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Office of University
Communications

July 30, 2016

Students from Traditional Undergraduate, Degree Completion, and Graduate Programs Honored

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University hosted Summer Commencement on Saturday, July 30 in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center at 10 a.m. More than 230 traditional undergraduate, degree completion, and graduate program students were honored for their achievements during the ceremony.

Many graduates participated in the ceremony through prayer and scripture readings. Kynan Robinson (Belton, S.C.), who earned a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care and Counseling, offered the invocation. Hunter Odus Jolley (Boiling Springs, N.C.), who earned a Doctor of Education, and Amber Cherish Smith (Shelby, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, shared passages from the Old and New Testaments.

Awards were also given to those who achieved scholastic excellence. Shannon Nichole Jones (Forest City, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, received the Degree Completion Program Academic Award. Tyler Daniel Scruggs (Shelby, N.C.) was given the Senior Scholastic Achievement Award.

Dr. Jeff Rogers, associate provost for digital learning and dean of the Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies, served as commencement speaker. He encouraged commencement participants to keep facing forward. “The essence of a biblically grounded faith is not in how tenaciously we cling to the things of the past but in how expectantly we embrace God’s future for us and for the world,” he shared. “Facing forward, eyes on the road ahead, not longing for the sights and sounds of the past but embracing vistas of a future yet to unfold.”

He continued, “The essence of facing forward is not hoping that we will avoid or escape failure or fear, pain or suffering, grief or death or even hell for that matter. The essence of facing forward is the full confidence and trust that come whatever may, there is no time or place, no circumstance or situation, outside the reach or beyond the real and effective presence of God.”

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).