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Office of University
Communications

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Travis Brittain ('08) Achieves Goals and Teaches About His Profession

Despite the dangers, Travis Brittain ('08) of Gastonia, N.C., decided from a young age to serve the community through law enforcement. “The risks involved did not weigh as heavily upon me as the desire to join the profession,” he stated. “I wanted to be in a position to help people.”

He became a police officer in 1994 and after working a few years, chose to earn his bachelor’s in criminal justice at Gardner-Webb through the Degree Completion Program. “Gardner-Webb had developed a reputation of providing criminal justice employees with a qualified and respected education,” Brittain asserted. “Gardner-Webb utilizes professors who are also professionals in the field. The classes dive into how agencies operate, how courts and the penal system operate, and tie everything together.”

Since obtaining his degree, Brittain has earned his Master of Justice Administration and serves as an assistant police chief with the City of Gastonia Police Department. He is responsible for investigations, the police firing range, training, records, budget, and all special operations teams. “Obtaining my degree has been instrumental in progressing in my career and achieving my current position,” Brittain observed. “My classes at Gardner-Webb prepared me for my goal of obtaining my master’s. Without the formal education, I would not be where I am today in my career.”

Brittain is also an adjunct professor for Gardner-Webb and strives to help students understand the responsibilities of a criminal justice professional. “I want my students to know if they choose a career in criminal justice, it is a profession of true service to the public,” he affirmed. “If you come into the profession for the right reasons, you will be rewarded both personally and professionally. For those who choose not to enter the field, I hope I can provide some insight into what criminal justice is all about.”