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### **Gardner-Webb Prepared Alumnus for all Aspects of His Career as a Financial Advisor**

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# Gardner-Webb Prepared Alumnus for all Aspects of His Career as a Financial Advisor

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Office of University  
Communications

March 25, 2019

## Lucas Beatty '14 and '16 Appreciated Real-World Experience of Professors



Lucas Beatty (No. 8) prepares to throw the football to Seth Cranfill (No. 86). Beatty and Cranfill met when they came to Gardner-Webb to play football. They roomed together for over five years and became best friends.

As a finance major at Gardner-Webb University, alumnus Lucas Beatty learned about the business environment and investment resources. He liked working with numbers and wanted to help people manage their money. When he began working as a financial advisor, he realized his GWU classes had also given him helpful interpersonal skills.

“I started to realize that being in a small school and actually talking to the professors face-

to-face every day, really set me up to have good conversations and be able to present ideas to people,” Beatty observed. “I am comfortable speaking in front of people now, because I did it so many times in front of the professors.”

Beatty was recruited to play for the football team as an undergraduate and was eligible to play one year as a graduate student. He received his bachelor’s in 2014 and his Master of Business Administration in 2016.

He appreciated the real-world experience of the professors in the Godbold School of Business. While discussing topics in class, they could give examples from their days working in the corporate world. He also liked the camaraderie among the business professors. “They laughed together and had fun working together,” he reflected.

Beatty, who lives in Gastonia, N.C., works for Thrivent, a Christian financial planning company. He stays in touch with his professors and returns to campus to help with programs. He and his former roommate, Seth Cranfill, have worked with Mischia Taylor, dean of the School of Business and instructor of marketing, to launch and plan activities for a School of Business alumni group.

Besides business alumni and former teammates, Beatty made friends all over the GWU campus. “My brother and sister went to a big school,” he related. “The relationships I have with people who were not on the football team or who didn’t play a sport, or who were on different teams are much stronger than what my brother and sister have with people from their school. When I talk to people about Gardner-Webb, I tell them, ‘The time passes so quickly that you are really going to value the relationships you build.’”

*For more information about the Godbold School of Business Alumni Group, email Mischia Taylor, ([mataylor@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:mataylor@gardner-webb.edu)) dean of the School of Business.*