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### **Gardner-Webb Alumna Helps Husband Achieve Dream of Owning a Restaurant**

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# Gardner-Webb Alumna Helps Husband Achieve Dream of Owning a Restaurant

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Communications

May 4, 2018

## *Cindy Trevisan '05 Uses Business Skills to Navigate all Aspects of Starting a Business*

When Cindy Trevisan earned her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Gardner-Webb University in 2005, she wanted to further her career in the financial field. While she excelled in her job, her husband, Giovanni, was co-owner of a popular restaurant. About a year ago, they decided to combine their talents and go into business for themselves.

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Giovanni Trevisan and his wife, Cindy, a GWU alumna, own Slice House Pizza in Huntersville, N.C.

“We both did some introspection and reevaluated our work/life balance and priorities,” Trevisan explained. “I believe our Christian faith swayed our decision, too. I have a solid business education and feel well versed to run any business. He certainly has a strong culinary background. We decided to start a restaurant—truly his dream—without any partners or business investors. This gives us latitude to ensure our family is a priority.”

Recently, they opened [Slice House Pizza](#) in Huntersville, N.C., and have received a warm welcome and great reviews. In keeping with their commitment to prioritize family life, they are closed on Sundays. “Together, we have created a successful business employing roughly 20 people,” Trevisan said. “In many respects, we are living the American dream, as my husband is a naturalized citizen. I am so blessed to have a prosperous business and see dreams realized. I also feel we are relevant in the community and our local economy, because we are committed to using local vendors and farmers.”

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Trevisan started her MBA at another college, but transferred to Gardner-Webb, because the GWU Charlotte (N.C.) Center was more convenient. “Gardner-Webb was closer to my job and home and also offered online and weekend graduate classes, which made it a perfect fit for me and my schedule,” she observed. “I received a quality education in a more intimate setting than what a large, public university could offer.”

One of her favorite classes was Quantitative Mathematics, because she enjoyed dissecting logistical problems. “I continue to use the knowledge I gained in that class today,” Trevisan asserted. “Dr. Mickey Metcalf was among the most memorable professors I had. He was very passionate and definitely gave me useful advice applicable to the workplace.”

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Her studies at Gardner-Webb helped her in all aspects of starting the new restaurant. She has navigated confidently through such areas as computer programming, human resources, government regulations and contract negotiations.

“I gained a solid business background and appreciated the way GWU professors mentored me,” she affirmed. “The professors had a personal touch and were very willing to help me achieve my academic goals while I was still working in a professional capacity. Numerous times, my professors allowed me to integrate my classwork, assignments and projects with what I was responsible for at work. I think my former employers really benefited from this approach, too.”