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Office of University
Communications

December 14, 2015

Graduates Honored During Fall Commencement Exercises on Dec. 14

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner–Webb University hosted Fall Commencement on Monday, Dec. 14 in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center at 10 a.m. More than 250 graduates were honored for their achievements during the ceremony.

Many graduates participated in the ceremony through prayer, scripture reading, and commencement speeches. Katie Loftin (Chattanooga, Tenn.) offered the invocation, while Kyndal Davis (Iron Station, N.C.), Kevin Clary (Gaffney, S.C.), and Gloria Hopper (Monroe, N.C.) shared passages from the Old and New Testaments. Three awards were given to exceptional graduates. Christopher Guffey (Shelby, N.C.) was honored as the recipient of the Senior Scholastic Achievement Award; Clary was named the recipient of the Outstanding Male Graduate Medal, and Loftin received the Outstanding Female Graduate Medal.

Commencement speakers were Katherine “Kitty” Hoyle (Lawndale, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and Robert Gaskin (Charlotte, N.C.), who received a Master of Wealth and Trust Management degree.

Hoyle shared that although she had successfully operated a local business for years, she had always regretted not completing her education.

“For me, the great motivator was to be able to say that I finished something I started a long time ago,” Hoyle reflected. “But what I received was so much more than that. After today, no one will probably ever ask me about my education again, but if they do, I will be delighted to tell them that I majored in business at Gardner-Webb University. I’m very proud of that, and you all should be proud, too.”

Gaskin offered two reasons he felt compelled to seek his master’s degree: growth and stewardship.

“Life is not about reaching a destination, getting a significant title, or buying a big house,” he declared. “You’ll never ‘arrive.’ Life is a journey. Continual learning is a part of that journey. You need not attend a university in your 50s, like me, to keep learning and growing. But of course, if you choose to, I cannot think of a better place to return than Gardner-Webb University.”

He continued, “To the future nurses who will aid those who suffer during times of physical illness and injury, to the teachers who will inspire and educate our youth, to the counselors who will provide guidance and compassion to individuals and families in turmoil, to the accountants and business administrators who will ethically make our economy work and our balance sheets sound, to the Christian educators and ministers who will build churches and provide spiritual guidance and comfort and to every other professional graduating with me today, congratulations! May we all seek to keep growing every day and to always, always faithfully answer God’s call to be good stewards.”

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).