

Summer 2008

The Webb Magazine 2008, Summer

Noel T. Manning II

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A publication of Gardner-Webb University

Summer 2008

Inside

GOAL Program Celebrates 30 Years

National Community Service Honor Awarded to GWU

Professor Explores Islamic Culture

Student Translates Literary Masterpiece into Music

Brian Johnston Headed to the NFL

Gardner-Webb
University

We have great things in mind.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*Dear Friends of
Gardner-Webb,*


I recently spoke on the phone with a well-known authority on higher education. He had already researched Gardner-Webb and learned a great deal about our University. As we discussed Gardner-Webb's programs, plans and mission, he commented that it seemed to him that what Gardner-Webb is striving to do is to produce graduates who are not only outstanding in their careers and professions but "great human beings as well." Exactly!

As you read this issue of *The Webb*, you will find a common theme throughout: Great people-alumni, students, faculty and staff- doing great things and making meaningful contributions to the lives of others. You will also find truly remarkable the variety of fields in which these contributions and achievements occur. And remember that these are examples-there are many, many more.

Normally it is bad form to brag, but when it comes to Gardner-Webb's people I make an exception. I am enormously proud of them and honored to be associated with them.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer, and please stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Frank Bonner
President



"I know that I cannot do anything myself one-tenth as great as I can with the support of those around me... whether the support comes from my faculty, my fellow colleagues, or a dedicated group of individuals interested in my personal growth and success. My experience at Gardner-Webb University is one that I will take with me wherever I go."
- Christopher Law, Ed.D, Charlotte, N.C.

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PRESIDENT.

Dr. A. Frank Bonner

**SR. VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY
RELATIONS AND MARKETING.**

Ralph W. Dixon, Jr.

MANAGING EDITOR.

Noel T. Manning, II

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION EDITOR.

Kathy Martin

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT.

Rhea Lamb, Ann Wesson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS.

Paul Foster, Jamie Newton, Nicci Stevens,
Katie Fowler, M'Lissa Lawrence, Marc Rabb,
Brent Hager, Grace Whiteside

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS.

Christopher Breedlove, Bob Carey, Haley
Black, Randy McNeilly, Ashley Carter, Kate
Gazaway, Jessica Jones, Tyler Kucifer, Cat
McDonald, Jordan Tubbs, Jeff Melton, The
Shelby Star

You may contact **The Webb** at:

PO Box 997

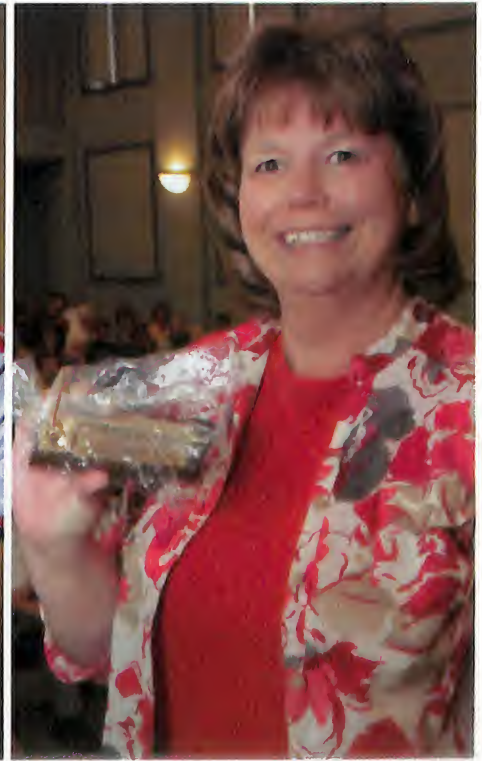
Boiling Springs, NC 28017

Phone: 704-406-4631

E-mail: ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu

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Graduation 2008

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY AWARDS NEARLY 800 DEGREES

Three Ceremonies Honor Graduating Students

A total of 777 students earned degrees during spring commencement at Gardner-Webb University. On Friday, May 9, 108 nursing students were honored, while on Saturday morning, 451 undergraduate degrees were conferred. During Saturday afternoon's ceremony, all graduate degree students were awarded their diplomas.

Featured speakers for the 2008 commencement exercises included:

- ♦The President, Chairman and CEO of Time Warner Telecom, Larissa L. Herda
- ♦A distinguished and honored nurse from Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, Jennifer Turner Smith (coordinator of the Chest Pain Center)
- ♦Two doctoral candidates, Jeffrey Church (Ed.D) of Lenoir, N.C. and Christopher C. Law (Ed.D) of Charlotte, N.C.

Herda shared her thoughts on values, leadership and life with the graduates in the Saturday morning ceremony. "This is a good time for reflection and to think about your purpose/mission in life and your personal values and how you will apply those in all aspects of your life," noted Herda. "Be prepared for your perspective on these things to change as you experience life, as you change and grow." Herda took the helm of Time Warner Telecom Inc., as President and CEO, in 1998. She was elected Chairman of the Time Warner Telecom Inc. Board of Directors in 2001, and currently holds the title of Chairman, President and CEO.

During the commencement exercises, awards were presented to graduates exemplifying excellence in academics and citizenship. Matthew Brett Walters, English major, of Hartsville, S.C. was honored for comprehensive academic achievement during his

collegiate career and he was also selected as the outstanding male graduate. Natalie Ann Pippin, Religious Studies and Philosophy major, of Evans, Ga. was selected the outstanding female graduate and honored with scholastic achievement as well. These students exemplify the Gardner-Webb motto – “Pro Deo et Humanitate” - For God and Humanity.

Other scholastic award winners honored during the commencement exercises were:

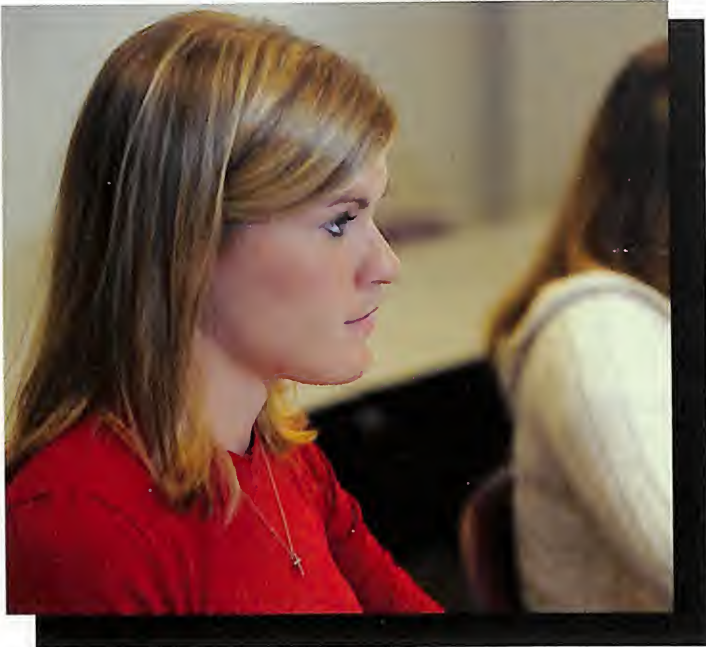
- ♦ Allison Brooke Barksdale – Bachelor of Science in Biology
- ♦ Kelly N. Boyd – Associate Degree in Nursing
- ♦ Phyllis A. Brooks – Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- ♦ Chinwendu K. Enyioha - Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- ♦ Hannah Michal Kidd - Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- ♦ Susan Brown Monroe – Master of Science in Nursing
- ♦ Rebecca Ann Silleman - Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- ♦ Andrew Michael VanCamp - Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Nancy Priscilla Parker of Mill Spring, N.C. was selected as the recipient of the Darlene J. Gravett Scholar Award for her study, “Brick and Mortar: Filling in the Cracks in Rutherford County’s Mental Health Care System.” The award is presented to a graduate student whose scholarly research, done as a part of his/her study at Gardner-Webb Graduate School, has the potential to make a distinct contribution to the improvement of society.

“As a nurse, at any level, there is always a new challenge each and every day. Never let yourself grow complacent in your daily activities. Never become resistant to change and set in your ways. There is always a different perspective to view your patients, your peers, your leaders, and your career. There are always opportunities that will present themselves, it is up to you to be willing to open the door and walk through.”

***- Jennifer T Smith,
Coordinator of the Chest Pain Center,
Spartanburg (S.C.) Regional Medical Center***





Making Dreams Come True

GOAL Program Celebrates 30 Years

by Paul Foster

It was 1978. Jimmy Carter was president. Happy Days was one of television's most watched programs. Disco was still popular, and Gardner-Webb introduced a unique educational idea with the GOAL Program (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners). While, undergraduate degree completion programs for working adults are much more common today, at the time of its inception, GOAL was on the cutting edge and provided Gardner-Webb with a tremendous identity across the state. The GOAL program introduced a concept where students could complete their undergraduate degree in as little as two years with the necessary prerequisites. This meant the adult who was working full time and even married with children could fulfill his/her dream of completing a four-year degree.

How It All Began: Dr. Larry Sale and Gardner-Webb President, Dr. Craven Williams (1976-1986) were the two men who saw a need and pioneered the GOAL program. Before GOAL, Sale was director of teaching education at the university. During a time when enrollment was down, Sale began thinking of ways to help Gardner-

"I've heard it said so often, if you didn't have this program, I couldn't finish my college degree," said Jackson.

Webb. "Besides growth, I also felt there was a critical need to service working adults and two-year graduates," said Sale. Williams had only been President for a short time when Sale met with him to share his idea. It was obvious Williams was 100% behind the idea after he called Sale back two days later to give his blessing. Sale would soon be named the first director of this yet to be named program. He didn't have to look any further than his own wife to

come up with a unique name for it. "I was sitting by the fireplace one evening with my wife Janice trying to come up with a name when Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners, (GOAL) came across her mind," said Sale. In those early days, Sale said it was the cooperation of area and regional two-year institutions of learning that were important to GOAL's beginning. Sale spent 10 years building the program before accepting his next challenge to start and lead the Gardner-Webb Graduate Program. Today, "Almost everywhere I go, I run into someone who has either been through the program themselves or has a family member who attended GOAL," said Sale.

Evan Thompson, dean for GOAL, 1988-1996, has been credited for helping keep the program going with a very small staff during the transformative years. That very limited staff, included Thompson, an assistant dean, a secretary and one advisor. "We did it all. We wrote the catalog, all the scheduling, and even handled professor's contracts. All of this going on with 800 to 900 students at the time," said Thompson. Prior to being named dean,

Thompson had already contributed to GOAL. He began in 1982 as a part time instructor and then in 1984 served four years as assistant dean before his promotion to dean.

More recently, current Dean, Dr. Carolyn Jackson has kept that relentless passion for GOAL going strong. Jackson is credited by her colleagues as someone who is both a marvelous manager, (in particular for maintaining high academic standards), and an aggressive promoter in selling the program. Jackson says the program's largest majors are in business, followed by human services and nursing. In her continuous travels, Jackson has noticed that all

16-satellite locations have their own personality. As an example, “In Surry County near the Virginia line, we have more students of a younger age – right out of community college many times. Then there’s more variety of ages at other locations like in Brunswick County,” said Jackson. It’s what Jackson hears from students that makes her work worthwhile. “I’ve heard it said so often, if you didn’t have this program, I couldn’t finish my college degree,” said Jackson. Jackson feels one of GOAL’s biggest benefits for students is the attention a smaller classroom provides. “I think it’s the personal touch of providing interaction with other students that makes a difference,” said Jackson.

If we could go back over the years and talk to GOAL students from every class ever taught, there’s probably a good chance that all the instructors of those classes could be mentioned for how they inspired an eventual graduate. One of those instructors whose name is mentioned often by former students is Dr. Barry Hambright. Hambright, now beginning his 40th year with Gardner-Webb, serves as a professor of political science and history and has taught criminal justice and human services for GOAL since its inception. “I’m the only one left who has taught in every semester of GOAL,” said Hambright. Hambright is appreciative of the many opportunities that have allowed him to connect with students. “Our best recruits are our students. They finish the program and prove to others you can get that degree,” said Hambright. Today, you’ll still find Hambright hitting the road every week and traveling to teach two GOAL classes each semester.

Who is a GOAL graduate? You could say, anybody from any walk of life. Many times, it’s not just the individual who comes back to school. Family connections have included, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters and husbands and wives. Good friends have even motivated one another to finish obtaining a degree together. Current Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees Chairman, Neal Alexander was a 1984 graduate of the GOAL Program. Alexander of Denver, N.C., serves as Duke Energy Corporation, Vice-President of Human Resources. He was so thankful for the program’s flexibility that allowed him to balance his employment responsibilities, while furthering his education. He remembers

valuable lessons learned that have stayed with him to this day. “The engagement with professors was very good. They held us to a higher standard. GOAL opened doors that otherwise would never have been opened,” said Alexander.

Bobbie Cox serves as the criminal justice coordinator and

an instructor for GOAL at the Catawba Center in Hickory, N.C. Prior to joining Gardner-Webb, Cox worked in the criminal justice system for 30 years. She just happens to have attended the GOAL Program, where she received her Bachelor’s degree. “Being a wife and a mom, I had some hesitation about the amount of time I could dedicate to full-time studies. However, I entered GOAL and can honestly say it was one of the best things I ever did,” said Cox. In her position today as criminal justice coordinator, one of her responsibilities is to recruit new students. “I tell them everyday they do many things for other people, family, friends, and others. Their GWU education is one thing that they can do for themselves, that will affect them positively in a personal and spiritual way,” said Cox.

What’s Next: According to Jackson, GOAL is continuing to succeed even though there is much more competition for continuing adult education programs than in the past. “We see GOAL being able to grow by offering more where we already have (existing) locations. We have plenty of space to recruit at the current centers and online.” No matter what the future holds, there’s one thing that Jackson and the University see as a top priority. “We want to continue having that high academic quality that we have set in the past.”



Dr. Craven Williams, GWU President 1978

Comparisons From Then To Now:

GOAL 1978

- 4 locations outside of main campus - all less than 40 miles from Boiling Springs
- 5 Bachelor of Science Degree Programs (classroom only)

GOAL Today

- 16 locations – From Spruce Pine to Brunswick County
- 8 Majors can be obtained in the classroom and numerous classes can be taken online

Hope and Deliverance

GOAL ALUMNUS FINDS LIFE CHALLENGE FULFILLING

by Paul Foster

Benny W. Cook, Jr. is a man who balances a number of responsibilities, including directing the services provided by the American Red Cross (Cleveland County, N.C. chapter). Regardless of the workload, Cook passionately enjoys his job of offering hope for those in need. "It's a challenge, but one that's worth it," said Cook.

Cook, a native of Kannapolis, N.C., wore a big smile when he said "I applied for the job from an ad in the paper and couldn't believe it when I got an interview. I think it was my organizational background and being a human development specialist that paid off."



Cook had spent most of his career working in law enforcement before he was named Executive Director for the Red Cross position in September 2005. He worked as a police officer in Mooresville, N.C. and was later Chief of Police in both Tryon and Belmont, N.C.

Cook earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Gardner-Webb's GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) program in 1992, attending the GWU Statesville center. Although Cook had opportunities to pursue his degree at other universities he chose Gardner-Webb for its one on one approach. "GOAL opened

Although Cook had opportunities to pursue his degree at other universities he chose Gardner-Webb for its one on one approach.

doors and set the pace for me. I met folks who made a difference in my life," said Cook. Dr. Barry Hambricht's political science classes and Lansford Jolly's sociology courses were named as examples.

Cook earned his Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Change from Pfeiffer University and has recently gained certification from the Rural Economic Institute in Raleigh, N.C. and has future plans to pursue his doctorate.

The American Red Cross provides such services as disaster relief, armed forces emergency communication link for families and troops, health and safety classes and annual blood drives. In 2006-07, under Cook's leadership, volunteers responded to 51 local disasters and house fires and dozens of volunteers were deployed to assist in nation-wide disasters. During that time over 2,300 individuals were trained to work in disasters, first aid and CPR response and water safety and swimming. This Red Cross chapter also held 131 blood drives which collected 4,109 pints of blood.



Thanks to an experienced staff and solid volunteers, Cook is proud of Cleveland County's contributions to all of these causes. In the past, Cook's chapter of the Red Cross has sent volunteers to provide disaster relief to victims of numerous tornadoes, floods and hurricanes. "We helped place 45 families from New Orleans in Cleveland County after (Hurricane) Katrina," said Cook.

However, maintaining these important services is not a simple thing. Cook says the most important need for the Red Cross remains volunteers. While, he says the Red Cross has a strong core of participants, the truth is the majority of volunteers come from the World War II era. "We are always looking for folks who want to share their time," says Cook. "We very much could use some

new and younger volunteers."

Cook also teaches business administration and

marketing, holds speaking engagements as a human development specialist and as a representative for the Jerry Richardson family (owners of the NFL's Carolina Panthers, Charlotte, N.C.). In his spare time, Cook works as a skybox host welcoming guests and supporters to home football games for the Panthers (Richardson's Show Pro Incorporated).

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GREAT HONORS

GWU Recognizes Faculty and Staff During Annual Awards Luncheon

Gardner-Webb University recently held its annual awards program and luncheon, Apples & Accolades. Honors were presented for excellence in teaching, President's awards for community engagement, female and male staff members of the year, those retiring and staff and faculty members completing 10 and 25 years of service.

By Paul Foster



Dr. Paula Qualls associate professor in the department of religious studies and philosophy

Gardner-Webb's Apples and Accolades, the annual recognition program for faculty and staff is a chance for everyone to take a break from their busy schedule and come together as a family to salute the dedication of their co-workers. It's a time for fun, reminiscing, and sometimes tears for an individual's dedication in the name of higher education. In May, awards were presented for

excellence in teaching, community engagement, female and male staff members of the year, those retiring and staff and faculty

members completing 10 and 25 years of service.

The Gardner-Webb Excellence in Teaching Award, initiated in 2003, was presented to Dr. Paula Qualls, associate professor in the department of religious studies and philosophy.



Qualls was praised for blending professionalism with humor in the classroom. According to co-workers, her care for the student's intellectual development and the student's personal development as well is shown on a daily basis. "I'm humbled. My colleagues in the department deserve this honor as well," said Qualls.

The President's Community Engagement Awards are given in



Rusty Stroupe, head baseball coach

keeping with the Gardner-Webb motto Pro Deo et Humanitate, (For God and Humanity). Recipients are recognized for their civic responsibility through active participation and service to the community at large. The staff winner of this award was Head Baseball Coach, Rusty Stroupe. Dr. Frieda Brown, professor of psychology was honored in the faculty category. "If you're not giving of yourself, you're probably not happy," said Brown.

Besides their commitment to serving the community, Stroupe and Brown have writing and public speaking in common and have both released books.

In 2006, Stroupe released his first book, "Embracing the Chaos". The book is a collection of 100 columns he had written for various newspapers over the years. Stroupe started writing for his hometown newspaper, The Cherryville (N.C.) Eagle, when he was only nine years old. The book categorizes the columns into chapters with such subjects as Southern Born and Southern Bred,

FACULTY AND STAFF

Inspirational People and Family Matters, and God and Country. Besides sports and writing, Stroup also enjoys doing inspirational speaking at banquets and graduations and in church settings.

While she has authored several books in recent years, Brown's most recent release is "Crisis Counseling and Therapy" with her good



Dr. Frieda Brown, professor of psychology

friend Dr. Jackson Rainer, who serves as Dean of the Graduate School and professor of psychology for the university. The book is intended to be used as both a text in college classrooms and a reference guide in multidisciplinary health care for professionals working within crisis situations.

Brown is also a contributor to the NCCA (The North Carolina Counseling Association) Journal, an online journal. Its purpose is to enhance knowledge and skills of professional counselors in the state.

Staff Member of the Year Awards are given to those who stand out for their commitment to the University and its students. **Cheryl Potter, director of the Noel Program for the disabled** was the



Cheryl Potter, director of the Noel Program for the disabled

female recipient and **Jeremy Fern (1999 GWU Graduate), director of alumni relations**, was the male recipient.

Potter was noted for being tireless in her fight to insure that students with disabilities are on an equal playing field with the rest of the University's population. She has worked closely with the development office for years in an effort to secure funding for a new facility to house the Noel Program.

That new facility comes to reality when the Frank Nanney Hall officially opens this fall semester. Potter even helped design the functionality of the building and ensured that the technology provided would meet all the needs of the programs students.



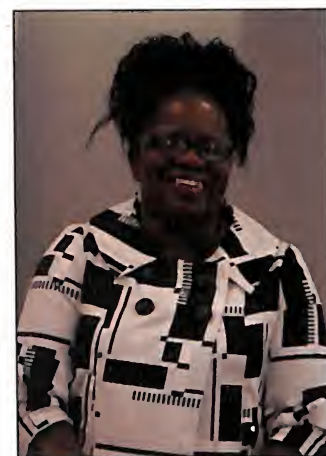
Jeremy Fern, director of alumni relations

Fern began working with Gardner-Webb as an admissions counselor in the undergraduate admissions office – recruiting students from the Western N.C. and Tenn. regions in 2002. From 2004 through August 2007, Fern served as assistant director of undergraduate admissions while recruiting students

from Central, N.C. Fern's co-workers say he constantly goes above and beyond what is expected, by volunteering for various events on campus and his willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Retirement awards went to **Alma Cline** of housekeeping, **Carolyn McKinney**, an admissions counselor and assistant director of admissions, and **Shirley Toney**, former dean of the School of Nursing who gave 41 years of service to that program. Toney has been a part of the education of over 3,000 nurses across the country.

Faculty and Staff Members were honored for their years of service to the university.



Carolyn McKinney

Twenty-five Year Recipients:

Glenn Bottoms Chuck Bridges
Frieda Brown

Ten-Year Recipients:

Kent Blevins	Wanda Bridges
Frances Burch	Lorin Cranford
Robin Hamrick	Vanessa Hawes
Macy Hickman	Scot Hull
David Jones	Doug Knotts
Noel T. Manning	Kathy Martin
Harold McKinney	Patty Robbins
Kaye Schenk	Donna Simmons
Frances Sizemore	Holly Sweat
Mary Thompson	Helen Tichenor
Steve Varley	David Wacaster
Scott White	Ron Williams

GWU CREATES CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Center for Transformational Leadership is a non-profit



organization that will promote and embody the importance of being an effective leader who presents commitments of ethical quality, high morals, and integrity.

Dr. Charles Bugg, who already serves in the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity as professor of church ministry and leadership, has been named director for The Center for Transformational Leadership. “This will be

about helping shape people who make a difference and help allow one not to lose sight of their compassion of good values and faith when conducting their job as a leader,” said Bugg.

Bugg along with Provost and Senior Vice President for Gardner-Webb, Dr. Ben Leslie sees the center being something that various groups and individuals both internal and external could plug into. That list includes, (on campus) students and student clubs, academic and other university departments and faculty and staff. “The center will also seek to reach community outside the campus,” said Leslie.

The mindset for the center will be to develop and present forums and programs throughout the year on leadership that would include a variety of guest speakers. “Everybody is a leader in some way and leadership is not just about making decisions but people working through personal awareness and the ability to manage people in an ethical way,” said Bugg.

GWU RECEIVES GIFT FROM DUKE ENERGY

Duke Energy’s Jim Turner, president and chief operating officer, U.S. Franchised Electric and Gas presented a \$250,000.00 gift towards a new student development center at Gardner-Webb during a spring announcement. “When we have the opportunity to do things with Gardner-Webb, it’s good not only for our company but for the community. We’re continuing a great relationship that’s a wonderful win-win for both of us,” said Turner.



According to Gardner-Webb Vice-President of Development, Steve Varley, the University continues in its effort to transform and broaden the campus and a new student development center is the centerpiece of those efforts. Productivity has been good and remains active as the process continues. While there is much more work to do on raising funds for this project, exciting news is expected in the future. “This gift will assist in providing a place (student center) where campus life comes together as students interact with faculty, staff, and other students,” said Gardner-Webb President Frank Bonner.

GWU APPOINTS DR. DOUG BRYAN ASSISTANT PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC SERVICES

“I am both humbled and honored to be given this opportunity. I hope to use my experiences to build upon the present strengths of wonderful people and programs to enhance the teaching and learning environment for all. Academic Services serve both faculty and students. Whether we are faculty or staff, we work together so that our students might learn,” said Bryan.



Dr. Doug Bryan earned two bachelor’s degrees, one from Furman University and one from Howard Payne University. He received his master’s, graduate specialist degree and doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bryan began working at Gardner-Webb University in 2002.

“One of our goals in creating the new Assistant Provost for Academic Services position has been to carefully assess the extent to which we are maximizing the effectiveness of our faculty advisors and the advisement program—and not only assess that program, of course, but implement whatever changes are necessary to achieve that goal,” said Dr. Ben Leslie, provost and senior vice president.

Bryan’s new responsibilities will include overseeing “the Academic Advising Center and student advisement across all programs, training faculty advisors, and ongoing assessment of the advising program. In addition to a small teaching load, he will also supervise the Directors of the Learning Assistance Program, the Writing Center, Undergraduate Research, the Honors Program, and the NOEL Program,” said Leslie.

Bryan has served GWU as professor of Religious Education and chair of the Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy.

DR. VAN GRAHAM CHOSEN AS ASSOCIATE DEAN

Dr. Van Graham, a Professor of Business at Gardner-Webb University has been appointed as Associate Dean of the School of Business. In his new role, he will assist Dean, Anthony Negbenebor in managing the day-to-day operations of the School of Business.



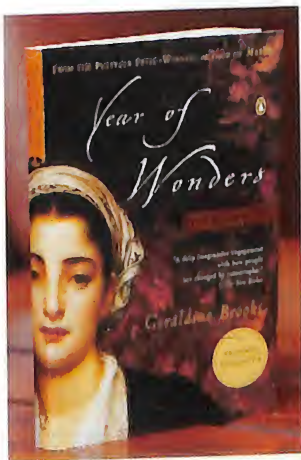
According to Dr. Gayle Price, the Associate Provost for Schools, "Van Graham is superbly suited for the position of Associate Dean of the School of Business, which requires extremely careful attention to detail as well as outstanding people skills and the ability to handle a great deal of pressure with grace and humor. He is one of the most organized, wisest and the calmest people I know. He is also a man of deep faith, a man of prayer, who seeks his guidance from the Lord and is motivated by a selfless desire to serve others."

Graham received his bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky., a master's degree from Stetson College of Law in St. Petersburg, Fla., and a Juris Doctorate from Baylor School of Law in Waco, Texas. Graham first began teaching at Gardner-Webb University in the fall of 1999 as Assistant Professor of Law and Management. In 2002, he moved to Wyoming and began practicing as a County and Prosecuting Attorney for three years. In 2005, he returned as a professor in the School of Business at GWU.

GWU STUDENTS TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO EXAMINE ALIENATION, LOSS AND HOPE

Each year incoming freshmen at Gardner-Webb University must read a novel as part of the University 111 classroom experience. This year's featured book is "Year of Wonders- A Novel of the Plague" by Geraldine Brooks.

"There's something for everybody in "Year of Wonders!" In light of the fact that we're introducing interdisciplinary studies in the new



University 111 course, this book will provide a great springboard for discussions about religion, science, medicine, culture, and society," said Mary Theokas, director of student retention and success.

"Year of Wonders" is based on historical fact. In 1665, villagers in the Derbyshire town of Eyam, afflicted by the plague, voted to quarantine themselves so as not to spread the disease," said John Vernon who wrote a review for the New York Times.

According to Theokas, "An infected bolt of cloth carries the plague from London to the mountain village, where an 18-year-old housemaid, Anna Frith, ultimately becomes an unlikely heroine and healer. As death reaches every household, the villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting. While the villagers fight the plague, Anna fights her own demons of personal loss and the lure of illicit love."

The GWU first-year book discussion began in 1998.

THREE GARDNER-WEBB STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AWARDS AT ALPHA CHI CONVENTION

Gardner-Webb's Alpha Chi chapter is a nationally recognized honor society for college juniors and seniors. These students must have a GPA in the top 10% of their class and a record of academic integrity to be eligible for Alpha Chi. Each year, members compete for national and regional scholarships based on their academic work.

This spring, eight GWU students traveled to Asheville, N.C. for the Region III annual Alpha Chi convention. Three Gardner-Webb students won awards for their work. Matthew Walters won a national Benedict Fellowship for his analysis of Henry David Thoreau's, "Resistance to Civil Government."

Meredith White won one of the two regional Alpha Chi undergraduate scholarships at the convention. She was rewarded for her essay, "The Rhetoric of Obituaries."

Jennifer Cheek was recognized as the second alternate of the national Nolle Scholarship offered also to the undergraduate competition. Cheek will receive national recognition and a cash prize for her essay concentrating on the influences of Zoroaster on Christian ideas of the afterlife.

"Alpha Chi gives students a chance to present their work in a scholarly venue. It also gives them a chance to publish in The Recorder, a collection of scholarly journals by Alpha Chi students," said Dr. June Hobbs, sponsor of Gardner-Webb's Alpha Chi chapter.



GARDNER-WEBB EARNS NATIONAL HONOR

GWU Selected To President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

For over a century, Gardner-Webb has worked to set a positive example for students, faculty, staff and community by serving God and Mankind. It is then fitting that GWU has the motto - "Pro Deo Et Humanitate" - "For God and Humanity." It is the commitment to that foundation that has landed Gardner-Webb on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Professor Susan Manahan, Gardner-Webb's coordinator of Service-Learning, witnessed first hand the labor and dedication of the University's students. "In all 1,243 students participated in community engagement activities. Activities included working with at risk youth, working on disaster and emergency response, homeless issues and working with senior citizens," said Manahan. The number of total documented hours of service was almost 13,000. Gardner-Webb students also volunteered their services on mission trips and for clubs and organizations.

The Honor Roll, launched in 2006, recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs. The Honor Roll's Presidential Award, given each year to only a handful of institutions, is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. Gardner-Webb was one of only 528 universities and colleges nation-wide from a list of thousands to be named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.



The Honor Roll candidates were chosen on several deciding factors including: scope of innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers service-learning courses.

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, sponsored by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, the USA Freedom Corps, and the U.S. Departments of Education, Housing, and Urban Development.

Gardner-Webb Provost and Senior Vice President, Ben Leslie is pleased to see students get this kind of recognition. "This award affirms not merely the University's programming, but also says something both positive and powerful about the students who attend here. Programs of civic engagement and service learning only work if students value them and participate in them. This is very much the case at Gardner-Webb," said Leslie.

The Price of Success

A Donor of the Decades

by M'Lissa Lawrence

For several decades, Alice Price text-booked Braille by hand and did so for Gardner-Webb from 1984-2008... for FREE. To put that in perspective, most Braille services would charge thousands of dollars for a custom math or science book translation.

Gardner-Webb's relationship with Alice Price was that of a pen pal (she lives on an inlet off the coast of North Carolina). The Noel Program for Students with Disabilities would send Price the Braille paper and chapters of textbooks which she then returned as completed Braille math or science textbooks.

In recent years, Price's mobility was

"She just loved helping people to accomplish great things in spite of their disabilities," remarks Kilpatrick. Although Price is 90 years old, she said it was the Braille composition that helped keep her mind sharp.

limited by her wheelchair and severe arthritis in her hands, yet she still worked diligently with the 6 keys of the Braille machine. "What she has done for the University cannot be understated," says Cheryl Potter, director of the Noel program. When a textbook required a

radius, chart, or graph, Mrs. Price pulled out the older Perkins Brailler, and used a slate and stylus to replicate the Nemeth Code (the Braille math code). She has a "witty wonderful and intelligent sense of humor" shares Potter. Price also included remarkably entertaining notes with each translation.

Nellie Kilpatrick first contacted Price in the fall of 1984. It was her second year at Gardner-Webb as Director of the Program for Visually Impaired and Blind. Since Gardner-Webb would receive its first "totally blind student, Doug

Armstrong, in the fall, and he needed Braille math texts," Nellie tried to find someone to do those "as they were not readily available for his particular courses." For nearly 25 years, Price created nearly 10,000 volumes of books for over 376 students.

Price remembers all of her students over the years as well as their extracurricular activities. "She just loved helping people to accomplish great things in spite of their disabilities," remarks Kilpatrick. Although Price is 90 years old, she said it was the Braille composition that helped keep her mind sharp. When she was young, girls were not allowed to



take classes like science and math.

Brailing for Gardner-Webb's math and science textbooks gave her the opportunity to learn chemistry, a subject enabling her to have detailed conversations with her son who works in the Bio-technical field.

"Mrs. Price was already retired in 1984, and still going strong," reflects Potter. "When she Brailled, there was no technology available." Decades later, inventions such as Braille embossers or software translation programs for the Nemeth code quickened the Braille text-booking process.

"Mrs. Price was always upbeat, with a great sense of humor, every time I talked to her or made a request. She truly loved what she was doing, and enjoyed making such a worthwhile contribution," said Kilpatrick.

"Mrs. Price is a fantastic, wonderful person," remarks Cheryl Potter. When asked why Alice would do such a thing for so long without compensation, her only plausible response is "because she is a good person is all I can figure out!"



MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Dr. Don Berry Releases Book

“Pictures Of Islam:

A Students Guide To Islam”

by Paul Foster

Since September 11, 2001 there have been more than a few books released on the subject of Islam. Dr. Don Berry, professor for Gardner-Webb University's School of Divinity felt most of these books were either too technical for the average reader or over simplistic. This motivated Berry to write an introduction book that would represent an accurate presentation on Islam, but remain readable for anyone.

Berry's latest book, "Pictures of Islam: A Student's Guide to Islam" is written primarily for persons in churches, communities and schools that want to have a general introduction to this religion. "Some issues could have been explored in more depth, but I tried to keep the book reasonable in length and readable for a general audience," said Berry.

Islam first fascinated Berry after meeting Muslims in Turkey and Israel during the

Other barriers exist because people function from untested stereotypes," said Berry. He hopes these stereotypes can be identified and hopefully overcome through education.

summer after he graduated college. He was intrigued by the traditions and practices he witnessed that summer. Over the years,

Berry has studied and researched Islamic life firsthand. He has taught Muslim students, traveled to Muslim countries and spent quality time immersed into Muslim culture through the people, places and lifestyles. These connections have helped Berry gain a deeper understanding of Islam. "I think Christians should have a glimpse into the world of the Muslim that is not dominated by stereotypes and by the actions of some Muslim radicals," said Berry.

"Pictures of Islam: A Student's Guide to Islam" argues that some traditions and practices commonly found in the Arab world today reflect traditions of the pre-Islamic Arab culture rather than in the Islam described in the Qur'an. Berry attempts to distinguish those beliefs, traditions and practices that emerge from the Qur'an and those that are rooted in other Muslim traditions (that may not be

authoritative for all Muslims).

Berry explains, according to Islam, the

Qur'an was a revelation communicated by the angel Gabriel to the prophet Muhammad who lived in Arabia. The

teachings of the Qur'an emphasize the belief and allegiance to one God. While differences exist between the Christian Bible and Qur'an, Berry feels many would be surprised by what they have in common. One example he gives is that the Qur'an recognizes the virgin birth of Jesus to Mary, that Jesus chose disciples, performed miracles and was sinless.

Berry's book also talks about those barriers that hinder Muslim-Christian relationships. "Some barriers are based on convictions that each has that is not consistent with the teachings (Christian or Muslim) of the other person. Other barriers exist because people function from untested stereotypes," said Berry. He hopes these stereotypes can be identified and hopefully overcome through education.

Berry knows the reality is that terrorists using the Muslim name exist today but we should remember, there are Muslim's committed to the Qur'an and the modern world. According to Berry, the killing of another human being is allowed in Islam but murder is not.

Berry hopes that readers of his book will have a better understanding of Islam and the similarities and differences with Christians in the West.

IN THE ZONE

ERIC BREWTON '88

**MAKES THE
RIGHT CALL**



by Grace Whiteside

If you were watching the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship on ESPN earlier this year, you probably saw Eric Brewton, '88, officiating the final game between Tennessee and Stanford. By following God's direction, Brewton worked his way up from officiating kids in Cherryville, N.C. to becoming an official for the Women's NCAA Final Four and the WNBA Finals.

Brewton came from Miami, Fla. to Gardner-Webb to play football. But football wasn't his only talent. He also ran track all four years, played tennis for two, and soccer for one. In 1998, Brewton was inducted into Gardner-Webb University's Athletic Hall of Fame and into the Gallery of Distinguished Graduates in 2007.

He received a double major in business and MIS from GWU, and minored in psychology. After graduation he was asked to play in the Canadian Football League, but chose another career path, and began working in computer services for QS/1 Data Systems in Spartanburg, S.C. He was also a part-time football coach at GWU during that time. "That's how I stayed involved at Gardner-Webb," said Brewton.

Later, he decided to come work at Gardner-Webb full-time, even though it meant making sacrifices. "Gardner-Webb was the place I wanted to be," remembers Brewton. "God kept showing me things to keep me here. This has become my home. It has become a haven for me." Brewton is currently the Director of Network Services at GWU.

While he was working at QS/1 Day Systems, a friend asked him to referee kids' basketball scrimmages in Cherryville, N.C. Soon, he was recruited to a referee camp where he was chosen to work for the Eastern-Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The next year, he was selected to officiate numerous conferences including: the Mid-East Athletic, ACC, Conference USA, and Big South.

After one particularly difficult day, Brewton prayed that if the Lord really wanted him to continue to officiate basketball, God would give him a sign. Fifteen minutes after that prayer, the phone rang. It was the supervisor of the WNBA, interested in Brewton's work. In 2000, Brewton was an official for both the ACC and the WNBA. He has even officiated the WNBA Finals and the Women's NCAA National Championship. He was also the youngest official to work in a major finals tournament. It takes most officials 15-20 years to reach this level. "It is amazing how God works when he has a gift for you. He just opened the door. I realized that God has a purpose for each and every one of us and he gives us all gifts," added Brewton.

Brewton recently began a program called "Christ First," a ministry for traveling Christian officials who are separated from their family and church. Brewton understands the hardships of a traveling official, and seeks to provide an outlet for prayer, family support and encouragement. "We are in a world that doesn't see Christ first," he said. "But if you follow Christ you could actually find yourself in a position that you never thought you would be in."

FROM STAR WARS TO



“Beowulf”

GWU Student Composes A Symphony
for Senior Thesis

by Jamie Newton

Who knew that the main theme song from Star Wars would inspire Seth Huber to develop a life-long passion for music?

At the age of 12, Huber began playing the trumpet, which he continues to play to this day. Huber credits his middle-school band director with helping grow his love of music. “I always had an interest in music,” said Huber. “Some of the best days I remember from elementary school were when the North Carolina Symphony would come and do educational concerts.”

According to Patricia Sparti, chair of the Fine Arts Department at Gardner-Webb, “Huber began his first composition at the age of 13, though he threw away everything he wrote at that time. He gave up attempts at composition after his sophomore year of high school and did not resume until his freshman year at Gardner-Webb.”

He seriously studied composition for three semesters under Matt Whitfield, professor of music at GWU, before beginning his work on his senior thesis project of “Beowulf.”

“When I started thinking about ideas for my thesis I turned to literary topics because I thought it would be a good idea to set a story to music instead of dealing with a lot of abstract things; especially since this was my first large scale composition,” said Huber.

“I wrote the whole thing with paper and pencil, which is somewhat unusual now as computer software keeps advancing. The hardest part of writing was trying to find the right balance between mirroring the story and being expressive musically,” said Huber.

“Beowulf” is the earliest surviving English poem which tells the story of a Scandinavian hero who saves the Danes from the beast Grendel and eventually becomes king of his own people, before losing his life in a fight with a dragon.

“The main challenge was to avoid conforming too strictly to the text itself; I wanted to be expressive with the music and tell the story, and it was sometimes hard to find that balance and avoid being too literal,” said Huber.

Huber adapted the poem into “a symphonic suite for a large orchestra with lots of passion and compelling motives,” said Sparti.

He conducted the premiere of his composition at Gardner-Webb University this spring. “Conducting has been a new experience all together. It’s been frustrating at times but several members of the orchestra have been very encouraging to me throughout the process and I’m glad for it. The hardest part of conducting has been being confident and making it clear that I believe in what I’m doing,” said Huber.

“It has long been Huber’s dream to conduct his premiere. Seth is a joy to work with, and he did a great job conducting his work, which is a terrific piece of music,” said Sparti.

Huber has also played Principal trumpet in the GWU Orchestra for four years and was the recipient of the 2008 GWU Orchestra Award.

The Relationship Equation

GWU PRODUCT INVOLVED IN GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

by Grace Whiteside

Chinwendu Enyioha, '08 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, participated in a program that brought students with interests in science and engineering research from across the world to the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, Calif. The National Science Foundation and the Moore Foundation funded this 10-week research program during the summer of '07.



Enyioha's mission was to familiarize himself with ongoing research in his area of interest, and work with fellow scientists in understanding and finding solutions to new and interesting research problems. His project focused on complex network topologies and his objective was to understand a GRAPH of graphs and find the right approach to model its topology. "Complex networks exist all around us," said Enyioha. Ecosystems, the human body, the Internet, and social networks are illustrations of this. An overarching goal was to understand the evolution and nature of interconnections between components of complex networks. Enyioha said an example of this would be how people establish and keep their relationships.

"It was very interesting," said Enyioha. "The GRAPH of graphs hasn't been studied before." His group at Caltech was the first to study it.

He worked with a leading control theorist, John Doyle, a professor of control and dynamical systems, electrical engineering and bioengineering at Caltech.

Enyioha explained the challenge of researching something that had not been studied previously. "We did not have any scholarship or literature to reference," he said. "We were trying to establish the theoretical foundations, and trying to propose and prove theorems." His faculty advisor said not to worry about receiving results, because one rarely does.

He said that his biggest achievement on the project was when he proved that these complex networks are not infinite, but actually have finite structures.

"I enjoyed being able to socialize and fellowship with fellow scientists and engineers," said Enyioha. "In an environment of students with like minds, you reflect off each other."

Enyioha is thankful for the support he received from the Math department at GWU. "I have had the privilege to work closely with professors," he said. At Caltech he had to learn entirely new things. "It gave me an opportunity to build on what I've learned here."

"The Gardner-Webb math department has come a long way," said Enyioha. "Students have more options, and more upper level classes. I really appreciate what they have done." Enyioha also offers thanks to Dr. Bonner's initiative in beginning the Undergraduate Research Scholarship Fund. "That initiative will go a long way to help students advance to higher degrees," he said.

"Caltech is one of the top two or three schools in the country in science and technology issues," said Bob Bass, of the math department at Gardner-Webb. "Chinwendu pushed himself to get these opportunities."

Enyioha presented his work on GRAPH of graphs at the 2008 Mathematical Association of America-SE Conference, and received the Patterson Award for outstanding paper presentation. Fourteen other students participated at the conference. "That shows and tells a lot about the great things that happen at Gardner-Webb," said Enyioha.

He plans to attend University of Pennsylvania in the fall in pursuit of a Ph.D. in electrical and systems engineering.

"Chinwendu will be a very successful person," said Bass. "He's the most academically motivated student I've ever met. He is willing to put in the work."

Enyioha also offers thanks to Dr. Bonner's initiative in beginning the Undergraduate Research Scholarship Fund. "That initiative will go a long way to help students advance to higher degrees," he said.

The King of Hustle

**THOMAS SANDERS LEAVES GWU
WITH A HOST OF HONORS AND ACCOLADES**

by Grace Whiteside

Thomas Sanders, '08 graduate from Sugarland, Texas, will never forget the police escort when the Gardner-Webb basketball team returned to Boiling Springs after the major upset win against the University of Kentucky. "I didn't expect all of the excitement," he said. He remembers the roaring crowds, the round-the-clock national media attention and the impromptu GWU pep rally where the students chanted the names of the GWU players. It was an unforgettable time and one of his most memorable experiences at Gardner-Webb.

A home school product, Sanders grew up playing backyard basketball with his brothers and said that when his family bought their first basketball goal he "even had to help to pay for it." Sanders began playing organized basketball in the fifth grade for his father's seventh grade home school team.

But that wasn't his only sport. He began swimming when he was eight years old. He swam on a competitive year-round team throughout high school but felt the call of the courts. "I was better at basketball," Sanders said.

In ninth grade, a friend saw potential for Sanders' basketball career and offered to help him out for a summer. "We used to work out at 6:00 a.m. at the YMCA," said Sanders. "That experience really influenced [my] basketball [career] later on." That year he began playing basketball year-round. During his senior year, his high school team won home school nationals.

In 2004, he signed with Texas Pan-American University. The next year he transferred to Otero Junior College in Colorado. After Otero, his last shot for recruitment was a summer camp in Tulsa, Okla., where the former GWU Associate Head Coach, Chris Holtman saw Sanders and offered him a spot on the team.

That offer came in July, and GWU started classes in August. Sanders says that his experience at GWU seemed to fall in his lap. "Sometimes the ball bounces your way," said Sanders. "God intervened. I've tried to do my best everywhere but never got a blessing until here. I've enjoyed my time here. The coaches have worked with me. The system fits."

"He's been a tremendous asset to the program, the school and the community," said Head Basketball Coach Rick Scruggs. "I would describe Sanders as a competitor. He has excelled in the classroom, as well." Sanders has earned a host of accolades and honors while competing at GWU including the 2008 Associated Press All-American Honorable Mention. "It proves that guys from small schools can compete on a bigger stage," Sanders said.

"He's meant a tremendous amount to us, being the first Gardner-Webb athlete to receive All-American status at the division one level," said Scruggs. He also earned Atlantic-Sun Player of the Year, and finished his season with the fourth best rebounding total in Atlantic-Sun history. "He approaches everything with energy and intensity: school, basketball and life in general," said Scruggs. "I think his drive far excels most guys his age."

Sanders was also named to the A-Sun's All-Academic Team last year, and was also a first-team ESPN Magazine Academic All-District III choice.

Sanders majored in social sciences at Gardner-Webb, and wishes to attend law school one day. For now, he wants to pursue a professional basketball career.

CHIEF DOG

KANSAS CITY SELECTS BRIAN JOHNSTON FOR NFL

Imagine if you will what it would be like to maintain your patience when minutes and hours turn into what seems like an eternity while waiting on a dream to be fulfilled. That had to be what Brian Johnston was going through prior to being selected in the seventh round of April's NFL Draft by the Kansas City Chiefs.

"This was the longest day of my life, but in the end it worked out perfectly in terms of the team and situation," said Johnston.

Johnston, the 6-foot-5, 274-pound defensive lineman of San Diego, Calif., enters into a good situation with the Chiefs. At press time, Johnston was one of only three defensive ends listed on the Chiefs' roster after trading Pro Bowl end Jared Allen to the Minnesota Vikings, and because they didn't select any other defensive ends during the draft. "I get to be a part of a rookie class in Kansas City that most of the experts are saying is the best draft group this year," said Johnston.

Johnston is the first prospect from Gardner-Webb to be drafted in the NFL since The New Orleans Saints selected Terry Guess in 1996's fifth round. Johnston joins former GWU standout Jim Maxwell - defensive linebacker, as the second player who will currently be playing in the NFL. Maxwell, a free agent signee in 2004 by the New York Giants is currently a member of the Cincinnati Bengals.

In his senior season with Gardner-Webb, Johnston was a consensus Division 1 FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) All-American, earning a place on seven different All-America teams. This season he had 74 tackles, 29 tackles for loss, six sacks and rattled opposing quarterbacks with 22 pressures, which led to a second Big South Conference Defensive Player of the Year honor. In just three seasons,



by Paul Foster

Johnston finished at GWU as the top tackler among defensive linemen in school history (269) and totaled 53.5 tackles for loss, 20.5 sacks and 69 quarterback pressures.

Next for Johnston will be the opportunity to earn his keep with the Chiefs under the direction of two very experienced and successful coaches in the National Football League. Those coaches are Head Coach, Herman Edwards and Defensive Coordinator, Gunther Cunningham. "He (Cunningham) said they were very high on me and told me that I should be fired up, because they were," Johnston said.

"I'm extremely thankful to the Chiefs and will make sure I perform every time I step on the field - whether in practice or on Sundays."

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It's a Family Thing

As a proud alumnus (1977) of Gardner-Webb University it is a privilege as Director of Church Relations to represent Gardner-Webb to our churches. From West Jefferson in the west to Wilmington in the east, there is always someone in the pew or around the table who has Gardner-Webb ties. As our alumni and friends you are in churches across the state and beyond. From preaching opportunities, leading Wednesday evening programs, or representing the University in denominational meetings, I am always proud to share the great things happening at GWU with our Gardner-Webb family.



When my college freshman daughter Elizabeth was making her final decision about college I asked her why she really wanted to attend Gardner-Webb. She replied, "It's college but it feels like family." No truer words have been spoken. GWU is a family. And you are part of that family. I am proud to be a part of the GWU family and I hope that you feel strong ties to the Gardner-Webb family also.

If I can ever visit with you in your church or in any other setting to share some of the great happenings with the Gardner-Webb family please let me know. You may contact me at 704.406.3008 or at jfbridges@gardner-webb.edu.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Bridges".

John Bridges
*Director of Church Relations
Gardner-Webb University*

THE GLOBETROTTER

'58 Alumna Has Passion For International Teaching

by Jamie Newton

Rachel Elliott Churchill regularly leaves her home to teach health related materials in various parts of the world. Without her help most of these students who are physicians, nurses, economists, or health education specialists in their countries would not get the opportunity to learn crucial information that aids in the well being of their countries.

Churchill was raised in Boiling Springs N.C. as the daughter of President Phil Elliott of Gardner-Webb.

"Gardner-Webb was really my home. I roamed the campus, went in all the classrooms and the library, and knew most of the faculty and students. It was my greater world," said Churchill.

Churchill not only lived on campus as a child, but she also attended Gardner-Webb when it was a Junior college and in 1958 received an Associates of Arts Degree in engineering. She continued her education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Instead of staying for two years, she stayed for almost ten years. While she was there, she earned two bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees and certification as a medical research officer.

As a child her father always told her that he "was less worried about how we spent our time than how we spent ourselves." She says that it was one of the best pieces of advice that anyone has ever given her. "The only thing I really have to give to the world, my community, my family and my friends is myself and whatever talents I have to offer," said Churchill.

With her dad's advice in mind, she began working for the Center

"The only thing I really have to give to the world, my community, my family and my friends is myself and whatever talents I have to offer," said Churchill.

for Disease Control (CDC) in 1975 as an author's editor. After a few years, she became the head of the CDC's publishing office. In the mid-80's she began her life's passion, which was teaching overseas to students who usually are "professional staff in their countries' ministries of health."



"I am asked to conduct short- to medium-term courses in a range of one week to three months in the general area of health communications," said Churchill.

"I try to make it clear that anytime my students want to contact me for the rest of their life, I will remember them and try and help them in whatever they need." She still hears from former students around the world each month.

In 2006, she retired from the CDC and became a free agent. By retiring, she said that she hoped to keep the part of the job that she loved (teaching overseas), while no longer having to do the parts (committee meetings and politics) that she could live without.

Throughout the years that she has taught, Churchill has visited over 96 different countries. "There are just too many lessons and too many settings for us to learn all the answers, even if we work in every country on earth. However, the rewards in the process can be even greater than the challenges," said Churchill.

Before the year's end, Churchill will be departing once again to go and teach in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and will also be returning to South Africa.

LIVING THE DREAM

GWU Graduate Travels the World for U.S. Government

by Jamie Newton

Jeanne Kincaid '02 is living out her dream job. In 2005, she began working for the U.S. Government in the Foreign Service Department of State as an Office Management Specialist. Her first assignment was the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, where her job entailed working with off-site officers and keeping them in contact with the Embassy. After being stationed for 18 months in Kabul, she came back to the states for French language training for her next post in Tunis, Tunisia. In August 2007, she was stationed in Belgrade, Serbia, where she currently works as the Foreign Service Specialist, Office Manager for U.S. Ambassador, Cameron Munter.

In her day-to-day job, she manages the Ambassador's schedules, which is constantly changing. "I 'guard the gate' according to Ambassador Munter- to keep him on track and focused. I make sure the right people are in his meetings, I have to know whom to include and when.

Her first assignment was the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, where her job entailed working with off-site officers and keeping them in contact with the Embassy.

It doesn't sound like a lot of 'hands on,' 'task completed' work - and it's not; that makes day-to-day life quite interesting," said Kincaid. "To say I love my job is an understatement. Some days it's not so much about what I do as what I experience."

Kincaid grew up on a farm in southern New Jersey and received her undergraduate degree from Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J. As an adult, she moved to Mooresboro, N.C. and became an extremely active member of her community. She served as town clerk, served on the town council twice, sang in the choir at Sandy Run Baptist Church, volunteered with the Mooresboro Woman's Club, ran for NC State House, helped organize the League of Women Voters and also became the president of the organization.

While pursuing her master's degree in accounting from Gardner-Webb, Kincaid was working for Textile Millwrights. During this time, she also wrote feature stories for the Charlotte Observer's Foothills Magazine for almost ten years. In January 2005, with 35 years of private industry experience in accounting and

office management positions, she began a new career with the Foreign Service Department.

Kincaid says that Gardner-Webb helped prepare her for her job in several ways. She took a World Religions Class and it



helped her become aware of the different cultures and languages around the world, which was greatly helpful, when she lived in Kabul, a Muslim society. Also, taking classes with several international students helped her to develop a love and respect for foreign countries.

While stationed at her various posts, Kincaid had the opportunity to visit several countries including: England, Scotland, Australia, and the United Arab Emirates. She has also been able to experience Venice, Istanbul and Turkey.

While living and working overseas, she has also had unique experiences, as the following story shows.

"One day, while driving on a dirt road in an SUV, we came upon a sign with the skull symbol and our Arabic student translated the words as 'unexploded bomb ordinance ahead' — needless to say, we turned around!" stated Kincaid.

BUILDING BRIDGES

GWU Alumnus Crossing Cultural Boundaries

Amy Armstrong, '97, has a passion for helping others. Whether that is by teaching home-schooled missionary children, helping international students acclimate to their new school, or assisting mothers in finding appropriate child care for their family, her goal in life is to support others when they need it.

Upon choosing Gardner-Webb University, Armstrong immediately got involved in what GWU had to offer. She participated on the FOCUS team all four years, met lots of friends, and got involved in various other extra-curricular activities. She said that Dr. Jack Partain, a professor of Religion, really made an impact on her life.

"Dr. Partain helped me to think about things on a deeper level than I ever dreamed imaginable," said Armstrong. "From helping me to realize that college education can be more about learning HOW to ask questions than giving a bunch of answers, to inspiring me to look at what matters most when choosing what paths to pursue after college. Dr. Partain continues to influence my life today."

"Gardner-Webb helped prepare me for my future, because that is the place where I became more independent. I made my own decisions and became increasingly steadier on my feet as a leader among my peers. It also prepared me by helping me meet people who had grown up in different places and had different perspectives in life," said Armstrong.

Armstrong graduated from Gardner-Webb University as a double major in Spanish and Religion, and immediately entered

"Gardner-Webb helped prepare me for my future, because that is the place where I became more independent."

the Journeyman Program of the International Mission Board. She left for a two-year-assignment to Peru, where she home-schooled three teenage daughters of Baptist Missionaries.

"All in all, my two years in Peru changed my life in more ways



than I can say, primarily through exposing me to people whose lives were not guided by the same concerns I had been taught were most important," said Armstrong.

Armstrong returned to Gardner-Webb University as a Campus Ministries Intern and then became the Director of Student Ministries for two years. She then received her Master of Divinity Degree at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

In 2004, she began working with International students at Santa Monica College in Los Angeles, Calif. Her goal was to build relationships with as many of the 3,000 International students as she could, by holding conversational English classes and also through coordinating social events.

"It was one of those jobs, where I don't think I'll ever really know the final outcome of what was built during those conversations and times together," said Armstrong.

In June 2007, she moved to Durham, N.C., where she is currently working with Child Care Services Association as a bilingual referral counselor helping people find childcare in the area.

"Sometimes I think it sounds a little boring after two years in Peru and three years in Los Angeles, but what matters most is the way that what I do helps people with something that could potentially be overwhelming and discouraging to them without my assistance," said Armstrong.

Creating a Way, So Others May Follow

Classes of '58 and '59 Honor Fellow Graduate

The Martha Mason Challenge Endowed Scholarship Fund has been established at Gardner-Webb University.

This endowed scholarship fund was initiated by members of the Classes of 1958 and 1959 in honor of Martha Mason and her commitment to Christian higher education and the values held by Gardner-Webb University.

The Martha Mason Challenge Endowed Scholarship Fund was founded to provide financial assistance to full-time students attending Gardner-Webb University. Preference will be given to students who are under the assistance of the NOEL Program for the Disabled. The Noel Program assists students with learning disabilities, physical restraints, limited or total blindness or deafness.

“We do not honor Martha because she lives in an iron lung. We honor her for the knowledge and wisdom she has attained and for the tremendous impact she has had and continues to have on her community,” states Charles Cornwell, a lifetime friend and editor of her biography.

The scholarship fund was established with an initial gift from the Classes of 1958 and 1959 as part of their 50th reunion. The fund is open-ended and classmates, family and friends of Martha Mason may make additional

contributions. All donations can be made in the form of cash, stocks, bonds or property and are tax deductible.

Martha Mason was Gardner-Webb's first distance learner. She battled polio as a child and as a result has lived in an iron lung since she was 11-years-old. Mason never let the fact that she was limited physically inhibit her ability to learn.

While at Gardner-Webb she participated in her class via intercom, which allowed her to talk with her professors and fellow classmates. She graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1958 at the top of her class.

After graduation, she continued her education at Wake Forest University. She also has written a book, “Breath: Life in the Rhythm of an Iron Lung,” the story of her life. She is currently working on her second book, which will be a collection of short stories. Mason was also the subject of the award-winning documentary, “Martha in Lattimore” by filmmaker Mary Dalton.



When asked what this honor means to her, Mason said, “I am pleased that my class is doing this for Gardner-Webb. I think that Gardner-Webb has a vision to help a child who may be challenged physically or mentally ... I am very proud of Gardner-Webb and I am very proud of my class.”

On-going efforts to fully endow the scholarship continue. If you are interested in making a contribution, please notify the Office of Alumni Relations by phone at 704-406-3862 or by e-mail at alumni@gardner-webb.edu.



GWU Alumnus Making a Difference as Mayor

Jimmy Harris is giving back to the community that helped raised him. "Serving as the mayor of the town I grew up in is an honor and to have served five consecutive terms is satisfying. To be elected to such a high post by people who know you the best, all their lives in most cases, speaks volumes," said Harris.

Harris grew up in the town of Brevard, N.C. He graduated from Brevard High School and joined the U.S. Airforce and served for four years. In 1984, he came to Gardner-Webb University.

He chose to come to Gardner-Webb because a lot of people recommended it to him. In fact, his hometown pastor even drove him here for a tour of the campus. After hearing what good things other people had to say about it, and finding out that he enjoyed what he saw on his visits, he decided to come to GWU.

Harris stated that several professors made significant impressions on him while he was attended Gardner-Webb. Dr. Arthur Nuhrah, a history professor, demanded perfection from all of the students. Harris said, "As difficult as I thought that he was, I have learned that hard work is the key to success."

Since being elected mayor in 1999, he has been involved with reducing the heavy debt load, putting in biking and hiking trails, and helping to ignite overall growth of the town.

Another professor, Dr. Sue Camp, in the School of Business, impacted him greatly. He said that he learned a great deal from her teaching because she spoke with a lot of "practical sense and instilled pride in the education of Gardner-Webb."

After graduating in 1986, with a degree in Business Administration, he moved to Norfolk, Va. He worked with First Investors Corporation for two and half years until he was drawn back to his hometown of Brevard, N.C. and the family business.

He then worked at his family's hardware store, Harris A. Hardware, for 20 years and became the owner and president of the company. While he was working at the hardware store he served as the President of the Chamber of Commerce, the President of the Merchants Association, and still currently serves on the Leadership Council for the National Federation of Independent Business and serves on the board of RBC Centura Bank.

Since being elected mayor in 1999, he has been involved with reducing the heavy debt load, putting in biking and hiking trails, and helping to ignite overall growth of the town. The accomplishment he is most proud of is making Brevard's travel lanes safer and less congested by timing the traffic signals and redesigning the lanes.

Harris and his wife, Carrie, have three children, all whom are adopted. Quinn, was adopted stateside, Cassi was adopted from South Korea and Calla from China.

"I am proud to be a Gardner-Webb Alumni. I am proud of the quality education that I received.

I have really been impacted by my time at GWU. I have made lifelong friends and relationships and would never trade that experience," stated Harris. "Gardner-Webb is big enough to compete anywhere but small enough to feel like home."



Class Notes

The 40's

JOHN H. WALKER '48 A.A.

was inducted into Gardner-Webb's Gallery of Distinguished Graduates. He is a mentor and board member for the Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation. He also serves as a member of the Rutherford County Symphony and Forest City Kiwanis Club where he serves as pianist for the club. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Spindale, N.C. where he is Minister of Music.

The 50's

RAY CRAWFORD '55 A.A.

was among 22 other alumni that were inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Graduates. He served in the United States Army Reserve, retiring in 1997 with the rank of Lt. Col. He taught Secondary English at Pleasant Gardens High School in Marion, N.C. for four years. He then became a principal in Rutherford County, N.C.

RON HAWKINS '55 A.A.

has been inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Graduates at Gardner-Webb University. He is the former president and board chairman of Home Federal Servings Bank of Statesville and former member of the Board of Trustees at Gardner-Webb University. He is also past president of Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce and former deacon of First Baptist Church in Statesville, N.C. He retired after 40 years in the banking business.

The 60's

REV. JOE D. COLTRANE '63 A.A.

has been called as interim pastor to Glenola Baptist Church, N.C. He is a native of the Glenola community and grew up in this church.

SCOTT PADGETT '67 A.A.

has been recognized as the Alumnus of the Year for Gardner-Webb University's Gallery of Distinguished Graduates. He has taught sixth grade for Gaston County Schools and fifth grade for Cabarrus County Schools. He has served as an assistant principal at Coltrane Wobb Elementary School and then as principal at both Long Exceptional and Beverly Hills Elementary schools. He also served as a Hospice volunteer, honorary chair for Relay for Life, and chairman of the United Negro Fund. Scott is currently the mayor of Concord, N.C.

The 70's

TED MONROE '71 B.S.

has been promoted to professor of mathematics by Wofford College for the 2007-2008 academic year. He previously served as associate professor for the college.

LACOUNT LOUIS ANDERSON, III

'77 B.A. is now the Director and Missionary to Mission Partner, a ministry committed to assisting churches in doing short-term mission work. He specifically concentrates on ministry efforts with the homeless.

The 80's

JAMES LEE MANUEL '84 B.A.

is part time Associate Pastor for Family Life Ministries at New Prospect Baptist Church. He is also a part time Associational Missionary for the Staunton River Baptist Association.

KELLY OVERCASH '84

was recently named by CommunityONE Bank as Manager and Vice President of the bank's Viewmont office in Hickory, N.C. He previously served as Manager in Newton, N.C. He joined the bank in 2006 with 25 years of banking experience.

KENNETH GUY HOLCOMBE '84

B.A. resigned from Mt. Airy Baptist Church, after serving there 19 years to begin a Digital Marketing Concept Firm, "Creative Impressions." The firm is located in the Powdersville area of South Carolina. kgHolcombe@charter.net

TIMOTHY VAUGHN '86 B.S.

has recently been appointed as outside sales manager for Fastenal in Shelby, N.C.
Timmyv111@msn.com

EDWIN BROOKS NASH JR. '86 B.A.

has recently joined Fidelity Bank as Vice President/Chief Executive in High Point, N.C.
Bnash64@triad.rr.com

CAMERON BROOKS '86 B.S.

is among several new teachers at Duncan Elementary School. He serves as the new physical education instructor. He is a member of New Heights Baptist Church in Gaffney, S.C.

EDWARD AUSTIN '88

was presented with the 2007 Meritorious Service Award by the N.C. Recreation & Parks Association's Athletic Division. He is currently Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Department Athletic Coordinator and was recognized for his 18 years of service to the NCRPA and eight years of service on the athletic directors' workshop steering committee, including one year as chair.

RONALD SCOTT WARRICK '89 B.A. AND KIMBERLY TOBIN WARRICK '93 B.S. have two children, Kobie Scott born December 19, 1999 and Callie Avis born August 20, 2003. warrick457@aol.com

TONY LEE HOBBS '87 B.A. is currently seeking his Master of Divinity at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The 90's

ERWIN DALE SULLIVAN '92 B.S. was recently hired as a Credit Analyst at First National Bank in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

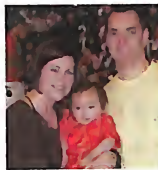
HOYT BYNUM '93 B.S. has been recognized by the Spartanburg Children's Shelter as the new chief executive officer. He replaces Sylvia Stanley, who served for the past 26 years. He will be responsible for the day-to-day operations, as well as formulating long-range plans for the shelter. He most recently was executive vice president for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Upstate.

CRYSTAL WHITE '93 A.D.N. received Mission Hospital's Family Choice Award. Only six people in the hospital system were honored with this award. She also became IBCLC, RLC.Bcwhite1@charter.net

NELSON SEARCY '94 B.A. has received the Young Alumnus Award from Gardner-Webb University's Gallery of Distinguished Graduates. He has been employed by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and then as Director of The Purpose Driven Community at Saddleback Church in California. In 2002, he founded the Journey Church of the City in New York where he is lead pastor. He is also a celebrated author with special focus on leadership and church planting and growth.

TRACEY HACKETT ANDERSON '94 B.S. and husband, Gregory, are proud to announce the birth of their son Jeremiah Daniel Anderson on November 12, 2007. Jeremiah was born in Arequipa, Peru. The Andersons have been missionaries to Peru for ten years.

JASON SCOTT SETZER '96 B.A. AND CRYSL TIMMONS SETZER '93 B.A. announce the adoption of their daughter Hope Xiaoxue Setzer on December 17, 2007. scsetzer@netzero.com



KELVIN MCCRAY '96 B.S. and Jeanna Patrice Dixon were married on October 20, 2007 at Zion Baptist Church. He is employed by Wachovia and she by Carolina Care Plan, Inc. The couple lives in Charlotte, N.C.

GINGER AKERS '97 B.S.N. is the first female member of V.F.W. Post 5466 in Taylorsville, N.C. Currently she is a Lt. Col. and Director of Training for the 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. She is married to Chief Master Sgt. Mike Annas and they have three children, Kellie, Stewart, and Katie.

DEANN CHILTON POINDEXTER '98 B.S. and Jeffrey Poindexter had a baby girl, Reagan Quinn, on December 28, 2006. She has an older brother, Nolan and an older sister, Audrey.

JENNIFER MARSH IDSTROM '99 B.S. and Roger Idstrom gave birth to twin boys, Dane and Logan, on December 5, 2007.

SUSAN HENDERSON EASTMAN '99 A.A. and husband, Ian are proud to announce the birth of their son, Ethan Jones Eastman. He was born October 17, 2007 and weighed 9lbs and 2oz.

WILLIAM L. FULLER '99 B.S. and Jill Marie Bencini were married on August 4, 2007 at Jetton Park in Cornelius, N.C. He is a business analyst for Public Consulting Group in Charlotte, N.C. and she is the owner of Siena Sales and Marketing, an import and retail sales company. The couple resides in Huntersville, N.C.

CORBY DWAYNE HANELINE '99 B.S. AND KENDRA LEAH KIRBY HANELINE '97 B.S. have three children, Chandler, Carter, and Kensley. He was promoted to Director of Golf at River Bend YMCA Golf Course in January 2008. He also started the First Tee of Cleveland County in 2006, which is a national program that introduces kids to golf and teaches life skills. ckaneline@bellsouth.net

JEFFERY LEE JIMMO '99 B.S. and Stephanie Lynn Arthurs were joined in marriage on October 6, 2007 at the Cherryville Country Club. The couple resides in Mount Holly, N.C. Jeff is employed by True Behavioral Health Care and Ryan Hoover's Extreme Karate. The bride is a business relationship team leader for Wachovia.

SARAH JO SCHASSBERGER '99 B.S. and Abram Axe were married in April 2007.

KRISTY STARLING '99, '04 B.S.N. and Michael Capps were married on September 29, 2007 in Zirconia, N.C.

BRANDI TOLBERT TOELKES '99 B.S. married Philip Wayne Toelkes on October 13, 2007 at Catawba Country Club. She is a court manager and public information officer with the 25th Judicial District for the state of North Carolina and he is court manager with the 21st Judicial District for the State of North Carolina.

MATTHEW WYATT WEATHERS '99 B.A. AND CORIE BRANNON WEATHERS '99 B.A. welcomed their second son, Jackson Elias into the family on July 26, 2007. In addition to becoming parents for the second time, Corie has founded her own private counseling practice and Matt is a spiritual formation director at 12 Stone Church in Lawrenceville, Ga. and is working as a professional counseling intern at Building Intimate Marriages, Inc. while completing his candidacy as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserves.

CHRISTINA WHITEHOUSE-SUGGS '99 B.A. and husband Matt both received their Master of Divinity degrees from Campbell University Divinity School in May 2007. Christina was then called as the first Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina and began work on Dec. 3, 2007.

The 00's

MARK DOUGHERTY '00
B.S. AND AMANDA
DOUGHERTY '02 B.A.



are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Glen Wallace Dougherty. He was born on May 8, 2007.

MARYDEAN JONES '00
B.A. and James Hairston were married on September 1, 2007. She is currently teaching ESL in the Intensive English Program at Eastern

Mennonite University.

JEFFERY MICHAEL FOSTER '00
B.S. and Keiko Tani were married on September 22, 2007 at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Dale City, Va. He is employed as a special agent with the United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General in Arlington, Va. She is serving as the director of youth and young adult ministries at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church.

MELISSA CATHERINE MELTON '00
B.A. and Kenneth McGinnis were joined in marriage December 22, 2007 at Corinth Baptist Church in Ellenboro, N.C. She is a seventh grade teacher at Crest Middle School in Shelby, N.C. and is currently working on her Masters in School Administration. He is a combat engineer in the United States Marine Corps, stationed at Camp Pendleton California. The couple resides in Ellenboro, N.C.

ANGELA DAWN WELDON '01 B.A.
and Clint Weldon welcomed their second son, Rowan Asher on January 25, 2008. He has an older brother, Poster Kade. angiedweldon@hotmail.com

JOHN SAMUEL DURST '01 B.S.
and Dana Michelle Fisk were joined in marriage on September 2, 2007 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wilmington, N.C. He is self-employed and she is employed by Pharmaceutical Products Development in Wilmington. The couple now lives in Wilmington.

THESSIA EVERHART-ROBERTS '02
B.S. was appointed Interim Director for the Davidson County Senior Services.

AMANDA STARNES HOUSAND '02
B.A. and Bryan Wayne Housand welcomed their daughter, Brinkley McKenzie on January 13, 2008. Amandaj0925@yahoo.com

PETER HALLOC '02 B.S.
is currently a research and development scientist in one of the high-tech companies in Silicon Valley, Calif.

ABIGAIL L. WOLFORD '02 B.A.
is going to have a poetry book published online by Abramelin Press. abbywolford@yahoo.com

DANIELLE S. HODGES '03 B.S.
has just been promoted to the rank of Sgt. Maj. in the U.S. Army National Guard. She is a human resources sergeant major with 28 years of service.

SHANNON PARIS '03 B.S.
received her real estate license in June of 2007. Ssparis@gmail.com

KRISTY LYNN HENDREN '03 B.S.
and Patrick Hendren announce the birth of their second son, Cody Shane, born January 7, 2008. He has an older brother, Austin Patrick.

THOMAS FREDERICK HENDRICKS
JR. '03 B.S. and Rebekah Lynn Taylor were married July 27, 2007 at the Farm in Candler, N.C. He is employed by the U.S. Postal Service and she is a fourth grade teacher at West Buncombe Elementary. The couple resides in Asheville, N.C.

EMILY KILLIAN '04 B.A.
is currently the lifestyles editor for the Star in Shelby, N.C. and is now the design editor as well. She joined the newspaper in 2003, and will be in charge of the design of the newspaper and supervision of the copy desk in addition to her responsibilities in lifestyles.

MELINDA ANNETTE DAVIS '04 B.S.
and Matthew Dwaine Miller were united in marriage on September 15, 2007. He is a Staff Sgt. in the U.S. Air Force and is now a full-time employee of the North Carolina Air National Guard in Badin, N.C.

Seeing the Signs

Deaf Alumnus Ministers to Deaf in Eastern North Carolina

Daniel Johnson '82 was one of the first deaf students ever to attend Gardner-Webb and one of the first three deaf students to graduate along with Robert McDaniel and William "Billy" Stricklen. Johnson said, "I had a great experience as a student at Gardner-Webb College. Jerry Potter served as the first director and really opened the doors for deaf students, interpreters and professors to interact."

Today, Johnson serves as a Minister to the Deaf at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Wilson, N.C. The church also conducts weekly Bible studies for students of the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf. In addition to his pastoral duties, Johnson also handles a number of duties that includes chairing the church's Partners in Missions Program. Johnson has extensive experience in mission work. He grew up as a missionary kid spending eight years in Chile with his parents, before moving to the United States.

Johnson's daughter, Anna, is currently a student at Gardner-Webb majoring in music/piano performance.

One of the most important things to Daniel Johnson is to continually try to build bridges with the hearing church. "As a minister to the deaf, I take a team approach to the deaf. I want them to share in the work, so I am empowering them to do it. They need to have the tools to carry on when I am no longer with them." That quote from Daniel shows his heart for his flock.

by Paul Foster

KELLI ELIZABETH GENTRY '05 B.S. and Jason Bradley Banner were married on November 10, 2007 at Catawba Valley Baptist Church. She is employed at Godteomoretz and he is employed at Western Youth.

ANDREW JUSTIN HOWARD '05 B.A. AND AMY ELIZABETH WELCH '06 A.A. were married on November 10, 2007. She is employed at Forsyth Medical Center as a registered nurse, and he is employed by Mobile X-Ray of Winston-Salem and coaches cross country and track and field at Mount Airy High School. The couple resides in Mt. Airy, N.C.

LINDA HERBST '05 B.S. was recently inducted into the Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society at Western Carolina University. She is currently the Director of the Mayland Community College Alumni Association.

SHALAWN DAWSON MOORE '05 B.S. opened a new company in Charlotte, N.C., L.A.S.E., L.L.C. Her company emphasizes business and leadership development, life/executive coaching, community-based training as well as continued workshops and motivational speaking. She will complete her graduate level degree in public administration from Strayer University this summer, where she will be a political science

instructor with the community college system upon graduation. Her 2009 schedule includes not only growing her company and being a professor, but also taking part in the doctoral program at the University of North at Charlotte, studying Public Policy with a concentration in the social sciences.

AMANDA MARIE BRYANT '06 A.A. and Ricky Gray, Jr. were married on October 6, 2007 at The Springs in Denton, N.C. Amanda is a Registered Nurse and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree through UNC Chapel Hill. Ricky is a full time student at RCCC having completed four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. The couple resides in Denton.

CLIFTON PHILBECK '06 B.A. and Amber Lane were united in marriage on August 11, 2007 at Gardner-Webb University's Dover Chapel in Boiling Springs, N.C. He is currently employed by Keystone Directories LLC, where he is an advertising consultant. She is the District Administrative and Education Specialist for Cleveland Soil and Water Conservation District. The couple resides in Boiling Springs.

YASMINE S. EALEY '06 B.S. recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, as an Air Force Reserve Airman.

CLARISSA ANN ROBERTS '06 A.A. and Richard Randolph Hall were united in marriage on August 25, 2007 in a beachside ceremony in Isle of Palms, S.C. She is an RN at Cleveland Regional Medical Center. He is employed by Cleveland Regional Medical Center. The couple lives in Shelby, N.C.

JOHN "JP" HARRIS '06 B.A. and Kathryn Flaugh were married on July 28, 2007. They currently reside in Dunn, N.C. where both attend Campbell Divinity School.

DAVID JOSHUA DAILEY '07 and Elizabeth Steele Rankin were married on September 29, 2007 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Statesville, N.C. He is a service specialist with Elmer's Products Inc. She is a sales and investment management associate with Wachovia Bank. The couple lives in Charlotte, N.C.

MEGAN REBEKAH TAYLOR '07 A.A. was married on July 14, 2007 at Antioch Baptist Church. She is a registered nurse in Greenville, S.C. and her husband graduated from North Greenville University with a Bachelor's degree in Christian studies. The couple resides in Simpsonville, S.C.

KO TANG CHA-MOSES '07 B.S. has joined Rink & Robinson, PLLC's Bookkeeping Services department. The company provides a variety of professional services in Taxes, Financial Planning, and Auditing Services, Computer & Software Selection and Support Assistance. She has had six previous years of bookkeeping experience that she brings with her.

JULIA DAVES PAGE '07 B.S. and Patrick Devin Page were married on July 14, 2007 at Dover Chapel. She is a staff accountant with GDS and he is a human resource administrator with Hickory Springs, Manufacturing. The couple resides in Hickory, N.C.

DANNY WAYNE PATTERSON, JR. '07 B.S. and Amy Denise Grigg were married on October 6, 2007 at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army having served in Iraq and is now employed by Piedmont Community Charter School. She is employed by Hats Off Salon and Spa.

CHARITY SUMNER WILLIAMS '07 and Jordan Drew Williams were married on July 14, 2007 at Rockford Street United Methodist Church. She is a coordinator for Behavioral Services Inc. and he is self-employed. The couple resides in Mount Airy, N.C.

UNDERGRADUATE AND
GOAL PROGRAM ALUMNI



Graduate School Alumni

The 80's

ELIZABETH LESLIE KIGER '89 M.A. and Kent Alexander were united in marriage on July 7, 2007 in the New Philadelphia Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. She is a retired teacher from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System, and he is a quality analyst for Tyco Electronics in Greensboro. The couple resides in Clemmons, N.C.

The 90's

CARY CASH '97 M.A. principal at Sugar Loaf Elementary School, has been selected as the 2007-2008 Principal of the Year. He began his career as a physical education teacher at Hiddenite Elementary and has worked as an educator in Alexander County for the past 19 years. He served as Assistant Principal at Hiddenite Elementary for four years, and has been principal of Sugar Loaf Elementary for several years.

KRIS PRATT '99 M.DIV has recently been hired by Spartanburg Methodist College as a Religion professor.

The 00's

CHRISTINE BUCHANAN WOODY '00 M. DIV. received her D. Min. from Erskine Theological Seminary in May 2007 and is now a resident Chaplain with the Greenville Hospital System.

CHRIS GIBBS '01 M.A. has been named the Wachovia Principal of the Year for Catawba County Schools. Gibbs began his tenure at Claremont Elementary in 2000 and has served as principal since 2004. He currently serves as the Bunker Hill Feeder District Lead Principal and is in the Principals Leadership Program. He has served on the Boys and Girls Club board of directors since 2005 and also served on the YMCA board of directors from 2004-2006.

AUBREY ALAN JAMES '02 M.B.A. and Amanda Jane Williams were married on June 23, 2007 aboard the Catawba Queen on Lake Norman. The groom works for Lowe's Home Improvement as a senior VSM analyst. The bride is employed by Lake Norman Communications, Inc. They live in Mocksville, N.C.

NICOLE TUCKER BAKER '03 MAcc and Randy Dale Baker were joined in marriage on September 15, 2007 at Walnut Lane Inn in Duncan. She is a CPA with Cooper and Brown in Spartanburg, S.C. and he is employed by Michelin in Anderson, S.C. The couple resides in Woodruff, S.C.

AUDREY F. WAGNER '03 M.A. was appointed the new principal at Fair Grove Elementary by the Davidson County Board of Education.

SHARON LAUGHTER CHERRY '03 M.A. and husband Michael announce the birth of their son, Carson Michael Cherry. He was born on August 20, 2007. He weighed 6 pounds and 7 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

RACHELLE PETTIT MCKOY '04 M.A. AND BRANDON KEITH MCKOY '04 M.DIV announce the birth of their second child Makenzie Brace McKoy on January 12, 2008. She joins her big brother, Kaden Joshua.rmckoy@carolina.rr.com

JENNIFER WELCHEL NIX '04 M.A. and Michael Nix announce the birth of their second daughter Addison Claire on August 15, 2007. She has an older sister, Abigail. Nixhome_1@charter.net

AMANDA WRIGHT '05 MAcc has been promoted to credit analyst at Surry Bank & Trust. She previously worked as a consumer loan officer for several years.

DUSTIN JAY BRIDGES '06 M.A. and Heather Kalani White were married on October 21, 2007 at Rumbling Bald Resort in Lake Lure, N.C. He works for Crest High School and she works for True Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. as an employment specialist. The couple lives in Boiling Spring, N.C.



In Memoriam



HATTIE CALTON '20

passed away September 6, 2007. She was an outstanding person in many ways and her faith was remarkable. In a time when most rural women received very little education and attended only one room schools, Hattie graduated as valedictorian of her class in 1920 from Boiling Springs Boarding High School (now Gardner-Webb University). She received a standing ovation at a 2002 ceremony when she was introduced to thousands of people by the provost of Gardner-Webb University.

CLARA STROUPE '36 A.A.

passed away October 6, 2007 at Carolina Care Center in Cherryville, N.C. She was a school teacher for 38 years at Mooresboro in Cleveland County, N.C., at East Belmont and Page Elementary, Belmont, N.C. in Gaston County. She was a charter member of Alpha Beta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary sorority for teachers, a life member of the National Education Association and a life member of the North Carolina Education Association.

AILEEN SCISM STOKES '38 A.A.

passed away October 2, 2007 in Conway Medical Center. She assisted her husband, Rev. Stokes, in his ministry with 22 churches in North Carolina and South Carolina. She taught in the Horry County School District for 26 years in Loris and Aynor. She and Rev. Stokes were the first married couple to graduate from Furman University, Class of 1942. She is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and one sister.

GLADYS SCOGGIN BROCK '41 A.A.

passed away November 25, 2007 in Belmont, N.C. She was a minister's wife for seventy years and a former member of the Home Demonstration Club. She enjoyed sewing, playing piano, and singing.

JOSEPH QUEEN JR. '43 A.A.

passed away October 21, 2007 at Hospice at Wendover in Shelby, N.C. He entered the service in September of 1943 and served as a ball turret gunner in a B-24 Liberator bomber in the 454th

Heavy Bombardment Group in Italy. He then went overseas in 1944 and was discharged in April 1945. He was a lifelong member of Clover Hill Methodist Church and a Sunday school teacher. The majority of his working years were spent at Cleveland Mill and Power Co. in Lawndale, N.C.

EDYTHE BERRY '47 A.A.

passed away November 26, 2007 at Carolina Rehab of Burke. She retired as a bookkeeper of Roses Department Store of Valdese. She was an active member of Abee's Grove Baptist Church where she served as a Sunday school teacher, training union director for more than fifty years, WMU and choir member, and church historian. She is survived by a brother E.H. "Sam" Berry and 18 nieces and nephews.

CHARLES V. SIKES, SR. '48 A.A.

passed away on March 18, 2008. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and was the president of the Lillington Chamber of Commerce (N.C.) two times, president of the Lillington Lions Club, served as a Lillington Town Commissioner for eight years, and was head of the Hartnett County Heart Association for five years. He was manager of the Bank of North Carolina in Lillington for 20 years and was a member of Lillington Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir for many years.

HAL L. MABRY, SR. '49 A.A.

died January 1, 2008. He worked as a computer analyst at Appalachian State University, and enjoyed volunteering in little league baseball attending Wake Forest Football games and taking vacations with his family. After retiring in 1994, he enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren, trips to Ocean Isle, and offering advice.

REV. THOMAS WADE ESTES '52

A.A. died October 4, 2007 at his home. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marines serving during several wars and received a Purple Heart. The Rev. Estes retired as a full time minister in 1984 from Guilford Baptist Church, where he was also a member.

VELVA DEAN MORGAN '64 A.A.

passed away September 8, 2007 at Gaston Memorial Hospital. She was an administrative assistant for the Xerox Corporation in Washington, D.C. for a number of years and retired from the Charlotte Office in 2000. She began a part-time career in real estate in 1994, working for Century 21 for five years and later full-time for the Allen Tate Company. She was also a proud member of Bethlehem Church.

ROBERT FRANCIS BARBER SR. '73

died December 20, 2007 at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. He was a full time Dairy Farmer and 4-H volunteer for 22 years. He served as the President of Western North Carolina Community development Association, President of Green Creek Ruritan Club and Polk County School Board for four years and a member of Columbus Presbyterian Church here he served as a deacon. He is survived by his wife, Evangelena, of 44 years, four children and two grandchildren.

Former Employees

SANDRA HARRIS BRASWELL

died December 13, 2007 in Asheboro, N.C. She taught Criminal Justice at several colleges including Gardner-Webb University.

FREDDIE SISK

passed away November 13, 2007 at Oconee Memorial Hospital. She was a retired secretary from Gardner-Webb University and a member of Cliffside Baptist Church. She is survived by two sons, one daughter, two brothers, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

JESSIE TAYLOR

passed away January 16, 2008 at the Elizabeth House in Hendersonville, N.C. He served in the Navy during World War II. Dr. Taylor worked with the Parks and Recreation in Shelby, Concord, and in High Point. He also taught at High Point University, Limestone College, and Gardner-Webb University. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jeanette.



The Love for Parents and a Son Inspires Scholarship

Scholarship Named In Honor of

Eugene and Betty Washburn

& S.L. and Betty Johnson

Gardner-Webb University is honored to announce a new scholarship that will go towards helping an education major who wants to teach students with mental and physical disabilities. Thanks to Harry and Sherwin Washburn of Boiling Springs, N.C., The Eugene and Betty Washburn and S.L. and Betty Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund has been established. The scholarship is named after Harry and Sherwin's beloved parents.

Gardner-Webb's Steve Varley, vice president for development couldn't be more thrilled about the timing and purpose of this gift. "In a year when

we're bringing forth a new work and ministry with the addition of Frank Nanney Hall, this will have a significant and long term effect on students and this university," said Varley.

Frank Nanney Hall is a 12,000 square foot building, currently under construction that will be the new

home for the NOEL Program for students with disabilities. It is expected to open this summer.

*Thanks to Harry and
Sherwin Washburn
of Boiling Springs, N.C.,
The Eugene and
Betty Washburn
and S.L. and Betty Johnson
Endowed Scholarship Fund
has been established.*

Harry and Sherwin know first hand how important education is for someone with additional needs. Their son, Brett recently graduated from North Shelby School, a primary and special education school that teaches pre-K through 12th grade. According to Harry and Sherwin, North Shelby's staff is more than just educators. They have given Brett confidence to survive in the world and an incredible love for learning.

"Hopefully, this scholarship will encourage future teachers to continue making handicapped students successful and confident graduates," said Sherwin.

Both Harry and Sherwin have a long history with Gardner-Webb. Harry's parents, Eugene and Betty both attended Gardner-Webb and his grandfather was the late, Rev. J.L. Jenkins. Jenkins served as president for Gardner-Webb when it was known as Boiling Springs Junior College.

Sherwin has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Gardner-Webb. Harry and Sherwin even met at Gardner-Webb as students and were later married.

There is also a strong connection with Gardner-Webb athletics and the Washburn family. Coaches even take time out of their schedules to meet and introduce Brett to the GWU student athletes. Gardner-Webb's swim coach, Mike Simpson even helped Brett prepare for Special Olympics.

The Washburn family has seen Gardner-Webb grow throughout the years and have built long lasting relationships. Now, thanks to their gift (and their GWU connection), others will benefit for years to come.

Anyone interested in donating to this scholarship or seeking additional information should contact Steve Varley at 704-406-3251.

Paying it Forward

GWU Alumnus Mentors Hundreds of Young Men



“As a mentor, Richard has taught me what it means to be honest and to be held accountable. More than that

he has taught me what it means to be a disciple and how to care about the faith of those around me,” said Aaron Goforth, GWU student.

Richard E. Plyler has mentored over 274 young men since 1957, and during spring 2008, he mentored 15 students from Gardner-Webb University and five from various other schools. His philosophy is “The only thing you keep in life is what you give away.”

Plyler was born and raised in Gastonia, N.C. He gained his undergraduate education from N.C. State, Gardner-Webb, and Carson-Newman. Plyler then continued his education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity degree. From 1955-1994 he served in various pastorates throughout North Carolina and Virginia.

Plyler said that he began mentoring young men because of his own experiences in college. He became a Christian in his first year at N.C. State and then felt a call to ministry. He returned home and began working in a textile mill. While attending a service at his church, Dr. Phil Elliott, who was president of Gardner-Webb at the time, brought a GWU student from Nazareth, Israel to share his testimony. At the end Elliott said, “If you want to come to Gardner-Webb University, don’t let money be the problem.”

Although Plyler did not know where Gardner-Webb was, he made up his mind to attend there. He enrolled in classes and had to work three jobs a day, just to pay for his studies.

Five of the women from his home church decided that they would pay for him and send him three dollars every week,

which was a generous sacrifice for each woman. When he received the first letter and gift, he immediately prayed, “Lord, if I ever have anything and can help some student, I will do it, but You will have to bring that individual into my life.”

“If it had not been for that three dollars a week, I never could have made it through college. This is the reason why I mentor young men,” said Plyler.

“He prayed for me everyday for three years (at GWU) and I’m confident he still prays for his mentees. Richard embodied what Christ Jesus commanded us all, Love one another,” said Craig Janney, associate minister to Chowan University.

“Richard was always able to interpret my thoughts through my jumbled words and in return gave me a sense of direction, through his own personal experiences,” said Chris Breedlove, communication specialist at Gardner-Webb University.

“Richard set an example for me so that I too have people I pray for, mentor, and share my life with so they may glean from those who have gone before,” said Brian Burgess, minister of outreach for Toolin’ in Town Ministries.

“It is such a joy to have a freshman mentee and four years later find myself mentoring this senior and rejoicing at all the growth that has emerged in four years!” said Plyler.

While attending a service at his church, Dr. Phil

Elliott, who was president of Gardner-Webb at the time,

brought a GWU student from Nazareth, Israel to share his testimony. At

the end Elliott said. “If you want to come to Gardner-Webb University,

don’t let money be the problem.”

We're Great Because of You!

Pledge your Gift to the Gardner-Webb Fund Today



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

It comes from you!

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

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

If you have any questions about the Gardner-Webb Fund, please call Steve Varley at (704)406-3521, or email at svarley@gardner-webb.edu

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

AMOUNT OF YOUR GIFT:

- \$1000.00 (University Club)
- \$500.00 (Carillon Society)
- \$250.00 (Springs Club)
- \$100.00 (Centennial Club)
- \$_____ A gift of ANY size will help!
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If you have any questions about the Gardner-Webb Fund,
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PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

GWU ❁ Office of the Annual Campaign ❁ P.O. Box 997 ❁ Boiling Springs, NC 28017

PROMOTING LIFE-LONG LEARNING

GWU Launches Center for Continuing Professional Education

Gardner-Webb University has formally launched its Center for Continuing Professional Education (CCPE). Dr. Carolyn Jackson, dean of the College of Distance Learning and Continuing Education describes the Center's inception. "The idea for a center to serve citizens of this geographical area with the professional development they need for their careers has existed for years," she said. "Dr. Jackson Rainer (Dean of the Graduate School) has moved this goal to a reality."

"The Center for Continuing Professional Education reflects the university's support for lifelong scholarship for recertification, re-licensure, and professional enhancement," said Rainer. "By creating partners that will facilitate the mission of providing high quality, cost effective professional education in the region, Gardner-Webb hopes to emerge as a leader in supporting social service, educational, business, legal, medical, and divinity professionals."

Recently Dr. Frieda Brown, co-author with Rainer of "Crisis Counseling and Therapy," presented the workshop based on the text. More than 50 participants from the social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, and mental health counseling professions received a copy of their book and three hours of continuing education credit approved by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)."

Rainer invited Dr. Ronee Smith Griffith, nationally recognized ethicist from the Relational Ethics Institute in Georgia, to present Ethical Caring: Callings, Collusions, and Complexities. More than 40 professionals in mental health, nursing, divinity, philosophy, education, and business received three hours of continuing education credit approved through the NBCC.



UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

- ◆ Risk Management Basics for
Mental Health Professionals, July 28, 2008
- ◆ Psychopharmacology Update:
Psychotropic Drugs in 2008, September 19, 2008
- ◆ Thomas Lynch, author, essayist, poet
October 24 and 25, 2008

Dr. Ben Leslie, provost of the university stated, "Gardner-Webb University has long promoted the concept of life-long learning. With our new Center for Continuing Professional Education we have a new tool for helping to make that a reality in the lives of professional men and women throughout our region. This Center is simply an effort on the part of the University to give back something of value to a community that has supported us faithfully for many years."

*For more information on the CCPE and a current schedule
of events visit www.ccpe.gardner-webb.edu,
email ccpe@gardner-webb.edu, or call 704-406-2081*

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*Rotating on as of July 2008

**Rotating off as of July 2008

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Homecoming 2008

October 24-25

Save the Date!



*"Look for an opportunity
to make a difference,
be unique,
and provide leadership ...*

*and turn even the most
adverse situations to your advantage."*

*- Larissa Herda, Chairman,
President and CEO, Time Warner Telecom Inc.*

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES GWU CLASS OF 2008!

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