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Office of University
Communications

July 29, 2015

Segment Filmed by Communication Professor Includes Interview with Art Professor

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.— A North Carolina public television program will feature the work and faces of several Gardner-Webb University faculty members this week in a segment spotlighting a local art gallery.

Public broadcasting network UNC-TV will feature Uptown Shelby's Buffalo Creek Gallery during "North Carolina Weekend," a weekly show that highlights places, people and activities across the state. The segment was filmed and edited by Dr. Jim Lawrence, professor of communication studies, and it includes an interview with Susan Carlisle Bell, a GWU art professor for 30 years and one of Buffalo Creek's artists.

"Being a part of the gallery has been a way to exhibit my work and make it available to a wider audience," Bell reflected, "but it has also meant a lot that friends, acquaintances and students who may not be in the market for original art are still introduced to my work and therefore know me better. Though I don't care about my face being shown on TV, I do hope my work will be."

Plans for the art gallery segment began when Sue Fair, previously a theater arts instructor and theatrical designer at Gardner-Webb, approached Lawrence in the spring of this year with the idea of producing regional segments for the "North Carolina Weekend" show. A public television producer in Raleigh, N.C., expressed interest in two of those ideas, Buffalo Creek Gallery and the Flat Rock Playhouse in Hendersonville, N.C., where Fair now works as director of education, Lawrence said, adding that the playhouse segment is still being considered for television programming.

"We spent a morning in Shelby filming at the gallery, then we shot the Flat Rock story that afternoon," Lawrence explained. "In addition to shooting the episodes, I also edited them."

The Buffalo Creek production features the faces of several local residents and an interview with Bell in front of some of her original work in the artist-owned gallery, which formed almost 10 years ago and features dozens of local artists. In addition to Bell, the gallery offers work by other GWU community members such as pottery by Doug Knotts, professor of art and chair of the art department, and photographs by Dr. Michael Kuchinsky, assistant professor of political science, Bell said.

“Eighty percent of our artists are from Cleveland County, so supporting the gallery is truly shopping local,” Bell said. “Artists take turns operating the gallery, which helps cut costs and raises the portion of sales that go directly to the artists. Hometown residents often think they need to travel to bigger places to get unique handcrafted pieces of art and expect to pay high prices, while they are neglecting the wonderful art available locally.”

The UNC-TV segment, which will feature that local artwork, is scheduled to air on Thursday at 9 p.m., on Friday at 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday at 10 a.m. Check with your television provider for UNC-TV channel information.

Visit buffalocreekgallery.com for more information on the gallery and unctv.org for more information about “North Carolina Weekend” and other programs.

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).