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Communications

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Mark Lineberry '15 Serves as Assistant Chief of Police in Asheboro, N.C.



Mark Lineberry, left, is sworn in as Lieutenant Colonel by the Asheboro, N.C., Police Chief Jody Williams, also a GWU alum.

Mark Lineberry '15 joined the Asheboro (N.C.) Police Department in 1992 as a patrol officer. He aspired to follow the example of his grandfather, who was also in law enforcement. As he serves the community, Lineberry's goal is to make a difference in someone's life.

He moved through the ranks, serving as a detective and then a sergeant in the Criminal Investigative Division. He obtained his associate's degree and received more promotions, but needed a bachelor's degree to advance further. "I decided on Gardner-Webb University, because several co-workers attended there, and GWU offered both online and seated classes in Troy, N.C.," observed Lineberry, who was a recipient of the Dr. Barry Hambright Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

Lineberry is one of 15 current or retired officers from the Asheboro Police Department to graduate from Gardner-Webb's Degree Completion Program (DCP). He and his colleagues like the structure of the program, along with the knowledgeable professors and helpful advisors. "In my Criminal Justice classes, I loved the discussion boards," Lineberry stated. "I could express my opinion and read other opinions which sometimes enlightened me to different viewpoints. I also liked learning the new trends and technology in police-related work."

While the criminal justice classes helped Lineberry on the job, courses outside of his major affected him personally. "I believe my studies in the Old and New Testaments were beneficial for me," he reflected. "I had never studied the Bible like I did when taking those two classes. When I read the Bible today, I read and research more on what the verse is saying."

Additionally, he gained a new appreciation for art. “Art class made me think of things and learn about things I never would have seen or thought about,” Lineberry revealed. “One of the most intriguing things about art is the different perspectives people have on various topics.”

Since graduating, Lineberry has been promoted to lieutenant colonel and serves as the assistant chief of police in Asheboro. “This would not have been possible without my degree earned at GWU,” he affirmed. “The program is challenging, however achievable, even while working a full-time job. The staff were always friendly and helpful and guided me along during my quest.”