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### **Gardner-Webb Graduates First Master of Wealth and Trust Management Class**

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# Gardner-Webb Graduates First Master of Wealth and Trust Management Class

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Office of University  
Communications

August 5, 2015

## *Godbold School of Business Celebrates Milestone, Anticipates Opportunities to Grow Program*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Five Gardner-Webb graduates became the University's first-ever alumni of the Brinkley Financial Group Master of Wealth and Trust Management Program during GWU's commencement ceremony this month.

The program, named in appreciation of a founding gift by David and Marie Brinkley of Kings Mountain, N.C., began in fall 2013 at the University's Charlotte Center as only the nation's second master's degree in wealth and trust management. "For any new program, your first graduating class is a milestone," offered Dr. Van Graham, associate dean of the GWU Godbold School of Business. "That's when you know what you're doing is viable, that you're serving students and that there's something established for the students behind those first graduates."

Students who earned a Master of Wealth and Trust Management at summer commencement are:

*Jonathan Carl Camp (Belmont, N.C.)*

*Kathy Wilson Kring (Mooresboro, N.C.)*

*Harold Gregory Goodlett (Charlotte, N.C.)*

*Matthew Kurt Woods (Rock Hill, S.C.)*

*Harry Robinson Greyard (Charlotte, N.C.)*

When Woods discovered the wealth and trust management degree, he was looking for an opportunity to further his career. Entering the program at GWU's Charlotte Center, located in one of the nation's foremost financial cities, allowed him to quickly connect with new career options while working on his degree. "This program helped me get a job working for a well-known wealth management advisor and then another job as a retirement financial planner at TIAA-CREF," Woods shared. "Those moves would not have been possible without Gardner-Webb and its wealth and trust management program."

Before connecting with Gardner-Webb, Camp had considered a Master of Business Administration but wanted to find a more specialized degree that would also be flexible for his work and family schedule. “This program is truly right for someone looking to go into the investment arena, stock trading and investment trading. It provides so much depth in studying investments and retirement planning,” Camp assessed. “And our professors were very understanding with our schedules. With our group of students working and having families, email was a great thing. Five of us started together and knew we wanted to finish so we worked together. We often connected online, and we had a few study sessions together at the Charlotte Center.”

With about 20 students now enrolled, there are opportunities for further growth for GWU’s Master of Wealth and Trust Management. Earlier this year, the program gained standing that grants its graduates eligibility to sit for the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. (CFP Board) exam. Along with the CFP status, the Godbold School of Business will also begin offering its students an option to complete the degree online, beginning this fall.

“It was initially just a seated program at our Charlotte Center, and it will still be offered there,” Graham said. “But for students who are not able to be at the Charlotte campus, it will be offered online. That is going to open the Master of Wealth and Trust Management to a wider audience and make it available to even more students.”

*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).*