism, service-learning, Campus Ministries, and the Student YMCA.

The University itself strives to serve and to lead by modeling the values it espouses. For example, Gardner-Webb has promoted health and wellness by leading the way in becoming a completely tobacco-free campus and by joining in several community-wide initiatives promoting health and fitness. Consistent with the University's commitment to promoting environmental stewardship, faculty and staff have begun plans to move the University toward greater environmental responsibility and sustainability.

George Bailey learned that good works can be multiplied exponentially into the future. Such is the life and purpose of Gardner-Webb University as we prepare generations of graduates to carry out Gardner-Webb's motto, Pro Deo et Humanitate.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Spring,

Frank Bonner

President, Gardner-Webb University

The Deafening Silence

Men's Basketball Program Gains National Attention After Major Upset Victory

"So many kids get left behind and don't get the opportunity to play in the big-time environment but shine when given the chance," said Dick Vitale, ESPN Basketball commentator, author and former collegiate and professional basketball coach.

Vitale's comments were referring to the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs Men's Basketball team after their greatest victory in school history. The 'dogs pulled off a shocking upset over the University of Kentucky, 84-68 in historic Rupp Arena as part of the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic tournament. Kentucky is one of the most storied programs in NCAA Men's basketball, and they are also the most successful (Division I). So, when a school from Boiling Springs, NC wins against the tradition that is "Kentucky Basketball" – people take notice.

Gardner-Webb became the first mid-major team to win at Rupp Arena since Western Kentucky did it in 2001. Before it's loss to Gardner-Webb, Kentucky had not lost at home to an unranked non-conference opponent since the North Carolina Tar-heels beat them in 2005.

"It was a great exhibition of basketball by Gardner-Webb," said Billy Gillispie, head coach, Kentucky. "They just came into our place, and I thought they whipped us in every phase of the game. The box score was not indicative of how bad they beat us."

Four minutes into the game, Gardner-Webb had a 14-0 lead, and they never looked back. During the course of the game Kentucky tried to stage a series of comebacks and get the crowd into the action. But after each Kentucky run, Gardner-Webb silenced the 20,000 fans by proving that they were in this game to win.

Sophomore and former walk-on, Grayson Flittner scored 22 points to lead the 'dogs in scoring, and senior Thomas Sanders had 21 points and 10 rebounds in the game. Flittner was also named as an all-tournament selection. "It was just a team effort," Flittner said. "We knew Kentucky had a great tradition. It's something I'm going to tell my grandkids about years from now. I'll never forget this."

The 2K Sports College Hoops Classic tournament, benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer, seemed destined to send four top programs to Madison Square Garden in New York for a preseason showdown. Memphis, Connecticut, Oklahoma and Kentucky were the favorites –yet Gardner-Webb had other plans in mind. "Going into the game, we said we could win this game," Sanders said. "I thought if we could stick together and play smart, we would have a chance to win."

The team demonstrated determination, composure and integrity as they controlled the game from start to finish, and when the final buzzer sounded, the improbable Gardner-Webb University win over the University of Kentucky became the top story on ESPN, Fox Sports and every major network and media outlet across the country.

"Gardner-Webb was so fundamentally sound, with great passing skills and outstanding shot selection. Bulldogs coach Rick Scruggs and his staff came up with a great game plan and there was no intimidation going into Rupp Arena," said Vitale. "The Big Blue fans were totally stunned. Give coach Rick Scruggs and his Bulldogs a ton of credit for showing great poise in getting to the winner's circle over the Wildcats."

The publicity generated from this win brought the name of Gardner-Webb to thousands of media outlets. From Chicago to Seattle to New York to Los Angeles to Pensacola – Gardner-Webb was heralded as a 'Giant Killer.' Website mentions of the GWU victory numbered in the millions. "You can't calculate the value of this kind of exposure. We even had Sports Illustrated following us around for a day," added Gardner-Webb Head Basketball Coach, Rick Scruggs.

The win against Kentucky also generated interest in Gardner-Webb merchandise from some unlikely sources. "We even got calls from fans of the University of Louisville wanting to purchase Gardner-Webb t-shirts. They thought it would be fun to wear the name of Gardner-Webb when Louisville takes on their archrivals (Kentucky) during the season," noted Noel T. Manning, II, director of University and Media Relations, GWU.

As fans camped out for tickets and major television crews flooded the campus, Coach Scruggs was accepting calls of congratulations from government leaders, alumni, friends of the University and basketball coaches from every corner of the nation including the legendary Bobby Knight. It was a surreal scene at Gardner-Webb as the 'dogs got an early taste of what "March Madness" will be like someday.

When the basketball season ends and a national champion is crowned, people will still be talking about the Gardner-Webb upset over Kentucky. For every team, there is a defining moment. For Gardner-Webb this was it... But the best is yet to come.

Four minutes into the game, Gardner-Webb had a 14-0 lead and they never looked back.

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM GARDNER-WEBB

GWU REPORTS RECORD ENROLLMENT

Record enrollment statistics were reported in several areas for the fall semester at Gardner-Webb University. Overall enrollment was recorded at 3988 students during the fall semester registration period, proving to be the highest enrollment in the 102-year history of Gardner-Webb.

By The Numbers

♦ The largest ever total fall headcount. 3988 students.

♦ The largest ever fall headcount in the Undergraduate Program (Boiling Springs campus). 1625 students.

♦ The largest ever headcount - All Graduate Programs. 1249 students.

♦ The largest ever fall headcount in the Graduate School. 502 students. (Includes Nursing, Education, Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, English, Sports Science and Pedagogy).

♦ The largest ever fall headcount in the Graduate School of Business. 413 students.

♦ The largest ever fall headcount in the Ed.D. Program. 62 students.

RECORD FUNDRAISING EFFORTS MEAN GREAT THINGS FOR THE FUTURE

GWU reported one of its most successful fundraising years ever after receiving over $7 million in gifts from alumni, friends, corporations, foundations and other organizations in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. Nearly 1750 contributors designated gifts to Gardner-Webb during this period. Alumni and friends provided nearly 85.5 % of the gifts, while organizations/foundations provided more than 14.5%.

Major contributions included gifts designated for the Noel Program, The School of Business, The School of Nursing and The Divinity School. "Clearly we are pleased with the success we have experienced in this area, but we are most pleased with the level of interest that the University has generated from its donors and supporters," said President Frank Bonner.

GWU NAMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

R. Mark Hughes was named the Vice President for Enrollment Management at GWU prior to the fall semester. Hughes has over 20 years of experience in college registration, recruitment, administration and enrollment management. He has also been a senior consultant specializing in enrollment management for a number of colleges and universities, including Carson Newman College, Howard Payne University, Mississippi College, the University of the Ozarks and Gardner-Webb.

While at Anderson University (1988-2007), Hughes was responsible for helping the institution to increase its freshman class size, increase the academic profile of entering students (SAT/GPA/rank) and increase freshman retention rates to record levels. Hughes served as Vice President for Enrollment Services and Quality Initiatives at Anderson from 2003-2007. Hughes now oversees all aspects of the Gardner-Webb admissions and financial aid process. He is responsible for developing a strategic plan to attract and retain excellent students; developing policies of awarding aid; and establishing a clear image of Gardner-Webb to potential students, parents and a national audience.

FAMILIAR FACE RETURNS TO GARDNER-WEBB

On July 1, Dr. Jackson Rainer assumed the role of Dean of the Graduate School at Gardner-Webb. Rainer earned his Bachelor of Music from Florida State University and his master's and doctorate (both in counseling) from Georgia State University. He is licensed as an applied psychologist and health service provider psychologist. Rainer has also published numerous articles relating to counseling, and he has been a valuable resource for media and communities during times of crisis. Rainer taught at Gardner-Webb from 1997–2002 before moving to Valdosta, Ga. to take on a full-time professional practice.

Other areas of interest for Rainer include palliative care, end of life issues, and crisis counseling and therapy. He is also currently researching psychosocial trends and the quality of life of transplant patients and their families.

"It is quite humbling and satisfying to realize that I am working with people as they pursue advanced academic degrees. I am so pleased to join their educational and professional paths," added Rainer.

GWU ALUMNUS NAMED AS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Adam Fisher is a native of Rutherford County, NC and graduated from Gardner-Webb in 2005 receiving a degree in business administration. He completed the School of Business MBA program in 2007. In his role as assistant to the president, Fisher focuses on assisting GWU President, Dr. Frank Bonner, with assigned and yearly tasks for the President's Office, and assists with major events on campus. His duties in the President's Office include everything from serving as a liaison between the President and students to the organizing of commencement ceremonies. Fisher has served as assistant to the president since September of 2005.

The director of marketing job focuses on three areas of emphasis in this first year. Fisher is examining current marketing efforts of each university department and is working to enhance marketing opportunities for them as well. He is also working on creating a comprehensive marketing plan for the University. Fisher is responsible for seeking out the best avenues to promote the University's image and expand university constituents. He is also developing strategic and tactical plans to brand, market, and generate student inquiries for the university.

GWU PROFESSOR ASKED TO PRESENT AT PRESTIGIOUS OXFORD ROUND TABLE

Dr. Jim Lawrence, professor of Communications Studies, was among some 40 participants this past summer from across the United States to serve the distinguished Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England. Participants included historians, pastors, political scientists, and theologians. The topic for the event was the future of the Church-State relationship.

"My presentation was titled 'Jefferson Died For Our Sins: Rediscovering the Writings on the Separation of Church and State as a Counter to the Myth of the Christian Nation.' It was well received," said Lawrence. Lawrence's paper dealt with Jefferson's personal views on religion and Christianity, his theological beliefs and Jefferson's views on Church and State.

The Oxford Round Table began in 1987. The purpose of this not-for-profit organization is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of contemporary issues that affect the public good in all its various forms. The round table attempts to interpret all matters that enrich the human experience and enhance the human condition. All round tables are held in the colleges at the University of Oxford.

Those who serve on the round table's panel do so by invitation only. Guests are determined based on several criteria, among which are nominations by earlier attendees, the courses someone teaches, their presentations and writings, and their professional involvement in a relevant area of interest.

Strengthening Ties

Gardner-Webb University was born in the early years of the 20th Century in the context of a meeting of churches. The churches of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association and the Sandy Run Baptist Association cooperated in the formation of a school for the education of their young in a Christian environment. From the beginning Gardner-Webb has been strongly committed to reflecting the values, indeed the heartbeat of the churches, with the purpose of higher education.

As Gardner-Webb University moves more deeply into its second century of life, our commitment to the churches remains as strong as ever. The spirit of cooperation between Gardner-Webb University and the churches is as constant as it was in those formational days of the early 1900's. This commitment is reflected across the entire life of the University.

Thank you to all who are serving in churches in your communities to further the Kingdom of God and thank you for your commitment to Gardner-Webb University and our enduring commitment to educating our young in a Christian environment.

God Bless You,

John Bridges
Director of Church Relations

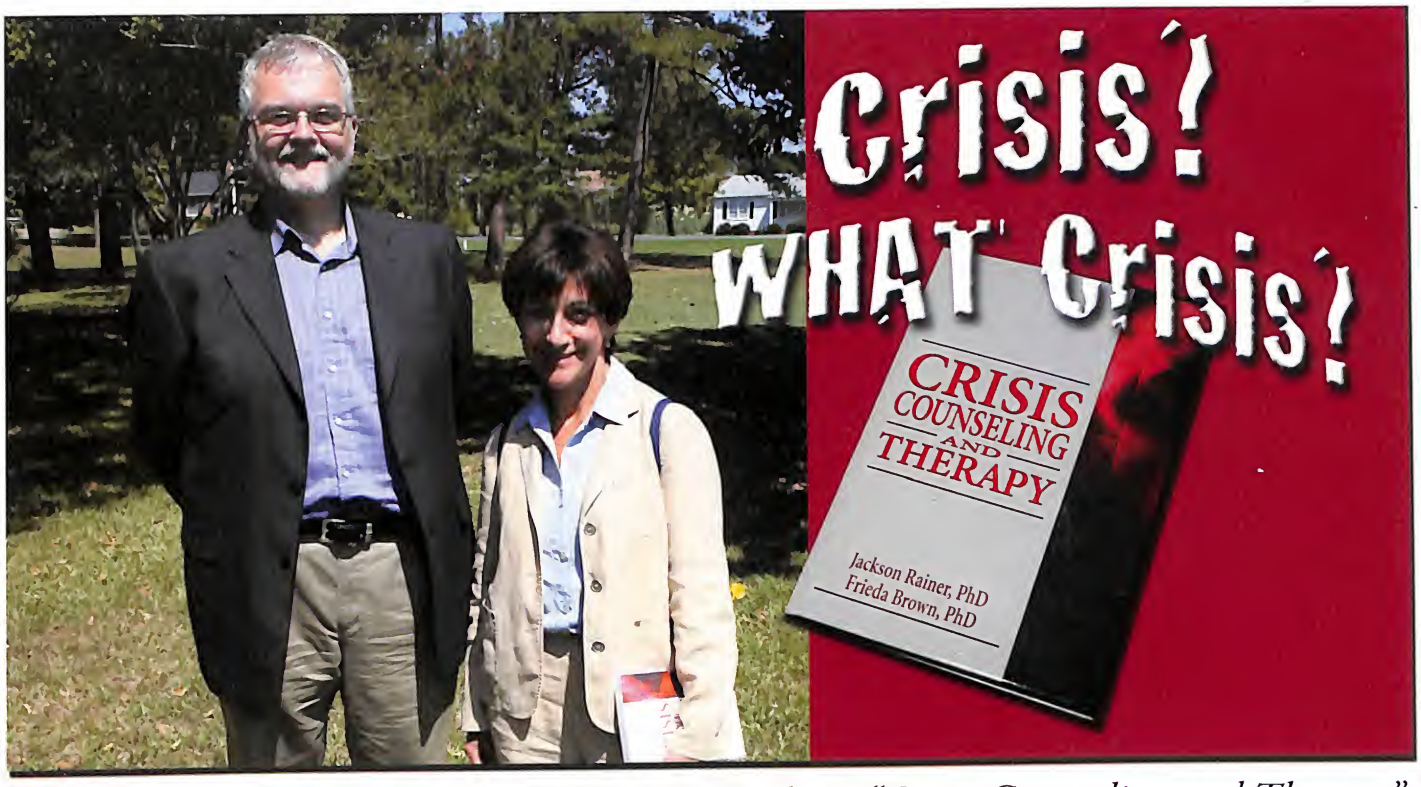
GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY PASTORS SCHOOL

May 26-28, 2008
Gardner-Webb University

KEY PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

- **Eddie Hammett**
  Senior Coach and Consultant
  Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
  Author of "Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60"
- **Dr. Chuck Bugg**
  Gardner-Webb University
  Professor of Church Ministry and Leadership and Director for The Center for Transformational Leadership, Author of numerous books including "Preaching from the Inside Out"

For more information contact John Bridges, Director of Church Relations at Gardner-Webb University, at 704.406.3008 or jfbridges@gardner-webb.edu. Join us for some time of spiritual reflection, insightful discussions, and information sharing to strengthen your ministry in the church context.



Dr. Jackson Rainer and Dr. Frieda Brown Release "Crisis Counseling and Therapy"

"A crisis begins with a specific event. Some stressful event comes and jars the individual out of the ordinary into something dramatic and painful. Crisis puts someone in danger and disables that person," says Dr. Jackson Rainer, who serves as Dean of the Graduate School and professor of psychology for the University.

Rainer, along with Dr. Frieda Brown, has co-authored the book "Crisis Counseling and Therapy," a book intended for use as both a text in college classrooms and a reference guide for multidisciplinary health care professionals working within crisis situations.

The concept and model for the book started years ago when Rainer and Brown discovered they had a lot of similar interests. After Rainer's encouragement, Brown, professor of psychology, translated a model of crisis counseling she had developed and taught over the years at Gardner-Webb into an article she and Rainer wrote together. "After the article was well received, we decided to take it further, thus came the book idea," said Brown. Rainer also says the events of September 11 and numerous school shootings created a need for more structure that professionals could use to approach crisis intervention.

Brown's experiences in the classroom and in her own life helped to prepare and strengthen her research into crisis counseling. Brown said after dealing with the loss of her parents, "I began to pay attention to myself and the people around me. (I asked myself) what worked and what didn't in a time of crisis." She also recognized that guidelines were needed to help college students who would be going into professions such as ministry, counseling, and nursing understand how to deal with people in crisis. "The human system can only take stress for so long or it will break down," says Brown.

"Crisis Counseling and Therapy" covers a number of topics including the three R's as Brown likes to call them: Remembering, Reorganizing, and Restoring.

These two colleagues and friends are excited and hopeful of how their book could benefit other counselors. "Our goal is to give the counselor a clear predictable model to use in helping another. We hope it will give a renewed sense of hope when the counselor helps the client to exit the other side of a crisis experience," said Rainer. Brown says their intentions were to present a very manageable text that anyone could use to locate a section of the book that fits their need. "The book is broad enough where a professional using the book could include his or her own theory. I hope it helps counselors as they become connected with a client's predicament."

-Paul Foster

King of the Mountain

AWARD-WINNING PROFESSOR SHARES HIS LOVE FOR THE DULCIMER

In this story, you are invited into the Dulcimer 101 classroom. Your instructor is Dr. Joe Collins, dulcimer aficionado. Collins not only plays this unique stringed instrument but he is also a songwriter, vocalist, guitarist and dulcimer craftsman.

Collins serves as an assistant professor of religious studies at Gardner-Webb and placed first nationally in the mountain dulcimer championship held this past fall during the 36th Annual Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kan. According to its website, the festival drew approximately 15,000 people and is a well-known acoustic music event that showcases bluegrass and other acoustic style competitions, such as banjo, mandolin, and finger pick guitar.

Collins is no stranger to winning dulcimer competition awards, as he has received over 12 awards since 1998. "It was a thrill for me to finally win the national title. It was my fifth attempt. It was a special honor since I know that the judges are carefully selected from among some of the best players in the world, and my competitors included several who had bested me in previous competitions," said Collins.

Collins has played the dulcimer for nearly 30-years and enjoys performing at churches, schools and festivals across the country. "I built my first dulcimer while I was in seminary in 1985, using borrowed tools and a lot of willpower."

A mountain dulcimer is a fretted, stringed instrument, usually with three or four strings. It is usually about 34 inches in total length and about seven to ten inches wide. The body of the instrument is usually no more than two inches deep. Collins said it is generally played while one holds it on his/her lap, string-side up, of course.

Collins has played the dulcimer for nearly 30-years and enjoys performing at churches, schools and festivals across the country.

He said different woods do have different sound characteristics, but what is a preferable one is really a matter of taste. "A large variety of woods and designs are used in dulcimer building, and I am often asked what kinds of wood make the best dulcimer, and it is difficult to answer," added Collins. "I find construction is a much more critical factor than materials in how an instrument sounds."

It generally takes about 28 to 35 hours of hands-on work with each instrument he builds. There is also a set up time for gluing and drying. Collins is generally building four or five dulcimers at a time. "Because of my schedule, I build only a few dulcimers a year, and those sell pretty quick. I make them available as I finish them," noted Collins.

Building a dulcimer takes a steady craftsman with the help of specific tools. Collins said in the early days he used a set of tools that included a bandsaw, a hand sander, a fret-slotting saw, a ruler (measurements are very important), a coping saw and a handful of clamps. Today, he has added a table saw, jointer, planer, thickness sander, radial arm saw and a lot more clamps.

According to Collins, two basic shapes of dulcimers includes the teardrop and hourglass. The teardrop is narrow at one end and larger at the other, while the hourglass has a "waist" that is narrower than either end.

Collins has also authored a number of books and recorded CD's. "Most dulcimer players use a notation system called tablature to learn new songs. Tablature uses numerals to tell players where to put their fingers when noting the instrument. With tablature, a player can learn to play a song using numbers that are always consistent, no matter what tuning is being used. My books transcribe music into this notation system that is more universally recognized by dulcimer players," said Collins.

Collins received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English from East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C., a Master of Divinity with Religious Education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. and a Doctorate in Adult Education from NC State University.

-Paul Foster

Found in Translation

Gardner-Webb Theatre Presents World Premiere of Reimagined 17th Century Classic

It is a story that defies language. It is a story of faith, love, courage and ultimate sacrifice. It is also a story that Dr. Scot Lahaie felt compelled to share with a 21st Century audience. In November, the Gardner-Webb Theater presented "Martyr!" - a new translation of Pierre Corneille's neoclassical tragedy - "Polyeucte." Scot Lahaie, assistant professor and director of Theater, and Dr. Ute Lahaie, associate professor of French and German in the Department of World Languages and Literatures wrote the English translation of this 17th-century French classic.

"When we began the translation, I'll tell you, we didn't know what we were going to get on the other end," said Scot Lahie. "This (the original) is 17th century French in Alexandrian poetry. It has a sing-song/rhyming quality to it. We were trying to avoid that." The Lahaie team worked on the translation for 5 weeks last summer putting in numerous hours daily toward the finished script. The last English translation prior to the Lahaie version of the play was produced in 1957, but it was "burdened with archaic language and fails in speaking to contemporary audiences," noted Lahaie. Lahaie says that Corneille is the French equivalent to England's Shakespeare and his works should not be lost. With that in mind it could be said that Scot and Ute essentially have "rescued a forgotten classic from the shadows of obscurity."

Scot was enthusiastic about this production and the finished script, "This play, this story is a powerful piece of drama," he added. The play is about the founding of the Armenian Church. Saint Polyeucte is the main character, a zealous Christian who is trying to convert and save his people from their polytheistic religion. In a passionate rage, Polyeucte desecrates the Roman temple, a crime punishable by death; but being the son-in-law of the governor, death was not an easy verdict to give. "Killing your daughter's husband isn't good for family relationships," Lahaie joked. But this play is more than a traditional tragedy. It is also a love story, full of extensive heroic drama. It's the classic literary dialectic between love and duty; Polyeucte must ultimately choose between his wife and his faith.

This concept of "Dying for Christ" and what that means for a 21st Century Christian is part of what challenged Lahaie to bring this play to a new audience. "It was life changing to be able to talk in terms of our view not being the same as our Christian forefathers," noted Lahaie. "They believed in suffering for Christ... dying for Christ (on a daily basis) and looking for the opportunity to be able to prove oneself in the faith. This whole idea of martyrdom is so far from us today and yet it permeated in the early church."

Scot was first introduced to this play over 20 years ago at the National Theatre in Paris, France. He had the opportunity to view the original 17th century version presented in its native tongue. Scot found that the play transcended language. "My French was pretty awful at the time," he noted, "But it was so glorious and visual. It became a great landmark event in my life (professionally and in general). I had never seen a more exciting production in my entire life. I always thought that someday I would love to have a chance to direct this piece. When I looked for a good translation I couldn't find one."

After developing the script, and finding a perfect cast, Lahie completed the final leg of his journey in bringing this classic back to life. "We worked for twelve weeks on this production. It was the biggest, hardest, most difficult project I have worked on at Gardner-Webb. But, it was a wonderful experience that challenged me in a real and profound way," added Lahaie .

Wrestling Olympian Going for Gold

GWU Graduate Student Sara McMann Excited for Things to Come

It's funny how you can look back to younger years spent as a wrestling dummy for your older brother and feel so grateful to have ever shared those moments. Sara McMann, a Gardner-Webb graduate student and world-class female wrestler, credits a lot of her inspiration to her older brother. Her family moved from Maryland to North Carolina when she was in 9th grade, and it was shortly afterwards that McMann started wrestling competitively for McDowell High School in Morganton, NC. She occasionally came to Gardner-Webb to participate in freestyle practices under well-respected and long-time GWU wrestling coach Dick Wince.

McMann has always admired Wince for his willingness to help anyone (male or female) who wants to work hard. Females have not always received the same respect as males in the wrestling world, and Wince's ability to overlook gender differences made him well "ahead of his time," in McMann's opinion. But the gender battle has not been McMann's only trial, as several events have tested McMann's strength and patience throughout her life, including the death of her older brother. But despite those personal and sometimes tragic events, McMann says that everyone has "the choice to face those tribulations, and do the best you can." It takes a lot of "talking to God and figuring out which way is best for you." And what has McMann done along the way?

She only went on to win the gold medal in the 2003 and 2007 Pan-American Games and the silver medal in the 2003 World Games and a bronze medal in the 2007 World Games. She's also credited for bringing home Olympic silver for Team USA in the Athens games in 2004. McMann has been on the US Wrestling Team since 2000. But unlike a lot of athletes who get caught up in the glory of a sport, McMann's attitude reveals the heart of a true champion. "I like everyday practices too. I like going in every day and learning."

McMann admits that she didn't look like any sort of champion at the beginning of her wrestling journey and can only look at her accomplishments now with a sense of shock. "What struck me as the most odd was that I definitely didn't start out good, and I definitely had a long road. I enjoyed the hardship of each day." All one has to do is look at McMann's training to know that she wants the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics, which are set to be held in China. Her rigorous weekly schedule includes weightlifting, working on wrestling technique with her coach, cardiovascular workouts and hard competition practices with other wrestlers (men and women). And then, McMann still finds time to go to her classes at Gardner-Webb.

All one has to do is look at McMann's training to know that she wants the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics, which are set to be held in China.

When asked about her experience in the Olympics, McMann explained that "you see the entire world coming together in healthy, good competition; it's a really beautiful experience... I look back on the opening ceremonies and that's just the most unbelievable experience of my life." The one goal that both she and her colleagues share other then self-perfection and a gold medal is to encourage young female wrestlers. "We like to know we were helping our sport." Above all, she is grateful to have met people from all around the world during her travels, which has left her more open-minded "to different ways that people can live and what things can make them happy."

After she finishes with the Olympics this summer, McMann intends to finish her Mental Health Counseling degree at Gardner-Webb. McMann chose Gardner-Webb because it is a small school and the program's emphasis on 'learning by doing.' "Here, everything is so practical and everything relates to your work as a counselor."

If McMann is half as good at counseling as she is at wrestling, she's sure to be one of the best in her profession. Then again, she admits that she always was "more of a mama hen. I've always really liked to help people." With a gold medal in her sight, there are probably not too many people that would question if McMann has great things in mind, and she probably has a mean double-leg take down as well.

-R.J. Dowden

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY ALUMNI BOARD 2008 NOMINATIONS

The Office of Alumni Relations invites you to nominate individuals to serve on the GWU Alumni Board.

We will elect members for a three-year term. Nominees should be loyal and supportive alumni of Gardner-Webb who desire to help their alma mater stay connected with its alumni family. If you are interested or know someone who would serve GWU well, please notify the Office of Alumni Relations by emailing alumni@gardner-webb.edu or calling 704-406-3862. Please provide your name and the name of the person you are nominating along with their contact information.

Thank you,

Alumni Relations Staff

great alumni

**Watch your mail and email for upcoming information about Homecoming 2008, October 24-26*

Homecoming 2008 October 24-26

BULLDOG

GARDNER-WEBB INDUCTS SIX INTO ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

The Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame was created to honor leaders, athletes, coaches and pioneers of the GWU athletic program. It is also intended to preserve the historical and outstanding contributions made to the program by participants. GWU has been honoring Hall of Fame inductees annually since 1991.

Hall of Fame inductees are presented with a commemorative plaque outlining his or her accomplishments and a Hall of Fame ring. A permanent record display of each member is also available for viewing in the concourse of the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

The Class of 2007 included: Jerry W. Beane (Basketball & Baseball), Charlie Harbison (Football), Jerome Lee Yaw (Soccer), Clyde Miller (Baseball) and Joe Stepp (Baseball). Longtime athletic trainer Kevin Jones was given the Hall's annual Meritorious Service Award as part of this year's class.

JERRY BEANE - A two-sport star during Gardner-Webb's junior college era, Beane proved to be one of the basketball program's most prolific scorers during his time on the hardwood. A native of Lenoir, N.C., Beane averaged an impressive 19.5 points during his 44 career games at Gardner-Webb. As a freshman in 1959-60, Beane averaged 19.0 points, 11.3 rebounds per game. Beane earned All-Conference and All-State honors in each of his seasons and was recognized as one of the team's best defenders in addition to his offensive prowess. Beane is one of only five known players to average 20 points(his sophomore season) per game during the junior college era. He graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1961.

CHARLIE HARBISON was a standout defensive back and kick returner for Gardner-Webb from 1978-1981, registering 198 career tackles (135 solo) and 11 interceptions. Harbison earned All-SAC 8 and NAIA All-District 26 honors in 1980 as a defensive back after totaling 67 hits and six interceptions for the Bulldogs. Harbison also led the nation that season with an average of 31.8 yards per kickoff return, which remains one of the top averages in school history. Following his college career, Harbison signed as a free agent with the NFL's Buffalo Bills in 1982 and spent two seasons playing for the USFL's Breakers franchise in Boston (1983) and New Orleans (1984). Harbison found a niche in coaching following his professional career on the gridiron, and was an assistant at Gardner-Webb in 1984 and 1985, as well as serving on staff during Gardner-Webb's 1992 NAIA National Championship Bowl run. Harbison has gone on to tremendous success as an assistant coach, serving at several major NCAA Division I programs, including Clemson, Alabama, LSU and Mississippi State.

JEROME LEE YAW - A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Lee Yaw is the only two-time All-America selection in GWU soccer history, and was the first student-athlete in any sport to earn both athletic and academic All-America honors in the same season – doing so twice, in 1995 and 1996. Lee Yaw established career records that still stand for career points (154) and goals (61), posting three of the top-5 scoring seasons in GWU history in 1994, 1995 and 1996. Lee Yaw also holds school single-game records for

points (12), goals (4, twice) and assists (4). He was named 1995 SAC Player of the Year and was the 1996 SAC First Union Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Lee Yaw finished his career as a four-time All-South Atlantic Conference selection – one of an elite group of student-athletes in Gardner-Webb history to accomplish that feat. Lee Yaw finished his time at GWU by winning the prestigious President's Senior Athletic Achievement Award, the top academic honor awarded by the institution to a student-athlete.

CLYDE MILLER remains one of the most respected men to hold a head coaching position at Gardner-Webb, and for good reason. A true leader of young men, and a great teacher of the game he loved - Baseball, Miller forged a career ledger that included 326 wins – the most in Gardner-Webb history. Miller served as the school's head baseball coach for 13 seasons (1990-2002). During that time, he had a positive and profound impact on the lives of many (on and off the diamond). Overall, Miller spent 32 seasons as a collegiate head coach, finding success at every stop along the way. Miller finished with an impressive 835 career victories. Miller coached GWU to its most successful season in 2000, leading the Dogs to a school-record 44 victories, an NCAA Southeast Region title and a trip to the NCAA Division II World Series. That season still stands as the hallmark for all Gardner-Webb baseball squads. Miller was also named South Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year and in 2000 and was given the N.C. Baseball Coaches Association Meritorious Service Award. A true captain of sportsmanship and fundamental baseball, Miller was inducted into the South Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame in 2003 and the NAIA National Hall of Fame in 2007.

JOE STEPP was a true slugger during Gardner-Webb's early years as a senior college and proved to be one of the program's most devastating hitters. Under the guidance of Coach Jerry Bryson, Stepp paced what is considered the most feared offensive team in Gardner-Webb baseball history during the 1971 season. Stepp batted .439, scored 25 runs, hit eight home runs, two triples, six doubles and drove in 25 runs – leading the Bulldogs to an impressive 19-5 record. The Bulldogs' hot corner, Stepp finished ranked No. 20 nationally in batting in 1971, but his success did not come by surprise. Stepp batted .369 as a sophomore for Gardner-Webb (1969) and forged a .428 batting average as a junior in 1970.

KEVIN JONES began his career as Gardner-Webb's head athletic trainer in 1984, and remains in that role today, having provided care to thousands of student-athletes during his 24 years associated with the program. Jones has also been the driving force in Gardner-Webb's athletic training program. This nationally accredited program has become one of the most respected in the nation, both academically and clinically thanks to the leadership of Jones.

Athletics

www.gwusports.com

2008 Gallery of Distinguished Graduates

Gardner-Webb University established the Gallery of Distinguished Graduates to recognize and honor alumni who have made outstanding contributions in their fields of service and in the communities in which they serve. Every year, alumni are selected from nominations by their peers and the Gardner-Webb community.

LEWIS F. BALLARD A.A. '55

Dr. Lewis Ballard graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1955 with an Associate of Arts degree and continued his education at North Carolina State University where he earned his bachelor's degree. He obtained both his master's and doctorate at Duke University in Electrical Engineering. After completing his education, Ballard worked as a Research Engineer at the Research Triangle Institute. Between 1973 and 1990, he was the Chairman and CEO of the Nutech Corporation. From there he became Chairman at the Research Triangle Laboratories, Inc., as well as Chairman of the Environmental Supply Company, Inc. Ballard also served as Board member to the North Carolina State University Foundation for eight years. Ballard and his wife attend Parkwood Baptist Church in Durham, N.C. where he serves as a Deacon and Trustee.

MARTHA STEAGALL BERGEN B.A. '76

Dr. Martha Steagall Bergen graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in Religious Education. Upon completion, she went on to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where she earned a master's in Divinity, masters in Religious Education, as well as her doctorate. While working on her master's, she was employed as an Editorial Assistant for the Southwestern Journal of Theology. Thereafter, she became a Professor of Christian Education at Hannibal-LaGrange College. Bergen has served as President for the Missouri Baptist Religious Education Association and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Alumni Association, Missouri Chapter. She is currently a member of the In-Service Guidance Association in addition to the North American Professors of Christian Education, and the Baptist Association of Christian Educators. She has been honored with several awards including the Outstanding Young Women of America honor in 1979 and 1983, as well as Who's Who of the Midwest, American Women, American Education, America's Teachers.

ERIC J. BREWTON B.S. '89

Eric Brewton graduated from Gardner-Webb University in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He is currently the Director of Network Services at Gardner-Webb. Previously, he served as Software Engineer at QS/1 Data Systems. Brewton has dedicated his time to the Greater Cleveland County Soccer Association, the Cleveland County Wise Guy Program, and to fundraising efforts for the Boiling Springs, YMCA. He has been a member of the WNBA officiating staff for several years as well as ten basketball conferences for NCAA Women's Basketball. Among his achievements, Brewton was inducted into the Gardner-Webb University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 in addition to being Women's Basketball Official of the Year in 2004 and the Women's Final Four Official in 2006 and 2007. Also in 2007, he was a WNBA All-Star Official. He and his wife, Browning, are members of Green Bethel Baptist Church where he serves as Deacon, Laymen League President, Trustee Board member, and Sunday School teacher for young adults.

RAY CRAWFORD A.A. '55

Ray Crawford earned his Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts at Gardner-Webb in 1955. He then furthered his education at Appalachian State University by earning a bachelor's in Education, and his master's in Education Administration. Crawford served in the United States Army Reserve until 1987. During that time he worked as an English teacher at Pleasant Gardner High School in Marion, NC and principal for Rutherford County Schools. From 1987 to 1999 he was the Vice President of Community Bank and Trust. Crawford has dedicated his time to many organizations including Lions Club (President), Jaycees (Vice President), Ruritan Club (Secretary), and Chair of the Rutherford County Democratic Party. Crawford was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from the United States Army and was the Principal of the year for Rutherford County. He is on the Board of Directors for the Biblical Recorder.

MICHAEL ALLEN DAVIS B.A. '87

Michael Davis graduated in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in Religion and went on to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned his Master of Divinity in 1990. Since that time he has worked at Lucia Baptist Church in Stanley, N.C. Davis has given his time to serve as Chair on the Greater Gaston Baptist Association and the New Hampshire Church Planting Partnership from 2000-2005. He was a Bible Study leader for the Motor Racing Outreach –Penske racing. He has also participated in several mission trips including the International Sports Federation- Madagascar trip in 1993 and the IMB Pastor's Discovery Trip to Central Asia in 2003. He was a trustee for the Tom Cox World Ministries where he traveled to India and East Asia. He and his wife Bari are members of Lucia Baptist Church. He began there as a church planter in 1990 with only 23 members and is now the Senior Pastor with approximately 1000 members.

LOUISE GLADDEN FISHER A.A. '55

Louise Gladden Fisher earned her bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University in 1957. She taught for the North Carolina School for the Deaf, and served as a Speech and Language Specialist for Wake County Schools (N.C.) until retirement. Fisher volunteered her time as a writer and speaker to advocate for persons with mental illness. She was dedicated to fundraising efforts for the Foundation of Hope for 16 years, and served on the Governor's Advocacy Council for persons with Disabilities and the Advisory Board Spectrum House Day Program. She was on the Dix Hospital Patients' Rights Committee and on the Volunteer Guild Board. Fisher has been recognized throughout North Carolina for her commitment to mental health services. Fisher has received several awards for community service.

HENRY GEORGE GILMORE III M.A. '04

Henry Gilmore graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a bachelor's degree in Communication. He continued his education at Gardner-Webb University where he obtained a master's in Education Administration. He then went on to earn a Certificate in the Principals Executive Leadership Program from UNC-Chapel Hill. Gilmore worked as an Audio Engineer for WBTV before he became a teacher for the Cleveland County School System (N.C.). Later, he became Assistant Principal for Kings Mountain High School and Kings Mountain Intermediate School. He currently serves as Principal at Kings Mountain Intermediate School. Gilmore has dedicated his time to both Project Teach and Close The Gap Core Group. He was awarded Teacher of the Year during the 1998-1999 school year. Gilmore and his wife, Wanda, are members of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church where Mr. Gilmore is both a Deacon and the Choir Director.

JOE F. HAYES, JR. '73

Rev. Joe Hayes graduated from Gardner-Webb University in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with his Master of Divinity in 1984. Hayes is currently the Director for Development at North Greenville University. He has served as Pastor to First Baptist Church Brevard, N.C. and Liberty, S.C., and as Associate Pastor to First Baptist Church Florence, S.C. Before graduating with his Master of Divinity, Hayes was the Executive Vice President of Hayes Food Products, Inc. in Greenville, S.C. Hayes has devoted his time to several ministries including the Bill Glass Champions for Christ Prison Ministry. He served as SME Chairman for the Boy Scouts of America in Liberty, S.C., Second Vice President of the Greenville, S.C. Lions Club, Trustee of Charleston Southern University in Charleston, S.C., and member of the Executive Committee for the Blue Ridge Council for the Boy Scouts of America.

F. CRAIG MEADOWS B.S. '83

Craig Meadows graduated from Gardner-Webb University in 1983 with his bachelor's degree in Accounting. He has continued to study at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Weldon Cooper Center at the University of Virginia. He was the Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance for the City of Mount Airy, N.C. and went on to become the Director of Finance and Administration for the City of Monroe, N.C, the Assistant City Manager for the City of Monroe, and the City Manager for Bedford, VA. Since 2005, he has served as City Manager of the City of Monroe. Meadows serves on the Board of Directors for the Union County United Way. He is an Advisory Board Member for the local Government Federal Credit Union, on the Union County Community Arts Council, and on the Civic Education committee and is a member of Monroe Kiwanis Club. Meadows is an ordained deacon at Lee Park Baptist Church.

We have great things in mind.

PAMELA PRICE MITCHEM B.S. '94

Pamela Mitchem graduated from Gardner-Webb University in 1994 with her bachelor's degree. She then went on to Appalachian State University where she earned her master's in Appalachian Studies in 1999 and then her Ed.S. in Leadership and Higher Education in 2006. Mitchem has worked for Gardner-Webb as an adjunct instructor for Environmental Science and has taught at Wilkes Community College, and is currently an archivist and assistant professor at Appalachian State University. Mitchem is a Gardner-Webb University Alumni Board Member, an On-Site coordinator for Western N.C., Together We Read Program, and a member of the Needs Assessment Consultation for Gardner-Webb University's Archival Collection. She has been a member of numerous organizations including Society of North Carolina Archivists, Society of American Baseball Research, the North Carolina Adult Education Association, and the Appalachian Studies Association. She and her husband, Gary, are members of Ashe County Society of Friends.

OLIVER G. MOREHEAD A.A. '51

Oliver Morehead graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1951 with an Associate of Arts degree following his service in the U.S. Navy/U.S. Marine Corps. He continued his education at Shorter College in 1965 and the University of Tennessee in 1967 where he studied Psychology. He worked for Bigelow-Sanford, Inc. in Summerville, Ga. until 1987. Following that, he went to work for Bryant and Garrett Travel Agency in Trion, Ga. Morehead has served on the Summerville City Council, and during that time he also functioned as Mayor-Pro Tempore. He was Chairman of the Summerville Parks and Recreation Board, a Public Address Announcer for Chattooga High School Football games, and a radio announcer for the Trion High School football games. He is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps League, Rome, Ga., where he is currently the Judge Advocate. Morehead has received several awards including the Biglow-Sanford Citizenship Award, and a Purple Heart (2nd Award) for wounds received in combat while serving in Korea. Morehead and his wife Peggy, are members of Horizon Baptist Church in Summerville, Ga.

ZEB V. MOSS A.A. '50

Dr. Zeb Moss graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1950 with an Associate of Arts degree. He then went on to further his education at Wake Forest University where he earned his bachelor's degree and also at Southeastern Seminary where he later obtained his Doctorate. Moss has served with the International Mission Board where he has held a variety of positions including church planter, media consultant (Africa), Associate Area Director for Eastern/Southern Africa, and Executive Director of Public Affairs (Presidents Office, IMB). Since retiring in 1997, he has been the interim pastor at several Baptist churches and volunteered with the International Service Corp (Republic of Congo). Moss was an Alumnus of the Year in 1963 and a Gardner-Webb Trustee. Moss professes about his Gardner-Webb experience, "Gardner-Webb gave me the spiritual foundation and intellectual challenge for a lifetime of pastoral ministry and missionary service."

FRANCES TURNER SOUTHERN A.A. '67

Frances Southern graduated from Gardner-Webb with her Associate of Arts degree in 1967. She then went on to further her education at UNC-Greensboro where she earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting. She has worked for the Drafting Department as part of M.L. Eakes, Inc. and Spray Plating System, Inc. in addition to serving as an Office Manager for Modern Trend of Greensboro, Inc. After graduating with her bachelor's degree she served as a CPA for Williams Overman Pierce & Co. She is currently a CPA and Partner for Shahbaz, Southern & Co. P.A. Southern has given her time for a number of years to the Masonic & Eastern Star Home. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Masonic Home and as a Chairman for many state projects as well as many local chapter offices. She is a member of NCACPA/AICPA, the Eastern Star, and the Greensboro Power Squadron. She and her husband Wayne, are members of Westover Church in Greensboro, N.C.

DONALD E. STROUP B.S. '77

Donald E. Stroup graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He later earned a Banking Certificate from the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. In 1978, Stroup started working at South Carolina National Bank (became Wachovia in 1991). He has served as Board Member and Chairman for the Anderson, South Carolina Family Counseling Center and as President for the Rotary Club in Anderson, S.C. He has also served as a Fundraising Director for the United Way of Anderson County-Banking and Large Corporate Division as well as volunteered for the Habitat for Humanity and the Arts and Science Council in Charlotte. Stroup is a lifetime member of the Risk Management Associates and a Paul Harris Fellow for the Rotary Club. He and his wife Judy are members of Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

J. LEE TAYLOR, JR. B.S. '77

J. Lee Taylor graduated from Gardner-Webb with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1977, and continued his education by earning an advanced degree from the North Carolina School of Banking. After graduating from Gardner-Webb, Taylor worked for First Citizens Bank from 1977 to 1987. From there, he became the Assistant Vice President for BB&T and is currently the Senior Vice President. Taylor is a member of the North Carolina Board of General Contractors, a Board Member of the Gaston County Homebuilders and the Gaston County American Red Cross, as well as a member of the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce. He currently serves as President of the Gaston Aquatic Center, Inc. and is the former President of the Gaston Gator Swim Club. He and his wife Marie, are members of First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, N.C. where he has served as Deacon, Elder, Chair, and a youth sports coach.

DOREEN PAYNE WACASTER B.A. '88

Doreen Payne Wacaster graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sacred Music, vocal concentration. She has since taken classes at UNC-Asheville and Cleveland Community College as well as continuing education classes and workshops. She has functioned as a Voice Coach teacher and YMCA camp leader in addition to being employed by Little's Fitness in Asheville. She served at Fallston Baptist Church as Minister of Music and currently serves as Minister of Music to Flint Hill Baptist Church (N.C.). Wacaster has taken on leadership roles in various local and regional mission efforts and retreats as a speaker and musician including Emmanuel Emmaus. On a global scale, she was also invited to lead the Western Province Baptist Women's Conference in South Africa. She is the music director for the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association and dedicated contributor to Samaritan's Purse-Operation Christmas Child. She is also a member of the Shelby Women's Club, Ministerial Board of Associates, Cleveland County Choral Society, and American Choral Directors Association.

DAVID R. WALKER M.A. '94, ED.D.'06

Dr. David Walker graduated from Appalachian State University with his bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Secondary Education in 1990. He then came to Gardner-Webb to further his education where he earned his Master of Arts in School Administration, and then his doctorate in Educational Leadership. Walker worked at Burns High School as a Mathematics teacher from 1990-1994 and a Driver Education Teacher from 1994-2002. He is currently the Assistant Principal at Burns High School as well as an Adjunct Professor at Gardner-Webb. Walker has committed his service and time to the Oasis Shrine Temple, Noble, Piedmont Shrine Club, and Casar Masonic Lodge #579. He is a member of the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Education Association, North Carolina Association of Educators, North Carolina Association of School Administrators, North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals Association, the Cleveland County Chapter of the North Carolina Beekeepers Association, and the North Carolina Beekeepers Association. In 2006, Walker was selected for the Who's Who Among American Teachers. He and his wife Tonya are members of Casar Baptist Church (N.C.).

JOHN H. WALKER A.A. '48

John Walker graduated in 1948 with an Associate of Arts degree from Gardner-Webb. He then went on to North Texas University to earn a bachelor's degree in Music, and then to Cal State Long Beach to do his graduate studies. Walker has served as a part time Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Norwalk, Calif., and at First Baptist Church in Long Beach, Calif. He taught high school music classes in Anaheim, Calif. as well. He has also served as a Minister of Music to First Baptist Church, El Paso, Texas, First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., and First Baptist Church, Spindale, N.C. Currently, Walker is a mentor and a board member for the McNair Foundation, as well as a member of Rutherford County Symphony and Forest City Kiwanis Club. He has played string bass with the Rutherford Symphony and the Blue Grass group in addition to a Community Concert Series for several years. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Spindale, N.C., where he is the Minister of Music and teaches piano to children and youth.

SIDNEY BLAKE WILKEY B.A. '85

Sidney Wilkey graduated from Gardner-Webb University in 1985 with a degree in Business Management. He has worked for Gary Ritichie, CPA as a staff accountant. He is the owner of Sidney B. Wilkey, Accountant, and is a shift supervisor for the Cleveland County 911 Telecommunicator. He has given his time to several organizations including the American Red Cross-Disaster Services-Communications, the Shanghai Volunteer Fire Department where he served as a treasurer for five years, and the Cleveland County Fireman's Association where he served as treasurer for eighteen years. Wilkey currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Kings Mountain and Boiling Springs Rescue Squads; he is chaplain for Shanghai Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the APCO (Association of Public Safety Communication Officials). He has received several awards including the Huggins Citizenship Award from Gardner-Webb College, Matthews-Blanton Disaster Award, and the Governors Award for Volunteer service from the American Red Cross. Wilkey also had the privilege of carrying the Olympic torch for the 1996 Olympics. He and his wife, Tana, are members of Westwood Heights Baptist Church.

2008 Gallery of Distinguished Graduates

GWU ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
RONALD W. HAWKINS '55

Ronald Hawkins is a 1955 Gardner-Webb alumnus, who was drafted into the U.S. Army. During his time in training, he had additional studies at University of Georgia, Augusta. Following his discharge and then training with First Federal Savings and Loan of Miami, he began working for First Federal Saving Bank of Gastonia. Shortly thereafter, J.L. Suttle, President of Cleveland Savings of Shelby, N.C.,invited Hawkins to assume a Vice Presidency. From there, he accepted leadership of Home Federal Savings Bank of Statesville, N.C. Hawkins has an extensive and esteemed history of commitment to the banking industry including his service as former president and board chairman to Home Federal Savings Bank of Statesville, N.C., past president of the North Carolina Community Bankers Association, and past director of the United States Savings and Loan League. Highlighting his dedication to the community, Hawkins was a past president of the Statesville Chamber of Commerce and Statesville Rotary Club, and served the Piedmont Council - Boy Scouts of America on the executive board for more than 25 years. He has been a past chairman/co-chairman of many charitable fund drives and is also a former trustee to GWU and former deacon to First Baptist Church of Statesville. Hawkins has been recognized with many honors for community service. He and his wife Martha, attend First Baptist Church Statesville.

JUNIOR COLLEGE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
J. SCOTT PADGETT A.A. '67

J. Scott Padgett graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1967 with an Associate of Arts degree. He then continued his education at Appalachian State University where he earned his bachelor's degree, and UNC-Charlotte where he received his master's in Education PSA with the Principal's Certificate. At UNC-Chapel Hill, he obtained an advanced degree in School Administration. Padgett has taught sixth grade for Gaston County Schools (N.C.) and fifth grade for Cabarrus County Schools (N.C.). He has served as Assistant Principal at Coltrans Wobb Elementary School and then as Principal at both Long Exceptional School and Beverly Hills Elementary School. He was on the Concord City Council until 2001, and is currently the Mayor of Concord, N.C. Padgett is a Hospice volunteer, Vice Chairman of Cabarrus Workshop, Honorary Chair for Relay for Life, chairman of the United Negro Fund as well as a member of the Stonewall Jackson Advisory Board, and the Capital Campaign Committee for Barber-Scotia College. He participates on the Board of Visitors for Barber-Scotia College, Board of Directors for the Concord Rotary Club in addition to the North Carolina Metropolitan Coalition of Cities, and on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina League of Municipalities. He and his wife, Teresa, are members of All Saints Episcopal Church. Padgett states that, "Gardner-Webb and the caring professors made a tremendous difference in my life. They thought I could be successful and I believed them."

YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
NELSON SEARCY B.A., B.S. '94

Nelson Searcy graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1994 with both a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He continued his education at Duke University where he earned a master's in Divinity. Searcy has had supplemental studies at North Carolina State University, Southeastern Theological Seminary, Southern Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, and the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity. He has worked with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and has served as Director of The Purpose Driven Community at Saddleback Church. In 2002, Searcy founded The Journey Church of the City in New York City where he currently serves as Lead Pastor. He is a celebrated author with special focus in the areas of leadership, evangelism, church planting and church growth. Searcy testifies of his time at Gardner-Webb, "My experience at Gardner-Webb University was the foundation I needed for a career in ministry and life. I am deeply appreciative of the staff, administration and professors at GWU!"

You Can Go Home Again

Junior College Alumnae Returns to the Webb For Second Helping... and Second Degree

On a hot, sunny day with suffocating humidity and barking dogs not far off, the laughter of Novella and Jackie McClung made the stone steps behind Lindsey Hall surprisingly cozy. With support, encouragement, and generosity from her husband, the professors of the Religion department, fellow students, the Noel program, and the GOAL program, Novella completed her bachelor's degree in August 2007. Naturally, she was excited for having achieved what she had wanted to do since the late 1960's. Back then she and Jackie were here as students of the Gardner-Webb Junior College.

Things were just a little different back then. A full load of courses wasn't going to cost more than $500.00 for the semester and room and board was reasonable as well (by today's standards). Since Novella and Jackie came to Gardner-Webb together after having been married for six years, they had to live off campus and pay a whopping $35.00 a month for an apartment. Both laughed when recalling how they weren't allowed to join the Baptist Student Union. Apparently, there was threat of the married couple inspiring other students to follow their lead.

Novella also remembers the school being smaller, and that the students and professors had family-like bonds; everyone knew everybody and everyone took care of each other. If it was known that a student needed money, a professor might have that student over to do some gardening.

Novella earned her associate in arts degree in the final year of Gardner-Webb Junior College in 1970 and stayed in the area until Jackie finished his bachelor's degree in 1971 in the first senior college class at Gardner-Webb. They then went on to Southern Seminary where Jackie received his master's degree in Religious Education.

Novella and Jackie felt the call to begin work as missionaries. After being appointed by the North American Mission Board, they worked in places like Arizona, Utah and Georgia - starting churches, organizing mission trips, directing social ministry centers and performing hands-on ministry. They also taught language and life skill classes. Jackie taught an English class to Chinese students, and Novella taught conversational English to Hispanics. The two would also teach together. Their accomplishments are evidence of a life of service, whereby they are always asking wherever they go, "What is there for me to do here?" The two worked together for over 30 years until given the "strong suggestion" of retirement. That's when Novella knew it was time to complete her bachelor's degree.

When Novella came back for classes at Gardner-Webb in the fall of 2006 and Jackie came to teach as a psychology adjunct, both were surprised to find Tony Eastman and Barry Hambright still teasing students (and amazed to discover that the two professors clearly remembered the young couple from their Junior College days). So maybe things hadn't changed all that much after all.

Just as she knew when she first came to the Junior College, Novella knew that Gardner-Webb was where she wanted to get her degree. It had nothing to do with preparing herself for the future, it was "just a personal goal that was put on hold, something to accomplish" later.

In spite of several serious medical problems that should have kept her from attending class and completing her degree, she was determined. The care and help from professors, administration and students was a big relief, not to mention the enduring support of her husband. With him by her side, she happily took the stage to receive her diploma last August. When asked how she maintained her dedication to her goal, Novella replied, "If you know you're doing what God wants you to do, you go on."

The McClung's discovered the second time around that Gardner-Webb is still a place of faith, service and leadership and that the motto of "For God and Humanity" is still alive and well.

-R.J. Dowden

Living for the Green

James Padgett's Love For Nature Leads to Historical Discovery

His life is that of an adventurer, an explorer and a protector of natural resources. Gardner-Webb alumnus, and botanist, James Padgett ('99) experiences the beauty and magic of nature face to face each day. This is not some weekend roadtrip or passing fad for Padgett, it is a lifelong journey.

A native and resident of Rutherford County, N.C., Padgett remembers taking walks as a young child in the woods and seeking out unusual and unique plant life. "Early on, I was influenced by my grandmother but really got interested in plants and decided what I wanted to be while attending Isothermal Community College (mid 90's in Rutherfordton, NC)," said Padgett.

Padgett has worked with the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) since 2004. Botanists like Padgett log thousands of miles every year and travel across the country collecting data and discovering ways to connect land patterns while examining how natural environment is affected by various influences. Their assignments out in the field are generally conducted the old-fashioned way, which could mean crawling on hands and knees through thick brush and briers or wading waist-deep through water. "My job involves lots of hiking. Most of the time, I review an aerial map of a location followed by getting out in the field. I make notes as I look for rare and unique plants and animals. We (NCNHP) are always looking for the best natural places in the state," said Padgett.

Padgett played a major role in an extraordinary discovery in 2003 at the Broad River Greenway, located just three miles from the Gardner-Webb campus outside Boiling Springs, N.C. It was at this 500-acre riverside park that Padgett, with assistance from North Carolina's Department of Transportation, discovered a threatened plant life - the Hexastylis Naniflora or more commonly known as the dwarfflower heartleaf. "It's an herb that grows low to the ground and generally grows north facing slopes and stream heads. It mainly grows mid-March to early June and its colors range from beige to dark brown. For maximum flowering and seed production it needs sunlight," said Padgett.

The discovery of this threatened plant species was a significant find. Hexastylis Naniflora is known only to grow in certain areas of the Carolinas. And now because of this find, the preservation and protection of the plant and the land around it will be enjoyed for generations to come. Besides plants and animals, Padgett and his colleagues research insects, the overall forest, rocks and other uncommon geological features. Padgett says if we are not careful, we can take precious and valuable natural resources and wildlife for granted and suggests a simple idea. "The average person doesn't always get off the beaten path and explore what's out there. Protect it, conserve it or risk losing it."

Padgett hopes today's high school seniors and early college students will consider getting into science fields such as botany. He said, "I still remember sitting in botany class at Gardner-Webb, looking at and studying plants. I have fond memories of professors like Dr. Tom Jones, Dr. Sherman Parrish and Dr. Barbara Burkett."

Padgett believes with a good educational background and experience through internships with private and public agencies, doors can be opened for future botanists. Just be ready to roll up your sleeves, put on your hiking boots and prepare to explore the unpaved trails. From there, who knows what one might discover.

- Paul Foster

The Alumni Connection

Gardner-Webb Welcomes Jeremy Fern as New Director of Alumni Relations

You may not believe it, but I have been a part of Gardner-Webb for 24 years. Since the age of six, I have progressed from crossing the street as a kindergartener at Boiling Springs Elementary School (currently the Communications Studies Hall) to the main campus, to attending home basketball and football games as a teenager, to trekking from Lutz Residence Hall to early eight o'clock classes as a college student, and now traveling into many states to visit alumni as the Director of Alumni Relations. I have seen many seasons change and experienced many transitions at the Webb and am proud to serve such a fine institution of higher learning. Personally, the most consistent part of the Webb throughout its history has been the Christian foundation it was founded upon and the guidance and grace of our Lord.

Many alumni that I have had the opportunity of visiting make comments about the tremendous growth in enrollment, programs, and athletics that Gardner-Webb has experienced since they were a student. Others speak of the fine graduates that have gone on to serve in the business world, mission field, the education system, or the medical field. We truly have a fine alumni family; one that is focused on serving God and humanity.

Our vision for the future of alumni relations is to see a reconnection happen where students, (our future alumni), feel supported and cared for during their education at Gardner-Webb, and graduates, (our current alumni), continue their commitment to their alma mater. How do we accomplish this challenging task, you might ask? We want to communicate to our future and current alumni the benefits and resources Gardner-Webb can provide for them. Resources are available such as job searching, career planning, and reunion and networking events just to name a few.

The future of our university is not only in the hands of our future alumni but is in the support and involvement of our current alumni. We want to provide opportunities for alumni to involve themselves in regional events, volunteer efforts, service projects, and other areas of leadership. We also desire for our alumni to find ways they can support Gardner-Webb financially. It's not the size of the gift that matters; it's the sacrifice behind the gift. You may ask yourself, "What can I give to or how much should I give?" Our Development team's desire is to help you find the right area of interest for your gift of support; one that will both fulfill you and provide great opportunities for future students.

I am proud to serve this university, its president, and its alumni. We truly have great things in mind for God and for the world.

In Christ,

Jeremy Fern '99
Director of Alumni Relations

UNDERGRADUATE AND GOAL PROGRAM ALUMNI

Class Notes

REV. HOYT M. ROBERTS '54 A.A.
was asked to deliver the homecoming message at East Belmont Baptist Church's 95th Homecoming Service. He was saved at East Belmont Baptist in 1940, during a revival led by Rev. J.C. Canipe. He was also ordained into the ministry there in 1956. He has served as pastor at Cherokee Hills Baptist Church in Morristown, Tenn. from 1958-1963. In December of 1962, he received an appointment by the Foreign Mission Board, SBC to serve in Honduras, Central America. After serving there for 30 years as a missionary, he retired in December of 1992.

BETTY STOTT SNIPES '61 A.A.
mourns the death of her husband, Don Snipes, on December 7, 2006. He was a retired CPA and succumbed to Alzheimer's disease. Betty retired in June 2006 following 23 years with the Marion Board of Education as an administrative assistant. Since her husband's death, she has returned to work on a part time basis with a regional educational service agency in her hometown of Ellaville, GA and remains active in Ellaville Baptist Church where she serves as organist and is involved in several different ministries of the church.

ROBERT J. BURTON '66 A.A.
recently retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Ct. on January 3, 2007. Bob was the Vocational Rehab and Employment Officer.

MICHAEL DAVID VALENTINE '71 B.A. AND TAMARA LANE VALENTINE'71 B.S.
Michael is now serving as assistant jail administrator at the Iredell County Sheriff's Department. He has been working there for five years since retiring from the NC Highway Patrol in 2000. Tamara retired in July 2007 from the Iredell County School System. She has been teaching in the North Carolina School Systems for 31 years. Michael and Tamara now live in Statesville, NC. They have one daughter, Carissa, who lives in Wake Forest, NC and works as an insurance manager in Durham with Nationwide Insurance. They have one grandson, Jason. Mvalentine144@bellsouth.net.

JERRY L. SIMPSON '71 B.A.
has joined Randolph Community College as Vice President for Student Services. Jerry previously worked for Randolph Community College from 1985-1990 as Evening Director. Since then, he has held numerous leadership positions, including Director of Counseling Services at Guilford Technical Community College, Director of Counseling and Career Services at Gaston College and Director of Counseling and Career Development at Rockingham Community College.

JANET COSTNER ELLIOTT '72 B.S.
announces the birth of granddaughter Rachel Katherine Reese Elliott. She was born on June 22, 2007, weighing 7lb 14 oz.

PHIL HOPKINS '72 B.S.
was the head coach at Western Carolina University when the Catamounts almost became the first 16th seed to defeat a No.1 seed in the tournament, and he became an icon of sorts overnight. Hopkins is now coaching the Walhalla Middle Schools' boys' and girls' basketball teams in a gymnasium with six rows of bleachers. His days of half-knotted ties and suits rumpled while pacing the hardwoods are over. He now wears shorts and sneakers to work. Hopkins isn't the first member to leave the national sports stage and find solace in the mountains of South Carolina.

STEVE PADGETT '72 B.S.
retired from Bridgestone Firestone after 12 years of service in the Tire Cord Division. He is now devoting the rest of his time to Gateway Properties, his real estate agency in Kings Mountain.

FRANK PAGE '73 B.S.
was re-elected on June 12, 2007, to a traditional second one-year term as Southern Baptist Convention president.

KATE WELCH MARTIN '74 B.S.
is the Norman Celiac Support Group leader in Norman, OK. She recently began a consulting business to help celiac patients adjust to their new lifestyle changes. She is also a home school mom to five children. One graduated and received a National Merit Scholarship attending The University of Oklahoma. One will graduate next year with 10th, 8th, and 6th grader to go. One4life@gmail.com

JERRY WHITE '74 B.A.
was voted in as senior pastor by Millers Creek Baptist Church. He has been preaching since he was 13. He began the pastorate just before his 21st birthday. As a teenager he preached in over 100 schools, churches, and camps. White was the pastor at Riverside Baptist Church in Greer, SC for nine years before coming to Millers Creek.

REV. BARRY CHAMBERS '75
will be the featured guest preacher at the 9th anniversary for the annual interdenominational senior adult revival known as "Senior Appreciation Days." Chambers has served as pastor at churches in North Carolina and Virginia, and just recently, Mt. Harmony Baptist church in Virginia.

MARY WILSON '75
was named teacher of the year for Star-Biscoe Elementary School for 2006-2007. Her reward is seeing the excitement in her students and watching them learn. Wilson spent her first 13 years teaching exceptional children.

ALTHEA LORRAINE ABERNETHY '76 B.A., '02 M.A.
and Partell Wright were untied in marriage on December 16, 2006, in Gastonia, NC. She is employed by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District as a teacher and he is a small business analyst for Bank of America. aabern3509@yahoo.com.

ROBERT "TIM" GREGORY '76
has been appointed Vice President of Sales at Minsurg of Cleveland, Fla. Tim was previously a VP with EBI/Bioment for orthopedic trauma. TGREGORY@minsurg.com

BOB INGRAM '76 B.S.
has coached football for 33 years. He coached Lugoff-Elgin High in the North and South Carolina All-Star game at Myrtle Beach, SC last year. He has two sons, Alex and Matthew. Sbullet08@hotmail.com.

CLYDE "BUBBA" SOUTHERN JR. '76 AND KATHLEEN SOUTHERN '76
retired after 30 years with the state of N.C. Probation Parole Office. Eleven of the 30 years were spent with the Winston-Salem Police Department. His wife, Kathleen '76, also retired after 30 years as a chemist for the city of Winston-Salem. kmsouthern@yadtel.net.

TOM SMITH '76 B.S.
retired from Alleghany County Schools after 31 years of service. He came to Sparta Elementary School as a physical education teacher after college in 1976. He stayed there eight years, and coached seventh and eighth grade baseball the entire time. He coached junior high teams and moved on to coach the junior varsity squad at Alleghany High School for five years. During his last year at Sparta, he took the head varsity football coaching job at the high school, which he remained in for 19 years. He also coached junior varsity girls' basketball and men's tennis after coming to AHS in 1984 and took the athletic director's job in 1986. He coached football until the end of the 2001 season, and remained as the athletic director until retiring this year.

DEBORAH M. RAMSEY '78 B.A.
has been promoted to Supervisor of Mental Health Community Support in Hendersonville, NC. sadiebit@yahoo.com.

KAREN CALTON BRISENDINE '79 B.S.
has earned a Master of Education degree through the Charter School of Education and Human Sciences at Berry College. Her area of focus was early childhood education. She is a resident of Calhoun, GA where she teaches first grade at Red Bud Elementary School.

MARY K LITTLE '80 B.A.
has been appointed the Director of Member Services for the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools. She and her husband, Gray, have two children Jay, a 1st Lt. in the U.S. Air Force and Ben, a junior at the University of New Hampshire. mklittle@ncais.org.

GARY BRIDGES '81 B.S.
has joined Coldwell Banker Real Estate as broker-in-charge of the Lake Lure office. Prior to going to Lake Lure, Bridges served as broker associate in the Spindale office and has previously served Coldwell Banker as broker-in-charge from 1997-2002. Bridges became a licensed broker in 1977 and became a full-service Realtor in 1996 after 27 years of banking.

KENT GREER '81
has been promoted by Voyss Solutions to Vice President of sales. Voyss Solutions is a technology sales, marketing and management company that provides unified communication products and services to small and medium businesses through network of affiliate service centers. Greer has more than 24 years of sales management and contract experience.

DONALD LLOYD CARNES '82 B.S.
was promoted to Site Manager for the Marietta EIS Division of Lockheed Martin. He also serves as the Manager for the Service Delivery Team in the Engineering Systems and Development Group. Donnie and his wife live in Acworth, Georgia with their daughters. They just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. dlcarnes@yahoo.com.

DR. ROBERT L. HUNTER JR. '82 B.A.
was named pastor at First Baptist Church of Wadesboro. He comes from Beulah Baptist Church in Beulah where he served as pastor for the past 19 years.

SHARON GODSMARK HENDERSON '83 B.S.
is the communications manager for FYI Television in Grand Prairie, Texas. sharonkhen@hotmail.com.

JOHN MARK ADAMS '84 B.S.
owns and operates My Uncommon Solutions. It is a ministry to people all over the US, where one of its functions is to minister to churches in the fulfillment of a true Revival in America once again. His company website is www.myuncommonsolutions.com. johnmadams@charter.net.

STEVE EDWARD WHISENANT '84 B.S.
was appointed Chief U.S. Probation Officer for the Eastern District of Virginia on May 1, 2006. The Eastern District of Virginia is one of 94 districts in the U.S. stevewhisenant@charter.net.

RACHEL C. ARNDT '85
was named Administrative Officer/Call Center. Joining the bank in 1993, she provides assistance for customers' telephone inquiries and assists in assembling statements for mailing. She has two adult daughters and lives in Shelby with her husband, Ray.

ALYSSA L. HARRIS '85 A.D.N.
has been promoted to Doctoral Candidacy at the William F. Connell School of Nursing at Boston College.

GARY LAFONE '85 B.S.
has been a police officer since 1972. He was recently honored with lifetime membership to the International Association of Chiefs of Police for his 20 years of diligent service to Conover Police Department as its Chief of Police. He received a certificate of recognition for his service, a pin for his uniform and a plaque.

JANET ROACH '85 A.A.
celebrates 25 years at Rutherfordton Hospital, Inc. She first came to RHI as a teen volunteer at the age of 14. She later became a part-time ward clerk. After completing her RN certification and BSN she transferred to the Operating Room Department. Toward the end of 1993 she became part of what was called the 'Great Triumphant' consisting of assistant directors and returned to her RN duties in 1995 when a Director for OR was appointed.

CAMERON BROOKS '86 B.S.
has accepted a position as wide receivers coach of the Byrnes High School (S.C.) football team. Previously, Brooks coached the defensive backs at Gaffney High (S.C.). This is his second stint at Byrnes. He served as an assistant at Byrnes prior to 2003. He was at Gaffney from 2003 to 2007.

DALE WALLACE '86 B.A.
was recently named Foreign Language Department Chair at Alexander Central. He has also been listed in the Who's Who Among America's Teachers for the third consecutive year and in Volume 1 of the National Honor Roll of Outstanding American Teachers. dalespksfrench@embarqmail.com

WILLIAM "BUDDY" CROWDER '88 B.S.
will become the new chief financial officer/business manager at the J. Iverson Riddle Development Center. Crowder has more than 19 years of experience in state government with stops at Broughton Hospital, the State Controller's Office, and NCSD. He came to the Center from Black Mountain Center, where he was the budget officer; he served at J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center in the same capacity until his appointment as CFO/business manager.

BRYAN DRUM '88 B.S.
has recently joined the Carolina Farm Credit team as an Agri-Consumer Loan Officer. Before joining the Carolina Farm Credit team, he worked for BB&T in Rutherfordton and Cleveland counties.

CAROL WATSON MCCARN '88
and Larry Edward Wright were united in marriage on May 2, 2007. She is employed with the Southern Pines Police Department as Captain. He is currently employed as a 911 Telecommunicator at High Point Communications. The couple now resides in Seven Lakes, NC.

MAUREEN GILDEIN '89
is the new principal of Shady Grove Elementary School. She is making the move to Shady Grove after being principal at Cornatzer Elementary. She was an assistant principal at the high school, South Davie Middle and Cooleemee Elementary before becoming principal at Cornatzer.

THURMAN LEACH '89 B.S.
has been named the State's top Teacher of the Year for Physical Education in Wake County. For the past 17 years, he has been giving back to his community in Wake County as a physical education teacher and assistant head football coach.

SUSIE DAVIS GRAY '90 B.S.
is now the Hematology Supervisor in the laboratory at Twin County Regional Hospital. She and her family are relocating to 2840 Delhart Road in Galax, VA. sgray@tcrh.org.

WILLIAM A. MORRIS '90 B.S.
was appointed as Chief of Staff in the Alabama State Guard with the rank of Brigadier General. Billmorris12@comcast.net

WILLIAM "BILLY" AARON WEBB '90 B.S.
and Rhonda Rochelle Groseclose were united in marriage on May 26, 2007 on the Riverfront Lawn of the Jekyll Island Club Hotel on Jekyll Island, Georgia. He is employed with Georgetown County Water and Sewer District in Pawleys Island. She is employed with Palm Shores Development Corp. in Garden City, S.C.

FRANCISCO CARRILLO '91 B.S.
moved to Winston-Salem in June and opened a Financial Services office as an Independent Financial Advisor with ING. Fdcarrillo.yahoo.com.

JOE HOUGH '91 B.S.
is an assistant principal at Reynolds High School in Asheville and is enrolled in online classes through Western Carolina University in hopes of attaining a graduate degree. But these days, when he heads to work, instead of entering the halls of Reynolds High, he joins his fellow National Guard members in helping keep the roads open around Tikrit, Iraq, where he has been stationed since August 2006. But once he's back at the computer, even though he's studying in a war zone, "It's no different than another student sitting at home in Asheville, taking the same class online," Hough said.

T.J. SLAUGHTER '91 B.S.
has joined Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina in Thomasville as foundation and corporate grants coordinator. Before joining BCH, he served as executive director of the Lexington Housing Community Development Corp.

W. TODD SMITH '91 B.A.
graduated from the Expository Preaching Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky with a Doctorate of Ministry. WTSMITH@charter.net.

DIANNE FOLTZ WOOD '92 B.S.
graduated May 26, 2007, from Salem College with a Master of Arts in Teaching in Learning Disabilities. She is employed at Kernersville Middle School in Kernersville, NC as a 6th grade special education resource teacher. diannew@triad.rr.com.

HOYT BYNUM JR. '93 B.S.
recently accepted the position of CEO with the Spartanburg Children Shelter, Inc. in Spartanburg, SC. He previously held the position of Executive Vice President with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Upstate in Spartanburg, SC. Hbynum15@hotmail.com.

BRUCE HARRIS '93 B.S.
and Sharon Armogan were married on June 16, 2007 in Nassau, Bahamas. The couple met in Florida and have been together for over six years. He is self-employed as a Real Estate Appraiser and Real Estate Investor for Bruce A. Harris Appraisers, Inc. She works for his company as a Real Estate Appraiser. bruceharris@bellsouth.net.

CHRISTINA MCDANIEL WRIGHT '93 B.A.
and Jeff Wright announce the birth of their daughter, Hayden Joy Wright, on Feb. 11, 2007. She joins three older brothers, Hunter, Jeremy, and Jared. She was 8lbs. and 2 oz. and 19 inches long.

CLARENCE V. HOWARD '94 B.A.
has been promoted to Major in the U.S. Army Reserves. He recently returned from deployment to Iraq and was assigned to the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq for 2006 and 2007.

ELIZABETH PAIGE JACKSON '94 B.S.
became a State Farm Agent in Conover. She was employed by State Farm from July 1995 to November 2006 working with State Farm in Hickory and Winston-Salem. Elizabeth.jackson.ppuz@statefarm.com.

JENNIFER MINTON SHOWS '94 A.D.N. ,'96 B.S.N.
and Philip Douglas Shows announce the birth of their third child Erin Catherine Shows on July 6, 2006. She joins big sister Bailey Elizabeth and big brother Preston Andrew.

TERESA SHIRLEY CHILDERS '95 A.D.N. has been employed with Summit Place for 4 years as the Director of Resident Care-RN. She was promoted to Executive Director in March 2007, finished AIT school in June 2007, and received her executive director license in July 2007 from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, a division of Facility Services. tchilders@sdbell.com.

BRIAN MICHAEL TEAGUE '95 B.A.
will take over Spartanburg County's Public Works Department. As a project manager, Mike will be responsible for maintaining roads, bridges and drainage systems. In addition to working for Spartanburg County, Teague served as a consultant for Verner & James, Inc. and as a quality assurance inspector for Duke Power.

KAREN WILSON '95 B.S.
has been named by the Department of Correction as in of the State's top Community Corrections officers. Wilson is known for tireless, no-complaints assistance that draws the respect of fellow officers, local law enforcement, judicial officials and other agencies, including Richmond County Domestic Violence Task Force.

DARRELL L. COGGINS '96 B.S.
and Tammy Beavers were united in marriage on January 19, 2007. The couple now resides in Dallas, NC.

KIMBERLY HOUSER JENKINS '96 B.S.
and Horace Todd Jenkins announce the birth of their son, Sean Alexander Jenkins. He was born on April 18, 2007, at 6:01pm weighing 7 lbs. and 8 oz.

MISTIE IVEY OLSON '96 B.S. AND JEREL ANTHONY OLSON '96 B.A.
announce the birth of their third child, Zane Olson, born on March 5, 2007. He has two older brothers Kaeden, 4 and Jered, 6. busmgrsca@juno.com

JASON COREY WEST '96 B.S. AND TRACY LYNN WEST '96 B.S.
announce the birth of their second child, Noah Christian West, born on March 5, 2007.

DENISE ADAMS '97 B.A.
and Junhyung announce the adoption of their daughter Arianna Seo-yeon Lee. She was born Nov. 3, 2006, in South Korea. She also has an older brother, Jadon.

ANDY GARDNER '97 B.S.
is the 2007 Cleveland Community College Foundation Outstanding Staff Member Award winner. He has worked at CCC since 1997.

KEVIN ATCHLEY '98 B.S.
and Ashley Nicole Campbell were married on April 28, 2007 at Cliffside Baptist Church. Both Kevin and Ashley are employed by Milliken and Company in Spartanburg, SC. The couple now resides in Shelby, NC.

TIMOTHY "CAIN" BEARD '98
recently accepted the head wrestling position at Rock Hill High School in Rock Hill, SC. He is also a social studies teacher at the school. He resides in Stanley, NC with his wife, Christina, and his daughters Ariana and McKenna where they attend Sunset Forest Baptist Church. CAINWRESTLE@aol.com.

WILLIAM TRENT DEVINNEY '98 B.S.
has been promoted to the rank of Captain at the Morganton Department of Public Safety. He holds an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and serves as a Watch Commander. tdevinney@ci.morganton.nc.us.

TAHERA COOPER DEVINNEY '98 B.S.
graduated from CVCC in Hickory, NC this past May with a degree in Nursing. nobody@ave07b315.gardner-webb.net

MELISSA WELSCH DURHAM '98 B.A. AND LARRY DURHAM JR. '99 B.S.
celebrate the birth of their second child, Gabriel Landon, on July 14, 2007. He weighted 7lbs. and 2 oz. Big sister, Bethany, is enjoying the new addition to the family. ldurh29720@bellsouth.net

DAVID PETRO '98 B.A.
and Heather Petro announce the birth of their daughter, Makayla Lorato, on March 31, 2007. lionbait@comporium.net

JASON WINN '98 B.S. AND JULIE WINN '99 A.A.
announce the birth of their son Brantley Michael Winn. He was born on February 5, 2007.

LISA ROOP BELCHER '99 B.A.
and her husband, Stephen is pleased to announce the birth of their son, Dante Marshall Belcher on October 19, 2007. Dante weighted 7lbs. and 14 oz. lisabelcher@gmail.com

BRIANNA TAYLOR CLEMMER '99 B.A.
and Brian Keith Clemmer announce the birth of their first child, Seth Ethan Clemmer on January 30, 2007. He was born at 9:40am weighing 8 lbs, 9 oz.

ABBEY MEDCALF COOLER '99 B.A.
is a sixth grade teacher at Cherokee Christian Academy in Woodstock, GA. Amedc@aol.com

NICHOLE MAREE THOMAS '99 B.S.
and Patrick Stevens Hall were married on July 28, 2007, in an outside garden ceremony at Tuscany Gardens, Brown Summitt. She is employed by Guilford County Schools. He is employed by Newell-Rubbermaid. The couple now resides in Oak Ridge, N.C. brianne@tazusa.com.

HANNAH VALDEZ GARST '99 B.S.
and husband, David would like to announce the birth of their son, Ethan Samuel Garst on April 19, 2007.

JILLIAN KATHLEEN ANDERSON '00 B.A.,
Sgt. Ashley Edward Anderson, and their 3 year old daughter, Ayannah Grace, welcome their newest addition, Isabella Marie. She was born on January 26, 2007.

WESLEY BARKLEY '00 B.A.
is finishing his third book. Barkley has published two books of historical fiction. The books are a Trilogy called the Anderson Chronicles. The first, How the Gallant Fell, was published in summer 2005. The second book, Shadows of Honor, appeared on bookshelves in April 2006. The last installment, The Halls of Heaven, should be out by the end of the summer 2008.

APRIL CHRISTINE BUCHANAN '00 A.N.D.
and Wesley Vaden Mayse exchanged wedding vows on May 5, 2007 at Florence Baptist Church. She is employed by the Cleveland Regional Medical Center as a registered nurse. He is employed by Mayse Manufacturing Company. The couple now resides in Forest City, N.C.

JOE BULLIS '00 M.A.
was named the Director of Testing and Accountability for Alexander County Schools. He was named the administrator of the Wilkes Career and Technical Education Center in July 2006. He has eight years experience in school administration having served as an elementary and middle school principal. Dr. Bullis has taught middle school and high school as well as served as a coach for football and wrestling.

AMANDA L. BURNETTE '00 M.A.
will be the principal specialist for J.V. Martin Jr. High School. Since 2004, she has served as principal of John E. Ewing Middle School in the Cherokee County Schools (S.C.). As principal, she implemented a gender-based school- within-a-school for struggling adolescents, increased standardized test scores in all areas over three years and reduced discipline problems by 40 percent with a school wide discipline plan.

LORI BETH HILL '00 B.S.
graduated from Western Carolina University in May with a Masters of Health Sciences with an emphasis in Education. She is now employed as the Assistant Athletic Trainer for female sports at East Tennessee State University. hillb@etsu.edu.

BRAD WESLEY MUNDY '00 B.S.
and Susan Renee Lutz were married on June 2, 2007, at Shuford Gardens. The groom is employed by Vision Trust Insurance as a senior agent and Innovative Packaging Solutions as a sales agent. The bride is employed with Catawba Valley Medical Center as a surgical technologist The couple now resides in Hickory, N.C.

JILLIANNA BROOKE ROBERTS '00 B.A.
and her husband Jason announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, on April 7, 2007. Annie Brooke Roberts weighed 6lbs. 4oz. and was 18 ¾ inches long. jul_c_@hotmail.com.

CHARLES FRANK ROSS '00 B.A.
has recently completed EWS at Quantico Virginia. He left in June for his third tour of duty in Iraq. Nobody@ave07b315.gardner-webb.net

JOCELYN DAWN SUTPHIN '00 B.S.
and Rodney Earl Pettey were united in marriage on June 2 at Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC. She is a paralegal with the law firm of Whitley, Rodgman, & Whitley in Raleigh. He is an attorney with the law firm of Yates, McLamb & Weyher in Raleigh. The couple now resides in North Raleigh, N.C.

TONYA WATERS '00 B.S.
is the recipient of the 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award. This award was established in 1986 by the Western Piedmont Foundation to honor a member of the full-time curriculum faculty and nominated by his or her own peers for dedication to the teaching profession. Waters is an accounting instructor at WPCC who demonstrates a compassionate understanding of the unique challenges facing community college students.

RICKIE T. BRADLEY II '01 B.S.
graduated with an MBA and M. Div. in May 2007 and was also ordained for Christian ministry in May 2007 by Zion Baptist Church in Shelby, NC.

ROGER DECATO '01 B.S.
has been promoted to assistant vice president of Peoples Bank. He began with Peoples Bank in 2003 as a business development officer/assistant vice president. He lives in Hildebran with his wife, Leona, and their adopted baby daughter.

EMILY PLEMMONS ELKINS '01 B.S.
was awarded Teacher of the Year for West Marion Elementary School for the 2006-2007 school year. She also graduated from Appalachian State University with her Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education on May 6, 2007. emken@mcdowell.main.nc.us.

JASON HYLER '01 B.S.
has taken the job as assistant principal of B. Everett Jordan Elementary School. Hyler's prior work experience included four years as a teacher of exceptional children at John M. Morehead High School in Eden. He has been recognized as a North Carolina Principal Fellow, and has also served as a wrestling and soccer coach.

JULIA MORGAN '01 B.S.
is one of 15 instructors from the N.C. Community College System selected to attend Holocaust training in Washington, D.C. this spring. She has worked for over 20 years as an office manager in a local industry until it closed. She taught on a part-time basis in the basic skills program for over a year before entering full-time teaching for Richmond Community College classes at Scotland Correctional Facility. She has taught full-time in the adult high school/GED program for three years.

JACOB MYERS '01 B.A. AND ABBY MYERS '03 M.A.
announce the birth of their first child, Taylor Marie Myers, on January 30, 2007. amyers22@yahoo.com

EMILY DAVIDSON NIXON '01 B.A.
and Michael Nixon announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Katherine Nixon, on May 16, 2007.

AMY REBECCA SISK '01 B.S.
and Eric Daniel Wilkie were united in marriage on June 23, 2007 at Bethel Baptist Church in Ellenboro. She is employed as a computer teacher at East Rutherfordton Middle School. He is employed by the Rutherfordton County Department of Social Services as a human resource employment specialist. The couple now resides in Bostic, N.C.

JAMES MATTHEW TAYLOR '01 B.A.
and Katurah Kathleen "Katie" Caughman were united in marriage on July 21, 2007 at Corinth Reformed Church. He is a project manager at Taylor Made Construction. She is a fifth-grade teacher at Hickory Christian Academy. The couple now resides in Hickory, N.C.

HANNAH WOODY HAWKINS '01 B.A.
and husband, Matthew Bryan Hawkins announces the birth of their son, Phillip Scott, born on July 18, 2007. hulahannah@gmail.com.

CLINT BRIDGES '02 B.S.
and Katherine Boyd were united in marriage on June 23, 2007, at Boling Springs Baptist Church in Boiling Springs, NC. The groom is employed by the Shelby Police Department in Shelby, N.C. The bride is employed by Spartanburg (S.C.) County School District Five as the varsity volleyball coach at James F. Byrnes High School. The couple now resides in Boiling Springs, N.C.

GINA CALLICUTT GRANT '02 B.A.
and Joshua Grant announce the birth of their son, Caleb Isaiah Grant born on March 8, 2007, weighing 6 lbs., 4oz., and measuring 19 ½ inches long.

JADA ANNE HIPP HUSS '02 B.A. AND JONATHAN BRAD HUSS '05 M.B.A.
announce the birth of Hayden Hunter Huss, born on April 27, 2007, at Gaston Memorial Hospital. Hayden weighed 8 lbs. 6oz. and was 22 inches long. They have a family website at www.thehussfamily.com with many pictures and updates. bradhuss@carolina.rr.com.

CHEYENNE DOC LISKE '02 B.A.
and Richard Phillip May were united in marriage on July 14, 2007, at Hamer Creek Baptist Church in Mt. Gilead. She is employed as the bookkeeper for the Kernersville News, in Kernersville. He is employed as a truck driver for Fastenal in High Point. The couple now resides in Walkertown, N.C.

JUDY GALE STRICKLAND '02 B.S.
and Walter Franklin Long IV were united in marriage on August 11, 2007 at Thomas Memorial Baptist Church in Bennettsville. The bride is currently employed with the Richmond County School System. The groom is employed as a custom clothier with Taylor, Richards, Conger of Charlotte, N.C. The couple now resides in Rockingham, NC.

BRIAN HUGH TONEY '02 B.S.
and Amanda Carver Robertson were united in marriage in May 12, 2007 at Green River Plantation The couple now resides in Forest City, N.C.

CHRISTOPHER TATE CAMPBELL '03 B.S.
and wife, Natalie announce the birth of their first child, Sarah Neeley Campbell on November 2, 2006. Tate is a teacher and football coach in Gwinnett County, Georgia. He also received his master's degree in Health Sciences from the University of Alabama in August 2006.

LEWIS G. CHRISTENSEN '03 A.D.N.
went to work at Gaston Memorial Hospital following graduation. He continued his education at WSSU and graduated in 2006 with his BSN. He then joined the Air Force and works as an Emergency Room nurse at a base hospital. He now resides in Las Vegas with his wife and two children, Colin and Aylee.

JEFF CLARK '03 B.S.
graduated with 263 law enforcement officers on March 16th from the FBI National Academy Program at Quantico, Va. He is a 24-year veteran with the Gaston Police Department. His career has included service with patrol, detectives, training, the Street Crimes Unit and the Tactical Team.

MARJORIE LISETTE HALE-GORNELL '03 B.S.
and Gregory Keith Gornell welcome Caleb Keith Gornell born on February 25, 2007 in Panama City, Panama.

KATHERINE LAUREN JOHNSON '03 B.S.
and Steve Ray Englebert were united in marriage on May 12, 2007, at Fifth Creek Presbyterian Church. She is employed by Iredell-Statesville County Schools. He is employed by Wachovia as a planned giving adviser and is a certified trust financial adviser.

APRIL BOLTON LOGAN '03 B.S.
and SSG Anthony D. Logan were united in marriage on May 28. She is currently attending the Medical University of South Carolina where she hopes to receive her MPA in 2008. He is employed by the U.S. Army. April.logan@us.army.mil

AMANDA PIPPIN HOPKINS '03 B.S
graduated from Mercer University's School of Pharmacy in Atlanta, Ga. She earned a Doctor of Pharmacy with certificates and pharmaceutical compounding. Amanda and her husband reside in Knoxville, Tenn., where she is employed as a pharmacist with CVS Pharmacy.

LAURA LEAH PRUITT '03 B.S.
and Michael James Harden were married on July 14, 2007, at Covenant United Methodist Church in Winterville, N.C. The bride is a case worker for Habcare Facilities Inc. in Windsor. The groom is a forester for Timberlands Unlimited in Windsor. The couple now resides in Windsor, N.C.

PHOEBE MCGEE ROMERO '03 B.S.
and her husband Raul announce the birth of their second child, Clara Adelaide Delfina in December 2006. She joins a big brother, Aaron. phoebecmcgee@yahoo.com.

CHRISTINA ANN SNIDER '03 B.S. AND WILLIAM ELI STRAIT '04 B.S.
were untied in marriage on June 16, 2007. The couple now resides in Lexington, Ky.

SHELLEY BROOKE WATSON '03 A.A.
and Michael Wesley Seymour were married May 12, 2007, in downtown Greenville, SC. She is employed as an emergency department registered nurse and he is employed as a paramedic and an EMS Instructor.

ROSANNA WHISNANT '03 M.A.
has been employed with the Alexander County School System since 1993 as a teacher and an instructional coach and will now serve as the Assistant Principal at Hiddenite Elementary School.

MEGAN JEAN CAMPBELL '04 B.S.
graduated from North Georgia College and State University in May 2007 with her master's in Physical Therapy. She is now employed by UAB Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama as an inpatient physical therapist. meganjeancampbell@comcast.net .

MATTHEW SELVES '04 B.S.
who has been a detective with the sheriff's office for nearly seven years, was named chief of the Troutman Police Department. He joined the Coast Guard after high school and his work there sparked his interest in law enforcement.

SAMUEL FLYNT STYERS '04 B.S.
and Emily Carol VanMeter were united in marriage on August 4, 2007, at Circle V Farm, the home of the bride's parents. The couple now resides in Columbus, GA.

Undergraduate and GOAL Program Alumni

JODI LYNN THOMAS '04 B.S.
and Andrew Edward Powell were untied in marriage on July 14, 2007, at the bridegroom's parents' home. She is a second grade teacher at Washington Elementary School. He is employed by South Mountain Farms. The couple now resides in Shelby, N.C.

NICOLETTE THREATT '04 B.S. AND JEREMY SCOTT DAVIS '04 B.A.
were happily married on June 1, 2007, in Belmont, NC. She is employed as a Physicians Assistant and he is in the U.S. Marine Corps. They now reside in Oceanside, Calif. at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

ARDELL WASHINGTON SR. '04 B.S. is the new pastor of St. Michael UMC. Rev. Washington is a native of Bennettsville and is married to Betty J. Washington. They have four children and two grandsons. He is employed at Man2Man Fatherhood Initiative as an Intervention Specialist III. He is a licensed real estate agent for the state of South Carolina. He is also an entrepreneur and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

ROBERT L. WRIGHT '04 A.D.N.
and Misty Wright announce the birth of their son, Tristan Blake Wright, on August 11, 2007. He has an older sister, Keilee R. Wright. Wright4u@carolina.rr.com.

EMILY ELIZABETH CHEEK '05 B.S.N. AND BRIAN MASON TUTHILL '04 B.S.
were married at Mountain View Baptist Church in Hamptonville. She is employed by Iredell Memorial Hospital. He is employed by Shaw Power. The couple now resides in Statesville, N.C.

JENNIFER NELL COOK YORK '05 B.A.
and her husband, Corey Robert Todd York, have just moved into their first home and are looking forward to starting a family. She loves working as a youth minister and hopes to spend many happy years in High Point where she is a Children's and Youth Minister. She is currently getting her M. Div. and looks forward to graduating sometime in the next few years. Jennifercook1983@hotnail.com.

BOBBIE MICHELLE HOLDER '05 B.S.
and Joseph Kyle Robinson were united in marriage on August 4, 2007, at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem. The couple now resides in North Carolina.

BRANDI ANN MCMILLIAN '05
and Robert Burke Edge Jr. were married March 3, 2007, at Pilot Knob Park in Pilot Mountain. The bride holds a degree in Human Services and is a licensed real estate agent. The groom is vice president of a steel building company in Pilot Mountain and is also a member of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club. The couple now resides in Pinnacle, N.C.

REV. MICHAEL S. PARDUE '05 B.A.
was called as Associate Pastor of Walls Baptist Church in Bostic, NC on May 20, 2007. He previously served as Youth Pastor at Westview Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. and as Minister to Youth and Children at Kings Mountain Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, NC. He and his wife reside in Shelby. Michael@michaelpardue.com.

ANGELA MARIE SHORT '05 B.S.
and Jonathan Carr Huitt were untied in marriage on August 4, 2007, at Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, North Carolina. She is employed by Parkwood Baptist Church. He is employed by Gaston Christian School in Belmont, North Carolina. The couple now resides in Gastonia, N.C.

ZACH WARD '05
pitched with the Minnesota Twins' big league club while working working in relief against the Boston Red Sox. Ward, a third-round pick by the Cincinnati Reds in 2005, was traded to the Twins for major league pitcher Kyle Lohse last summer.

KRISTEN JILL BAILEY '06 B.S.
and Christian Douglas Harmon were united in marriage on March 18, 2007. She is a Field Analyst for Canteen and he is a Lineman for Pike Electric. The couple now resides in Rutherfordton, NC.

MATTHEW WILLIAM BARHAM '06 B.S.
and Jennifer Neely Kale were married on June 16, 2007, at St. Stephens Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in Hickory. He is a warehouse manager for K&M Tire. She is a kindergarten teacher for Catawba County Schools. The couple now resides in Hickory, N.C.

CHARLITTA BURRUSS '06 B.S.
is now pursuing a master's in Divinity and MBA Program. She was a candidate for Mayor of Monroe, NC.

ABIGAIL CRAGO '06 B.A. AND AUSTIN MORGAN '05 B.S.
were married in May 2006. They now live in Montana where Austin operates Morgan Outdoor Media. Abbie teaches English part-time at Montana State University-Billings and is working towards her MFA.

KORTNEY ELAINE HOOKS '06 B.S.
Christopher Allen Myers were united in marriage on September 1, 2007, at the Historical Trout Family Schoolhouse. She is an occupational analyst for Before You Hire Inc. He is assistant superintendent at River Run Country Club. The couple now resides in Statesville, N.C.

JESSICA LYNN HOUSER '06 B.A.
and Wes Stewart were married on May 19, 2007, at Beaver Dam Historic Park in Davidson, N.C. She is employed by The Inspiration Networks in Charlotte. He is employed by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The couple now resides in Lancaster, S.C.

KEIGH KERNEY '06
has been promoted to the position of assistant vice president by First Bank. She has been with the bank for almost nine years, beginning her banking career as a proof operator. She was hired by internal audit as office manager in October 2000. In August 2006, she was promoted to compliance auditor.

JENILEE HENSON MOSS '06 A.A.
and Dustin William Gardner exchanged wedding vows on June 9, 2007, at Abbott's Creek Missionary Baptist Church in High Point. She is employed by High Point Regional Health System as a registered nurse. He is currently employed at Purolator Advanced Filtration Group and is also an emergency medical technician.

EMILEE SHAE RAMSEY '06 B.S.
and Russell H. Chester were united in marriage on May 19, 2007, at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. She is an employee benefits specialist for Iredell-Statesville Schools. He is a sergeant with the N.C. Department of Corrections. The couple now resides in Taylorsville, N.C.

CAROLINA (CARRIE) ROGERS '06 B.A.
and Paul Lucas Fleming were united in marriage on July 7, 2007, at Baptist Home Church of North Wilkesboro. She is employed with Lowes Companies in Wilkesboro. He is employed by Kohl's in Wilkesboro as assistant manager. The couple now resides in Wilkesboro, N.C.

LIBERTIE ANNE WALTERS '06 A.A.
and Dennis Andrew McDonald were united in marriage on June 23, 2007, in Roxboro, NC. She is a nurse at Durham Regional Hospital in Durham. He is a youth pastor at Lea Bethel Baptist Church and is employed at Lowes Food, Inc. The couple now resides in Roxboro, N.C.

PRISCILLA D. WATSON '06 B.S.
and Nathan Daniel Mellon were married on May 26, 2007. The couple now resides in in Belwood, N.C.

DANIEL WHITE '06
was recently hired as the fitness director for the Hickory Foundation YMCA. Daniel was recently the wellness director for the Florida First Coast YMCA. He is one of the first graduates to receive his YMCA professional certification through Gardner-Webb University.

ELIZABETH LUGENE BECK '07 B.S.
and Jeffrey Dale Deaton were united in marriage on July 21, 2007, at Crest View Baptist Church. She will be employed for by Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy for the 2007-2008 school year. He is employed by Boiling Springs Heating and Air. The couple now resides in Boiling Springs, N.C.

ALLISON LOUISE BLACKWELL '07 B.A.
and Perry Todd Arant were united in marriage on June 16, 2007, at Saint Paul's Methodist Church in Orangeburg (S.C.). She will be employed in Atlanta, Ga., while Perry attends graduate school at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

JACOB (JAKE) CORY BRYANT '07 B.S.
and Ashley Ann Mears were united in marriage on May 26, 2007, at Salem Baptist Church in Dobson. He is employed by Mac's Lawn Care in Thurmond and also a personal trainer at Pro Health in Mount Airy, N.C.

TEISHA DEANN DIXON '07 B.S.
and Jonathan Chase Barnette were united in marriage on May 19, 2007, at Dover Chapel at Gardner-Webb University. She is currently employed with the Cleveland County School District as a second grade teacher. He is currently serving as a part-time children and youth minister at First Baptist Church in Blacksburg, S.C.

KEVIN DOUGLAS ELLIOTT '07 M.B.A.
and wife, Katherine announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Katherine Reese Elliott. She was born on June 22, 2007, weighing 7lb 14 oz. (See Janet Costner Elliott).

STACEY DEANN FOX '07 B.S.
and Beau Derrick Josey were married on May 26, 2007, at the home of the bride. She is employed by the Iredell-Statesville School District as a teacher. He is employed by Duncan Heating and Air Company as Service Manager. The couple now resides in Statesville, N.C.

WESLEY ALAN GREENE '07 B.S.
and Haley Diane Cannon were married on July 21, 2007, at Putnam Baptist Church. He is a youth minister at Christopher Road Baptist Church. She is a pre-school teacher at Putnam Baptist Church Daycare (Shelby, N.C).

APRIL DANIELLE KEPLEY '07
and James Michael Rakes were united in marriage on July 7, 2007, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in King, N.C. She is employed with the Wake County Schools at Forestville Road Elementary in Knightdale. The couple now resides in Wake Forest, N.C.

DAVID PODGORSKI '07 B.S. AND COLETTE NICOLE DUPREE '07 M.B.A.
were married on May 11, 2007, at Gardner-Webb University. The couple now resides in Tallahassee, Fla. while David is attending FSU to obtain his Ph.D. in Chemistry.

WESLEY JORDAN HUFFMAN RICE'07 B.A. AND BETHANY DARE SOUTHERN '06 B.S.
were married on July 14, 2007, at Enon Baptist church in East Bend. The groom is a graphic designer for Unisyn Marketing in Greensboro, N.C. The bride is an independent-living trainer with Charles Hines&Sons.

LYDIA LOVELL '07
will come from Mt. Airy Schools to be principal at the Montgomery Learning Center, the re-configured alternative school that will start this fall in a new location with a new concept and mission. She is currently assistant principal at Tharrington Elementary School, and has worked in Mt. Airy Schools for over 15 years.

MEGAN RIVIERE RILEY '07 B.S.
and Joshua Steven Allison were married on June 16, 2007. She hopes to be employed by the Cleveland County Schools this fall. He is employed by Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The couple now resides in Shelby, N.C.

PAXTON EUGENE TALLENT '07 B.S. and Amie Elizabeth Cooper were married on May 19, 2007, at Poplar Springs Baptist Church. He is employed by Bridges Gibson Medical Lab. She is a business education teacher for Lincoln County Schools. The couple now resides in Shelby, N.C.

GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI

ALTHEA LORRAINE ABERNETHY '02 M.A. SEE ALTHEA LORRAINE ABERNATHY '76 B.A. LISTING.

THE 80'S

TIM DEARMAN '85 M.B.A.
was elected president of the North Carolina Press Association. He started his newspaper career as a paperboy for R&L. In addition to his work at the newspaper, he has served his community in leadership positions with the United Way of Iredell County, Mitchell Community College, Downtown Statesville Development Corporation, the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce and Fifth Street Shelter Ministries. He also chaired Statesville's successful All-American City campaign in 1997.

SCOTT ABSHER '87, M.A.
who previously spent 12 years as a teacher and coach at North Moore High, will now return to the school as principal. He fills the vacancy left by the death of Principal Mike Tylavsky this spring. He has spent his entire career in Moore County (N.C.) serving as a social studies and physical education teacher at Cameron Elementary, North Moore High, and Union Pines High.

LINDA HICKS '89 M.A.
has been named the 2007-2008 Teacher of the Year from Forbush Elementary School in Yadkin County (N.C.). She was selected because of her outstanding professional profile. Mrs. Hicks is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International, an educational organization. She sings in the choir at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church and teaches the Junior Sunday school class on Sunday mornings, and the Children's Church on Wednesday evenings.

THE 90'S

GENE KLUMP '90 M.A.
will serve as the 2007-2008 campaign chairman announced by the board of directors of the United Way of Davidson County. Klump serves on the board of directors of the United Way of Davidson County and was on the campaign cabinet in charge of the Lexington Division in 2004 and 2006.

DIDI CAMPER LEDBETTER '95 M.B.A.
and Shawn Ledbetter announce the birth of their second daughter, Aidan Rylie on January 3, 2007.

TODD BRASWELL '96 M.DIV.
has been appointed the new pastor of Lower Creek Baptist Church. He has been in the ministry for 13 years, and served as a full-time pastor for the past seven years.

ARTHUR G. DUCKWORTH '97 M.B.A.
served as executive director and co-chairman for the Greater Gaston Celebration with Will Graham (grandson of Billy Graham), an evangelistic crusade that resulted in 473 decisions for Christ in October 2006. He also received his Doctor of Philosophy in Theology from N.C. College of Theology on June 1, 2007.

MARCUS DAVIS RABB '97 M.A.
and Elizabeth Layne Wilkes were united in marriage on June 23, 2007, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Johnson City, Tenn. He is the Assistant Athletics Director for Media Relations at Gardner-Webb University. She is the Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance at Wofford College. The couple lives in Boiling Springs, N.C.

LORI NANNEY '98 M.A.
was chosen as a peer reviewer for the National Association for the Education of young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC is the national accredited body for associate degree programs in Early Childhood. She is employed as an Early Childhood Instructor at Cleveland Community College.

MIKE BAILEY '99 M.A.
has been named the new principal for Pisgah Forest Elementary School (N.C.). He taught in the Asheville City School System, at A.C. Reynolds in Buncombe County, and served as an admissions counselor at Cecil's Junior College before coming to Transylvania County in 1985. Initially, Bailey taught social studies and coached the boy's varsity basketball team at Brevard High School. He later taught driver's education classes and coached varsity baseball, softball, and golf. In October of 1996, he became the assistant principal at Brevard High. He has also served as the school's athletic director.

DONNA HOOD '99 M.B.A.
has been named as the new dean of Continuing Education at Isothermal Community College (N.C.). Hood has been the director of Isothermal's Small Business Center since 1999 and was selected as the interim CE dean upon the retirement of Fred Bayley in June. She has worked at ICC for 11 years, starting as a research assistant for Institution Effectiveness before moving to the Small Business Center position. Hood also served on the board of the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission for two years.

THE 00'S

RONALD FUNDERBURKE '00 M.A.
has been named Kings Mountain's (N.C.) new principal. Funderburke has been assistant principal at Kings Mountain High in the past and is currently serving as the personnel director of Rutherford County Schools. Funderburke has also been announcing for Kings Mountain home football games for more than five years.

KEVIN CAMPBELL '01 M.A.
will move to the role of principal at Newton-Conover High School (N.C.). He came to NCCS in 1994 as an Exceptional Children's teacher and athletic trainer to NCHS. He worked as an EC teacher for five years and as an AT for eight years. In addition, he served as the assistant principal at the high school for two years, assistant principal at the middle school for a year and principal at Thornton Elementary for five years.

JAMIE DURANT '01 M.A.
has been named the new principal of West Rowan High School. He has served as principal at Southeast Middle School since 2004. When he first moved to North Carolina, he accepted a fifth grade teaching position at Lake Norman Elementary. He later moved to Lakeshore Middle School in Mooresville and also served as assistant principal at West Rowan High for three years.

TRACEY LYNETTE HELTON LEWIS '01 M.A. was recently named Surry County School's 2007-2008 Principal of the Year.

PAMELA HELMS '01 M.A.
was named principal of Northview Middle School. Helms has 19 years' experience in education and, most recently, has served as principal at Elkin Middle School in Elkin, N.C. She started her teaching career as a band teacher and has teaching experience in drama, orchestra and yearbook classrooms. Helms resides in Statesville with her husband and daughter.

CAROL SASSER DALTON '01 M.DIV.
was ordained to the gospel ministry by The Chapel Door in Fairview, NC. The Chapel Door, though ecumenical, is affiliated with and received new church start funds from Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. Rev. Dalton is endorsed by the CBF and began serving an 11-month interim as Chaplain at Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women in July 2007. The position is funded by area churches. caroldalton@earthlink.net.

EMILY WARD '01 M.S.N.
has received the Outstanding Excellence in Teaching Award from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (N.C.). She is an instructor in RCCC's associate degree nursing program. She joined the RCCC faculty in 2003 after earning an associates degree in nursing from Guilford Technical Community College and bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Gardner-Webb University. Ward is also RCCC's nominee for the 2007 North Carolina Community College System-R.J. Reynolds Excellence in Teaching Award.

AUBREY ALAN JAMES '02 M.B.A.
and Amanda Jane Williams were married on June 23 aboard the Catawba Queen Riverboat in Mooresville, N.C. He is employed by Lowes Home Improvement at the corporate office in Mocksville as a senior VSM analyst. She is employed at Lake Norman Communications, Inc. in Mooresville. After a honeymoon cruise to the Hawaiian Islands, the couple will live in Mocksville.

TRAVIS LYNCH ASHE '02 M.B.A.
was hired by Presbyterian Homes and Family Services in Lynchburg, Va. as manager of Information Systems.

MARK BYRD '02 M.A.
has been approved by Elkin City School Board (N.C.) as principal of the school. He was assistant principal at Elkin High School from 2003 to 2005 and is currently serving as principal at North Iredell High School. He was a history teacher in Wilkes County Schools for seven years and assistant principal in Alexander County for a year prior to becoming principal at North Iredell.

GREG GENTRY '03 M.A.
has been hired as the Athletics Director for the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools (N.C.). He spent seven years as the head football coach at Hillsborough Orange before going to Mount Tabor as an assistant in 1998. He was hired as the Spartans' head coach in 1999, after Sapp left to take a job at South Brunswick. He was the head coach for two seasons and then stayed on as an assistant coach after Sapp returned.

PERRY K. MARDIS '03 M.A.C.
has been promoted to Senior Auditor at First National Bank. Mardis joined First National in 2005 and is responsible for all staff activities within the Internal Audit Department and provides oversight for all bank operation's throughout the organization's fifteen locations.

ABBY MYERS '03 M.A. SEE JACOB MYERS '01 B.A.

JEFF PHILLIPS '03 M.B.A.
has been recognized by Union County School District for his dedication and commitment to their students. Prior to coming to Union, he worked as a counselor at a private school in Greenville for one year and as a teacher in Gaffney for four years. This is Jeff's third year at Union High (S.C.).

ANNETTE SWANSON '03 M.A.
has been named the new principal at Whitnel Elementary School. She began her career in education in Caldwell County as a physical education teacher in 1986. She then moved into school administration when she took the position of assistant principal at William Lenoir Middle School in 2003. She was named the North Carolina Elementary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year in November 1999. She was also recognized as Caldwell County Assistant principal of the Year in July 2002.

STEPHANIE KELLY '04 M.B.A.
a deputy clerk in Charlotte, will now represent several East coast states on an international board of municipal clerks. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) during the organization's annual conference in New Orleans, La.

ROGER MILLER '04 M.B.A
has been welcomed by Wallace Thomson Hospital as director of Patient Financial Services. Miller will oversee the Patient Financial Services department and the Patient Access department. Miller comes to Union from Upstate Carolina Medical Center in Gaffney, S.C. where he served as the business office director for five years.

TODD NEWCOMER '04 M.B.A.
passed his CPA exam in December 2006.

CAROL LANE SEELEY '04 M.DIV.
is serving as Venturer through the Virginia Baptist Mission Board as Youth Pastor at Troyeville Baptist Church in Johannesburg, South Africa. carolseeley@hotmail.com

MICHAEL R. COLLINS '05 M.A.
will serve as the third principal at James Monroe High School. Following a brief stint as a substitute teacher upon graduation, he then worked in Albemarle Road Middle School in Charlotte, N.C. from 1997-2005 as athletic director and middle school physical education/health teacher.

JONATHAN BRAD HUSS '05 M.B.A. SEE JADA ANNE HIPP HUSS '02 B.A.

PATRICK M. NELSON '05 M.A.
has been named the new Principal of Adrian L. Shuford Elementary School in Newton-Conover County Schools.

GREG POE '05 M.DIV.
and his wife, Hannah just returned from Swaziland where he served as the Human Needs Coordinator for the Baptist Mission of Swaziland. He helped churches gain a vision for reaching out to those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Currently, they are planning to return to Swaziland and work for a children's home established for orphans and vulnerable children. greg@thepoefamily.org

FELICIA SIMMONS '05 M.B.A. has been named the new principal for West Lenoir School of Technology (N.C.). Simmons' assignment as principal at West Lenoir returns her to the heart of the community she grew up in, and the elementary school she attended as a student.

LONNIA HOYLE BEAM '06 M.A.
was named Assistant Principal at Costner Elementary School in Dallas, NC. lonniabeam@gaston.k12.nc.us

PAM COLBERT '06 M.A.
has been named the new principal of Elkin Middle School. She will take the role previously held by Pam Helms. Colbert has experience with the Elkin City School system of operation.

JONATHAN WALKER '06 M.B.A.
has been hired by Carolina Alliance bank. He has three years of banking experience.

TANYA PARTON WATSON '06 ED. D.
was recently appointed Director of Research and Accountability for Rutherford County Schools.

JEREMY SHEPHERD BRANCH '07 M.B.A. and Brooke Elizabeth White were united in marriage on September 22, 2007, at Salem Baptist Church in Dobson. He works for Scriptrax of Winston-Salem and she for Shelton Vineyards and Select Staffing. After a wedding trip, they will reside in Dobson.

COLETTE NICOLE DUPREE '07 M.B.A. SEE DAVID PODGORSKI '07 B.S.

KEVIN DOUGLAS ELLIOTT '07 M.B.A. SEE JANET COSTNER ELLIOTT '72 B.S.

ARAUNAH JAMES '07 M.A.
has been appointed assistant principal at Davie High School. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania, he and his wife, who is a math teacher at Hanes Middle School in Winston-Salem, moved south, and he taught math at Hanes Middle for seven years.

CRAIG JANNEY '07 M.DIV. AND JENNIFER JANNEY '07 M.DIV.
have been named Associate Ministers to Chowan University. They will assist Mari Wiles, Minister to the University, in the area of campus ministry, as well as teaching, serving as chaplain(s) to the student body, student recruitment and helping to bring an obvious Christian influence to the Chowan campus.

DEATHS

MELVIN ARMSTRONG '58 A.A.

died June 26, 2007. He played American Legion baseball and was on the team that went to the Little League World Series in the mid-50s. He served in the Army and later belonged to the JC's where he served as president. Mr. Armstrong's career was in transportation where he retired as President of Yellow Freight Systems, Inc. in 1996.

BILLY BATES '53 AA

Died October 21, 2007. Bates, a three-sport athlete at Gardner-Webb, went to work at Kings Mountain High School in 1957. During his tenure at the school, he coached football, baseball, girl's basketball and he served as athletic director and educator.

As athletic director, Bates was a driving force in the planning and construction of numerous Kings Mountain athletic facilities. Many of these facilities are still in place today at Kings Mountain Middle and High School. During that tenure, he also was instrumental in adding a number of competitive sports to the overall Kings Mountain High program; including - tennis, softball, wrestling, girls track, cross country and volleyball. A group of former players, students and friends felt challenged to honor this man who had given so much of himself throughout the years. They chose to do something unique and lasting. The living monument to Bates will be in the form of an endowed scholarship to Gardner-Webb University for a Kings Mountain (N.C.) High School Student.

He also served as superintendent for Hendersonville City Schools from 1978-1984. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in numerous community organizations over his lifetime.

WARREN RAY BEDFORD '72 B.S.

died from a heart attack. The CKC Volunteer Fire Fighter and avid bike rider loved donating his time to help others. From riding in the Iron City Ministries 100 Mile Bike Ride to giving his time to his home church, Hopewell Baptist, Ray Bedford never stopped giving. Bedford had been employed with the Cherokee County school district for 22 years. Until this past year, Bedford served as the Job Placement Coordinator for the Cherokee County Technical School. He became the director of CTC in July of 2006.

CARL BLANTON '39 D.I.P.

died on May 23, 2007. He was a member of Lavonia Baptist Church, where he was a former choir member, deacon, and Sunday school teacher. He served in the Army during World War II with the 10th Infantry Co. C 325th Engineers Combat Battalion. He was awarded the American Theater Service Medal, Victory Medal, EAME Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal, and Distinguished Unit Badge. He was also a member of the American Legion.

MARIE WARREN CHAPMAN '49 A.A.

died April 27, 2007, in Henderson's Assisted Living. She was a former antique dealer and owner of several hairdressing salons. She is survived by Jimmy Chapman and Mary Louise Moore Chapman.

CHARLES HENRY GASKINS '75 B.S.

died July 29, 2007, at his home. He worked for Momar, Inc. of Atlanta, Ga. He is survived by his parents, Dan and Leita Gaskins, his brother Robert and family of Raleigh, N.C.

MARION GETTYS '46 A.A.

died August 30, 2007, at his home. He served in the Navy from 1946 to 1948. He also served as a fireman and pipe fixer. Before his tour of duty in the Navy, he served with the Merchant Marines.

REV. BENNIE GLOVER '69 A.A.

died April 12, 2007, at Hospice of Cleveland County. He served as superintendent of the Sunday school, Usher, Trustee, and Deacon before he became an ordained minister in 1958. He went on to pastor at Vance Grove Baptist Church in Lawndale, Shady Grove Baptist Church in Gaffney, S.C., White Oak Springs Baptist Church in Ellenboro, N.C., and Macedonia Baptist Church No.2 in Kingston. He served as assistant pastor at Friendship Baptist Church in Shelby and supplied various pulpits from time to time.

JACK ROGERS GREGORY SR. '61 B.A.

died July 3, 2007, at Newberry County Memorial Hospital. He was a retired field inspector of 37 years for the S.C. Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures Division. He was also retired from the Army Reserve 108th Training Division as a Sergeant 1 Class after 28 years. He was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church.

NELSON HARRINGTON '39 A.A.

died September 6, 2007 at Magnolias of Gaffney S.C. He was a retired Superintendent of Administration for the Duke Power Cliffside Steam Station with 33 years of service. He was a Veteran of World War II having served in the Merchant Marines. He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

LOIS CANNOY HAYES

died July 8, 2007. She was a member of Wilkesboro, N.C. Baptist Church. She was active in the Women's Missionary Union having served as mission action chairman and co-chairman of monthly Bible study programs. Mrs. Hayes was past president of the Women's Medical Auxiliary, past president of Apple Blossom Garden Club, and a past member of the Advisory Board Wives Auxiliary of Gardner-Webb College. She was also a member of the Northwest Artist League.

C. RAY JUSTICE '67 A.A.

died at Lower Cape Fear Hospice Care Center in Wilmington, N.C.. He is survived by his wife, four children, six grandchildren, two sisters and brothers. Rev. Justice served as a Scout in the U.S. Army in Germany from 1956 through 1958. He was a retired Southern Baptist Minister of forty-three years.

MARLIEDEAN S. LONG '83 B.S.

died June 11, 2007, at Palliative Care Center & Hospice of Catawba Valley, N.C. after a battle against cancer. She taught classes at the Catawba Valley Community College and Gardner-Webb University's Goal Program. She was a member of Penelope Baptist Church in Long View before she joined Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

H.P. LOWDERMILK, JR. '40 A.A.

died June 4, 2007, at the Hospice House following an extended illness. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds received during military action. Upon returning to Rutherfordton County, N.C. after the war, he worked in textiles. He later worked for Fieldcrest Textiles from where he retired in 1983 as Superintendent of Weaving. He was also a member of Long Brand Road Baptist Church.

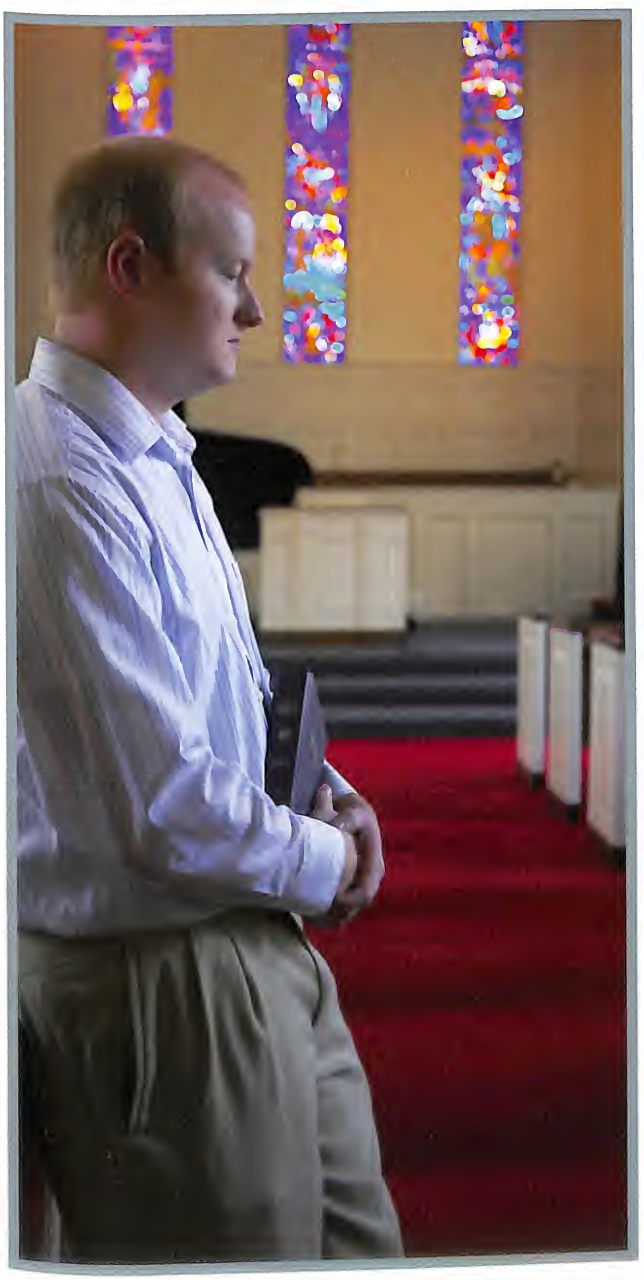
DEATHS

PAM COUCH MYERS '91 A.A.

died August 14, 2007. Mrs. Myers was a member of Sheets Memorial Baptist Church where she sang in the church choir. She taught homebound children grades K-12 in Davidson County. She started the Alternative Program for teenage parents at Davidson County Community College. She was also the beloved nanny for the Suszynsky family.

HARRIET POPOWICH '92 B.S.

died March 6, 2007, at Britthaven of Hamlet. She retired from Cameron Morrison Correctional Institution as a correction officer. She is survived by a son, two daughters, one brother, two sisters, and six grandchildren.



JOHN PUETT '50 A.A.

died May 29, 2007, after a brief illness. He was employed as a specialist in sewing machine repair, working in both Morganton and Charlotte. He also served for a few years as a Baptist minister. He is survived by two sons, two grandsons, and three great-grandchildren.

JAMES "HORACE" SCRUGGS

died July 19, 2007. Horace was the brother of bluegrass banjo legend, Earl Scruggs, and was born in Cleveland County, N.C. Scruggs served in the Air Force during World War II stationed at Elgin Field, Fla. He worked for 29 years at Gardner-Webb as a maintenance supervisor and after retirement from Gardner-Webb he worked with Crawley Memorial Hospital in the maintenance department. He was a lifelong member of Boiling Springs Baptist Church and a phenomenal bluegrass musician.

RANSOM J. SHORES '82 B.S. died Aug. 2, 2007, at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1977 as a Master Chief Petty Officer as well as Young Foods. He was a member of the VFW. He is survived by two sons, one daughter, two brothers, five sisters, and a loving niece.

BEVERLY FRANCES STEADMAN SMITH '89 B.S. died July 21, 2007, at her home in Rock Hill, S.C. She worked at First Union Bank, now Wachovia. She is survived by her daughter, one brother as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

RUBY HUMPHRIES TALLEY '55 A.A.

died March 17, 2007, at Presbyterian Hospital of Matthews, N.C. She was a retired secretary from Morgan School in Charlotte, N.C. and was a lifelong member of Park Road Baptist Church.

POLLYANNA C. WEASE '45 A.A.

died peacefully in her sleep at her residence. She was a member of First Baptist Church of North Augusta, Ga. She taught Sunday school for over 50 years. She was also a member of the Monday and Thursday night Bridge Clubs.

C. WAYNE WHITMAN '84 B.S.

died on June 12, 2007, from a heart attack that shocked many who had come to know him. He served on the board of directors for Rowan Museum, (N.C.) where the idea for a History Club surfaced about four years ago. As a member of the history arm of the Public Art Committee, he helped with some of the research behind the bronze historic markers being installed downtown as part of the History and Art Trail. He served as treasurer for the Salisbury Confederate Prison Association and chaired the Historic Preservation Commission. He retired from the Police Department in 1991 after 30 years of service.

WILLIAM D. "BILL" WILLIAMS '58 A.A.

died February 26, 2007. He was a life long educator and school administrator in Buncombe County (N.C.). He was also a member of Reed Memorial Baptist Church. In addition to his wife, Joyce Hutchins Williams, he is survived by his daughters, Amanda Eller and her husband, Micah and Diane Neubert and her husband, Timothy as well as one granddaughter, Regina Neubert.

GENE REGINALD WYATT

died May 23, 2007, at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center (S.C.). He played center field for the Fresno Cardinals for two years. He was never a major player but went on to play for teams such as a St. Louis Cardinals affiliate before turning in his glove for a guitar pick. He was the head of guitar studies at Limestone College and taught guitar at Gardner-Webb. He also taught in Spartanburg School District 3 and at Pacolet, Clifton, and Cannons Campground Elementary Schools in the early 1980's. The talented musician was honored by the South Carolina Arts Foundation in 1999 with the Jean Laney Harris Folk Award, which is presented each year to extraordinary artists for a lifetime of musical achievement.

Healing Bodies and Hearts

Roberta Borden Wilson '87 Reaching Out To Those in Need

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" taken from Proverbs 17:22 are the words found framed in the lobby of the Helping Hands Health Clinic in Lincolnton, NC. Alumna, Roberta Borden Wilson '87 is one of the happy hearts at this exceptional clinic.

Lincoln County has a similar story to many other North Carolina communities in that many industries have vacated the area. The absence of reliable employment has left many of its citizens in desperate need of affordable health care. Out of this need the Helping Hands Health Clinic was formed to help its uninsured adult residents who do not qualify for government help to have access to a qualified physician. Wilson has found her place in this healing ministry as executive director of the Helping Hands Clinic.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Helping Hands has been quite successful and its success has brought about growing pains. Wilson shares a small office with the Office Administrator, but during open clinic hours, her office doubles as room for patients complete with an examination table. This arrangement led her young daughter to ask her father, "Do you know mommy plays doctor at work?" Wilson, while not a doctor, is dispensing healing. She is an advocate for the clinic helping patients get the care they need. She does so by raising community awareness and support for this vital clinic. In fact, one of the first grant applications that Wilson applied for was approved for $40,000 giving the clinic much needed computer equipment. In its first year of operation, Helping Hands with a budget of $122, 000, delivered over $2.5 million of medical care.

Reminiscing about her college days, Wilson concludes that without the educational and spiritual development she received at Gardner-Webb, she may have never attempted full-time ministry. Her double major in Communications and English are assets in her grant writing and making the clinic more visible to the community. She recalls Gardner-Webb's motto, "For God and Humanity," and says, "My life is about serving God and serving my fellow man."

When asked about the successes she has seen at Helping Hands, she states, "Every person who walks in the door is a success story, because we know we have improved their quality of life." One particular success story for Wilson follows the struggles of a 36-year-old father of five. He had come to the clinic with concerns about a sore throat. That sore throat actually turned out to be a tumor. Anyone who has experienced it knows, cancer is a difficult challenge for a person with resources, but for one without means, it can be a harrowing experience. Through the dedicated work of the clinic to find doctors for his need, the man received the treatment he needed and today, he is cancer free.

Each time the clinic opens it is done so with corporate prayer in the lobby with staff, volunteers, and patients. Wilson reminds the group of the mission for the clinic to provide healing for the body and also hopefully for the soul. She also leads in the opening prayer. While she is praying she has to remember to speak with pauses to allow the Spanish interpreter time to translate. This is not the easiest task for the energetic Wilson. It must be because her merry heart is revved up to serve others in this unique ministry.

-Lou Ann Gilliam '94 '98

Great People of Gardner-Webb Making a Difference Daily

As you have heard, Gardner-Webb is in the midst of the Great People of Gardner-Webb Program, through which we have received numerous responses about your special people.

We have heard so many wonderful stories about how a staff person would go the extra mile, how a faculty member would encourage in a special way, and how that fellow student was open to beginning that life-long friendship. Below, is a Great People response we received from J.R. Rowell, a 1995 G.O.A.L graduate from Monroe, N.C.:

"In July 1994, I was a student in the Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL) Program at the Charlotte Campus. I was attending classes four nights a week during the summer semester while working full-time as a state trooper. My wife worked full-time and together we were raising our five year-old daughter and our three year-old son. Near the end of the semester, my wife, who appeared to be in tip-top shape, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed, shocked, surprised, and many other things you can probably think of.

One of my instructors that semester was Lynn Keeter. I felt like I needed to let Mrs. Keeter know about my wife's situation as the final exam was scheduled for the same day my wife was having surgery. After getting up my nerve after class, I explained to Mrs. Keeter the situation that my wife and I faced. She assured me that everything would be fine with her class and she told me it would not be necessary for me to show up for the final exam because I needed to be with my wife. I came to class one day before my wife had surgery and Mrs. Keeter had bought a gift for my wife. Believe me when I say that my wife and I were deeply touched by Mrs. Keeter's act of kindness.

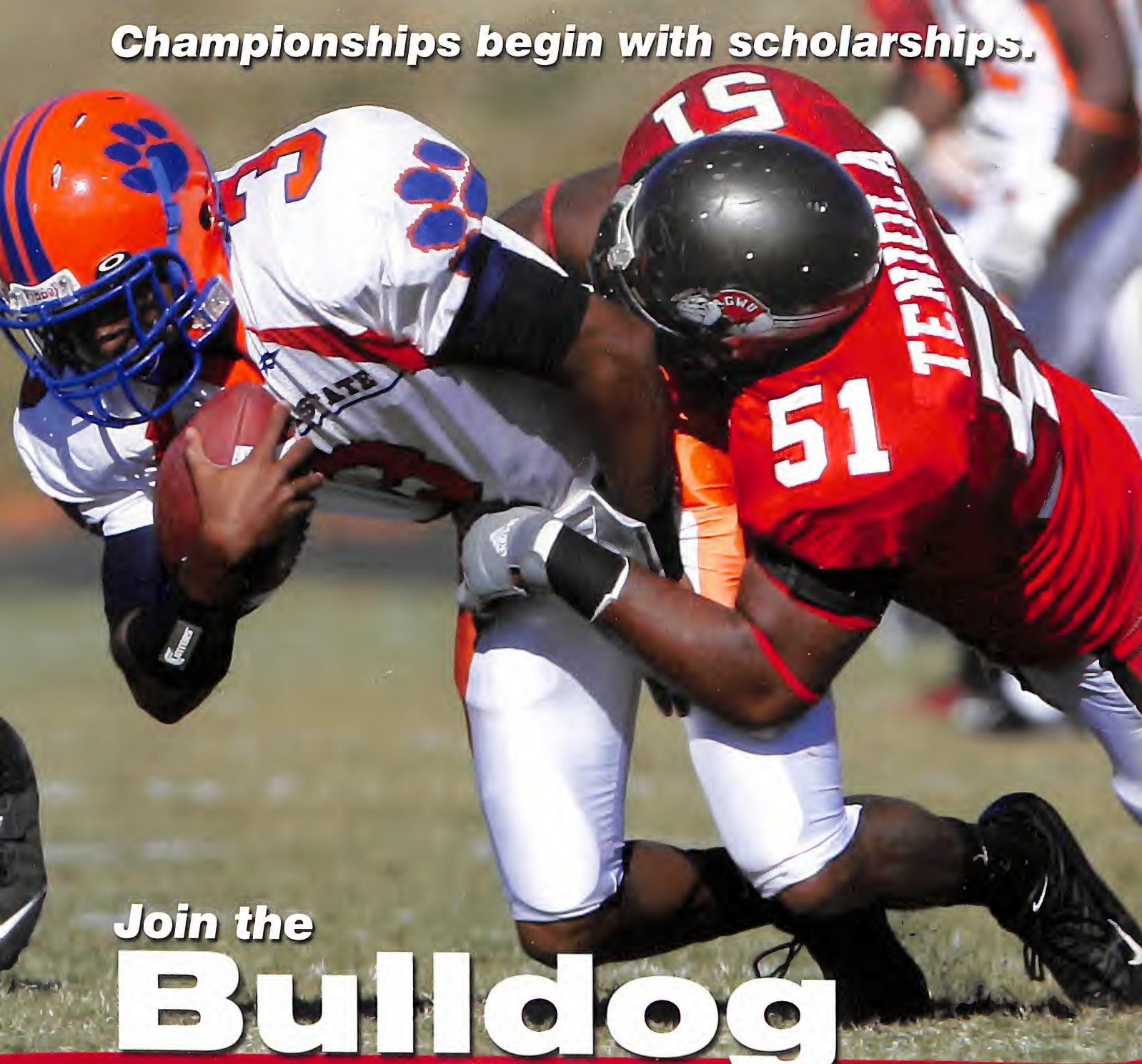
I went on to graduate from Gardner-Webb the following summer. I later found out that Mrs. Keeter had also fought breast cancer, after I had been in her class. I didn't know about it when she was going through her battle with cancer, but I wish that I could have been there for her like she was for me.

After my wife's surgery, she was cancer-free until the cancer returned in January 2003. We are still fighting the good fight because of a lot of prayer and because of people like Mrs. Lynn Keeter."

How has your life been impacted by a Great Person of Gardner-Webb? The Great People Program is a way that the University's alumni can give in honor or in memory of that Great Person.

We look forward to hearing about your Great Person.

Steve Varley
Vice President for Development



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Bulldog Club

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to Gardner-Webb's student athletes.

For more information call 704.406.4630

www.bulldog.gardner-webb.edu

The Final Word

The Best is Yet to Come

I believe 2008 will be Gardner-Webb's best year ever! This is a rather bold statement when you consider the accomplishments of 2007. Many of those accomplishments are documented in this issue of The Webb. However, I have a "great" feeling about our future.

As with most organizations, the level of success is dependent upon the people who make up your team. At Gardner-Webb, we are truly blessed to have a caring and highly competent faculty, staff and administration. We have alumni and friends who are stepping up in ever increasing numbers to support our mission. Yes, I believe 2008 will be our best year ever.

In any successful organization, planning is absolutely necessary. Very soon, Gardner-Webb will introduce its newly developed strategic plan. The plan focuses on a number of important areas. They are our Christian foundation, our academic program, the needs of our students, our athletic program, our commitment to service (for God and humanity) and our care for the larger community. The plan provides us with direction for the years to come. Yes, I believe 2008 will be our best year ever.

To be successful, we must be able to depend on the financial support of our alumni and friends. Last year, we experienced one of our best fundraising years ever. Early indicators suggest that trend will continue. Yes, I believe 2008 will be our best year ever.

The greatest measurement of a college or university's success is the quality of its graduates. In order to continue producing outstanding graduates, we must continue to recruit and retain good students. New strategies have been developed and implemented to assure we accomplish the desired results. Yes, I believe 2008 will be our best year ever.

Will 2008 be our best year ever? Yes it will! We will continue to build on our Christian foundation. We will enhance our academic program. The needs of our students will remain our top priority. Our athletic program will compete successfully while complying with all NCAA regulations. Our commitment to serving our Lord and others will continue to grow.

Can we count on your support? I am confident we can!

Yes, I believe 2008 will be our best year ever!

Until Next Time,

Scoot

Ralph "Scoot" Dixon
Senior Vice President for
University Relations and Marketing

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Today's Date: ____/____/_____ Would you like your e-mail address included in your class note? ❑ Yes ❑ No

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O. Max Gardner -
Great Person of Gardner-Webb University

Life was difficult for Gardner-Webb (then Boiling Springs Junior College) and her students during the 1930's. The Great Depression was in full effect, the School's enrollment was stagnant and money was tight. Just years earlier, the school had made the move to Junior College status and was struggling to survive. There were many people who did not believe that Boiling Springs Junior College would be able to keep her doors open to students.

But thanks to the efforts and support of O. Max Gardner – a Shelby, N.C. native, Governor of North Carolina from 1929-33 and the person who gave President Franklin Delano Roosevelt the idea for the New Deal (the government plan that helped to bring an end to the Great Depression) – Boiling Springs Junior College found new life.

Governor Gardner began by sharing his personal support with the College, saying, "I've made all the money I want to make. Now, I want a project." By 1942, he had committed a gift to the College to make available 25 full scholarships to young men and women from the region. Within a few days, prospective students were applying for the scholarships at an amazing rate.

After that time, Governor Gardner began pouring his money, time, and energy into Boiling Springs Junior College. He also became a great champion for the college in bringing life and tenacity to what shortly thereafter became Gardner-Webb College.

We, as members of the Gardner-Webb family, live in the footsteps of such great people as O. Max Gardner.

From the leadership of President Phil Elliot and so many others, we have inherited a legacy of dogged perseverance, of hard-fought success.

O. Max Gardner is a Great Person of Gardner-Webb.

Do you remember such a Great Person from your Gardner-Webb experience...a faculty or staff member, or a fellow student? Please share with us your Great Person story. We encourage you to say thank you to that Great Person for their influence on your life through a gift to the University in their honor.

Tell us about your Great Person of Gardner-Webb today.

the great people of Gardner-Webb

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