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Office of University
Communications

April 8, 2016

University's Department of Music Celebrates Inductees of Pi Kappa Lambda

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—A new Gardner-Webb chapter of a national honor society will help the University's music department further recognize and celebrate the outstanding musical performance and scholastic achievements of students. The GWU Department of Music chartered the Kappa Upsilon chapter of the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society on March 31.

Dr. Mark Cole and Dr. Earl Leininger display the Kappa Upsilon chapter's charter.

Dr. Mark Cole, assistant professor of music education, helped coordinate the formation of the chapter after being a member of the honor society as a student. He will serve as the chapter's initial president.

"I suggested this opportunity to our department chair, Dr. Paul Etter, because I wanted to make sure our students can be recognized for scholastics as well as for performance," Cole explained. "Our students appear on campus and in the community for a number of musical events, but they also perform so well in the classroom. We are thrilled to recognize our students on a national level, and we have had so much support from Gardner-Webb's administration for our chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda."

In a recent ceremony, the chapter's charter members were honored and include Cole; Etter, professor of music and chair of the music department; Tim Hudson, assistant professor of music; Dr. Patricia Sparti, professor of music; Dr. Stafford Turner, associate professor of music; and Dr. Matt Whitfield, professor of fine arts in music. Faculty members inducted during an inaugural ceremony include Jondra Harmon, instructor of music; Dr. Bruce Moser, assistant professor of music; and Dr. Morgan Soja, assistant professor of music.

Inductees of the Kappa Upsilon chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda are recognized at a recent GWU Department of Music recital.

Students inducted into the honor society include, Tyler Scruggs, a senior music composition major from Boiling Springs, N.C.; Kathryn Ujevich, a senior music performance major from High Point, N.C.; and Adam White, a senior music education major from Asheville, N.C.

“It is always a pleasure for the University to honor the achievements of our students,” offered Dr. Earl Leininger, GWU Associate Provost for Arts and Sciences. “We welcome this new chapter to our University as it provides an ongoing opportunity to honor our students’ high standards.”

Since the formation of its first chapter at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., in 1918, Pi Kappa Lambda has recognized and encouraged the highest level of music achievement and academic scholarship. The society, which has now inducted more than 65,000 musicians and students into membership in 200 total chapters, maintains a dedication to furthering music education in colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning that offer music degree programs. Juniors and seniors in the top 10-20 percent of their university classes are nominated and invited to attend each year.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University provides exceptional educational opportunities within a Christian environment, preparing students to think critically, to succeed professionally, and to serve faithfully as members of their local and global communities.