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Gardner-Webb Provided Deep Scholastic Enrichment for Top Athlete

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Charity Byrum ('15) was Encouraged to go Beyond Textbook Studies

Now enrolled in what she described as an “intense” Occupational Therapy graduate degree program, Charity Byrum ('15) credited Gardner-Webb with preparing her to manage a busy life schedule.

The four-time Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association (CCSA) All-Academic Team member made deep scholastic enrichment a major part of her undergraduate career, in addition to her success in the pool as a seven-time all-CCSA athlete.

“I participated in independent study research with Dr. Jeff Hartman in Exercise Science and created a laboratory teaching assistant position as a practicum with Dr. David Granniss,” she offered. “I also had the privilege of competing academically through the Alpha Chi honor society with Dr. June Hobbs. These experiences are unique to the Gardner-Webb community and allowed me to go beyond the mastery of a textbook to truly succeed.”

Byrum received the prestigious George A. Christenberry Award, which is named for a conference co-founder and annually honors the male and female student-athletes who attain the highest cumulative grade point averages (GPA) in their sports.

She posted a perfect 4.0 career GPA at Gardner-Webb, and shared that the University enabled her to build strong teams of God, family, friends and coaches to help achieve their goals in academics, athletics and career preparation.

Relationships with faculty and staff members also allowed Byrum, a GWU Most Outstanding Female Graduate, to manage her time and succeed in all phases of college life.

“Gardner-Webb allowed me to grow as a whole person, in my academics, in the pool, and in my faith,” she reflected. “Through every experience and challenge, I was encouraged to turn to Christ for my strength, and I think that is what made the difference in my education and success.”

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 60 major and minor professional programs of study, a comprehensive academic experience that flows from our Christian commitment to

intellectual freedom, service and leadership.