

Gardner-Webb University

Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University

Gardner-Webb NewsCenter Archive

Gardner-Webb Publications

1-16-2016

Couple Who Met at GWU Have Ministry to Soldiers and Their Families

Office of University Communications

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/gardner-webb-newscenter-archive>

Recommended Citation

Office of University Communications, "Couple Who Met at GWU Have Ministry to Soldiers and Their Families" (2016). *Gardner-Webb NewsCenter Archive*. 1012.

<https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/gardner-webb-newscenter-archive/1012>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Gardner-Webb Publications at Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gardner-Webb NewsCenter Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@gardner-webb.edu.

Couple Who Met at GWU Have Ministry to Soldiers and Their Families

webpublish.gardner-webb.edu/newscenter/couple-who-met-at-gwu-have-ministry-to-soldiers-and-their-families/

Office of University
Communications

January 16, 2016

Corie Weathers ('99) Counsels Those Dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Corie Weathers met her husband, Matthew, at Gardner-Webb University, where they graduated in 1999 and answered a call to ministry.

She was working on a degree in counseling, and he was a religious education major. When their friendship turned into a dating relationship, they discovered a common goal.

“We wanted to make a difference in marriages,” Weathers shared. “Our time at Gardner-Webb taught us more about God, relationships and people, more than any other school has, even seminary. It was one of the most intense times of spiritual formation for both of us. The professors continue to be mentors to us even to this day and have made a huge difference in our lives.”

They serve as a team at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Ga. Weathers is a licensed professional counselor who works with families and individuals, and Matthew serves as a chaplain in the Army. Through their marriage ministry, Insightc2, they offer support and education for military soldiers, spouses, and others affected by military life and culture.

“Walking with someone through the most difficult moments in their lives has been an honor,” commented Weathers. “There is nothing like watching a person grow into who they are meant to be and serving the world out of that.”

She uses her professional skills to help military families, who are struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Weathers still remembers how difficult life became after Matthew’s first deployment.

“My husband came home changed,” Weathers recalled. “I was different, he was different, and we had to struggle through re-integration just like any other military family. I remember he had made this big batch of blueberry pancakes and he was so excited and I came downstairs and had to tell him that our son doesn’t like blueberry pancakes anymore.”

It was in her psychology classes at GWU that she discovered PTSD could affect the soldier’s spouse.

“In a class at GWU, a book we read opened up all these different, very difficult situations anybody can go through that can give you this traumatic response,” she shared. “I realized this is not just an issue for soldiers, although I have a heart for them as well, but a lot of our spouses can have these traumatic moments.”

Those struggles, which they knew were so common among military families, prompted the couple to offer marriage retreats and online web-based marriage-strengthening curriculum. They also co-wrote curriculum that couples can work through together even if separated by the distance of a deployment.

“Our passion has always been to strengthen military marriages through marriage retreats, teaching, and events,” Weathers shared. “We developed a website called Insight Care and Connection that provides free marriage material that we have professionally created and collected, blogs for soldiers and spouses, and vetted organizations that are readily available to serve them.”

Since arriving at Fort Gordon, Weathers has also encountered a variety of concerning issues faced by teens.

“In order to deal with the growing trends and stress of bullying, cyber-bullying, cutting or self-harm, promiscuous behavior, and self-esteem, I created a successful outpatient program for teen girls that includes individual therapy, family therapy, and group therapy,” she reflected. “As a military spouse that frequently moves, I have become more comfortable developing programs that are needed within the community I am planted in, and being prepared to hand it off to the next person who is meant to continue it.”

Recently, Weathers was awarded the Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year Award, after receiving the nomination for this award from Matthew. The Gardner-Webb graduates often work together professionally at weekend marriage retreats for military couples and relationship retreats for single soldiers.

More information about Weathers is available by visiting her website, corieweathers.com.

Sound cloud interview: <https://soundcloud.com/wgwgdotorg/corie-and-matthew-weather>