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Office of University
Communications

March 19, 2015

Social Entrepreneurship Week set for March 22-26 at the University

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Gardner-Webb University will spotlight global issues and feature people who are working to find solutions and change the world as Social Entrepreneurship Week returns to the campus March 22-26.

A series of events are planned to help encourage the Gardner-Webb community to make a difference in the lives of others who are facing an array of challenges. “Social Entrepreneurship Week is an effort to inspire and educate a new generation of confident and competent problem-solvers at Gardner-Webb University,” shared Dr. Tom LeGrand, director of the GWU Center for Christian Ethics & Social Responsibility, one the week’s many sponsors. “Service that makes an impact is not about sign-ups or donations or single events. Impactful service is a lifestyle. It becomes a part of who we are in faith, family, learning, and even in our life’s calling and careers.”

Missions leader Jamie Wright will visit GWU to offer several programs for the public during Social Entrepreneurship Week. On March 23 at 7 p.m. in Faith Hall of the Tucker Student Center, she will host an open forum on missions, ministry, writing and purchasing to make a difference in the world. She will also be the featured speaker at the University’s Dimensions program on March 24 at 9:25 a.m. in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

In addition to Wright, several speakers will offer classroom sessions with GWU students throughout the week. Those featured guests include Joseph McMillan, founder and president of an environmentally conscious recycling company, Jennifer Spencer, a GWU alumna and founder and lead teacher at The Willow Tree School in Boiling Springs, and Kayla Gainey, a researcher who works to create partnerships and scientific advancements to serve people around the world.

“All of our speakers are living witnesses to making a difference as they make a living,” LeGrand offered. “They all started their work when they were students.”

Gardner-Webb faculty and students are encouraged to attend a forum discussion titled “What Inspires a Social Entrepreneur?” at 3:30 p.m. on March 25 in Faith Hall of the Tucker Student Center.

On March 26, Gainey will share “How a Classroom Creates a Social Entrepreneur” by providing insight on the ways her professors and classes inspired her to further study and create change in the world around her. The program is set for 9:30 a.m. on the lower level of the Dover Memorial Library and is a session affiliated with GWU’s Center of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

“Our goal during this week is not to create a generation of students who volunteer,” LeGrand said. “We want to inspire students who live to serve.”

Social Entrepreneurship Week is sponsored and supported by various Gardner-Webb offices and other groups, including Student Leadership Development and Community Engagement, Service Learning, the Alfred and Shirley Wampler Caudill Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship, the Journal of Ethics and Entrepreneurship, the Office of Christian Life and Service, Life of the Scholar (LOTS), the Office of Career Development, the School of Divinity, Boiling Springs Rotary, CETL, and the Center for Christian Ethics and Leadership. For more information, contact the Center for Christian Ethics and Social Responsibility at 704-406-2348.

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 career success and for engaged, responsible citizenship in their professional, civic, and spiritual communities.