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Office of University
Communications

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Psychology Professor Selected for Regional Top-10 List

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – A Gardner-Webb University professor has been recognized among the top 10 psychology professors in the Charlotte region.

Dr. James P. Morgan, who teaches numerous psychology and counseling courses at Gardner-Webb, was recently chosen for the distinguished list by the editors of CareersinPsychology.org. Morgan was surprised by the honor, but pleased to represent and promote GWU.

“I am honored and humbled to be included in the CareersinPsychology.org list of ‘10 Must Take Psychology Professors’ in the Charlotte area,” Morgan shared. “I would not be where I am today as a college professor without the support of my colleagues in the School of Psychology and Counseling and the entire Gardner-Webb community.”

Brett Cameron, Outreach Director for CareersinPsychology.org, said Morgan was selected for the list through social media research and submissions on LinkedIn, RateMyProfessors, and the college’s website/blog.

“Our editorial team scours the internet for all applicable professors in the vicinity chosen. We have them select 10-20 professors each,” Cameron explained. “The ones who receive the most selections are chosen for the top 10. They were selected by available content about their career, interactions, student reviews, etc., and scholarly journals found.”

School of Psychology and Counseling Dean Dr. David Carscaddon said being on the list is a great honor for Morgan and described his colleague as a “force of nature” in the school.

“His great ability to impart wisdom and knowledge is matched by his love and concern for his students,” Carscaddon offered. “He consistently pours himself into his classes and is a model for both student and professor alike. We are most fortunate to have him here at GWU.”

Morgan’s selection is significant because CareersinPsychology.org indicates there are 50 colleges in North Carolina that offer some form of a psychology degree program. In addition, The National Center for Education Statistics reports that in recent years more

than 3,400 psychology degrees were awarded to North Carolina students.

Joining Morgan on the list are professors from Davidson College, Central Piedmont Community College, UNC-Charlotte, Wingate University, Catawba College, Queens University, Belmont Abbey College, Pfeiffer University and Lenoir-Rhyne University.

In describing the top 10 educators, the site's editors noted that Morgan has all the necessary characteristics of an excellent professor, which include his knowledge, experience as a clinical psychologist and passion for teaching and helping students.

"Assertions that are backed up by the universally gushing reviews he receives from his current and former students," the editors wrote. "Everything from 'amazing' and 'wonderful' to 'best teacher I've ever had' and 'kind-hearted and caring' are compliments that Morgan has received for not only his willingness to help his students, but also his tough love approach to their learning and his cheery personality."

Morgan feels that establishing relationships with his students is key to the learning environment.

"I love what the late 19th century historian, Henry Adams, said about teaching: 'A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.' What I love most about teaching are the relationships I develop with students and the opportunity to introduce students to psychology and its many applications," Morgan shared. "Psychology courses provide the opportunity to explore the fundamental question, 'What does it mean to be human?' The pursuit of that question can lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of ourselves and our relationships. "

Morgan received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in psychology in 1976 from Auburn University in Alabama, where he was a graduate teaching assistant. He owned and served as a clinical psychologist at an independent practice for 20 years in Slidell, La., and went back to teaching in 2006, serving as an adjunct professor at Belmont Abbey College, Gaston College, Cleveland Community College and GWU, before accepting a full-time position at GWU in 2008. He received tenure and was named a professor at GWU in 2014. In 2012, he received Gardner-Webb University's Excellence in Teaching award, which is selected by a committee of administrators, alumni, faculty and students from nominations made by the entire campus community.

Because of the support he has received since joining the GWU community, Morgan is grateful for the opportunity to bring recognition to the University.

"I hope that my inclusion on the list will encourage students to consider Gardner-Webb when they are looking at colleges," Morgan said. "Students who choose Gardner-Webb can look forward to becoming a part of a university family where their professors will take a

personal interest in their wellbeing and success.”

CareersInPsychology.org is the leading psychology career resource online. Covering psychology, counseling, social work, and therapy, the site is helping one future expert at a time via the help of industry experts.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience that introduces students to the diverse world of ideas and to the people who think them, preparing them for professional success and for productive citizenship.