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Office of University
Communications

March 5, 2015

Gardner-Webb Community to Remember Mike Roebuck with Service on March 5

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The Gardner-Webb University community is mourning the loss of longtime athletics department administrator Mike Roebuck, who passed away this week at the age of 65.

Roebuck was in his 14th season as assistant athletics director for academic services, and he previously served six years as the University's director of financial aid.

“We are devastated by the news of Mike’s passing,” said GWU Vice President for Athletics Chuck Burch. “His enthusiasm and genuine care for all of our student-athletes, no matter what sport or background, left a positive impression on scores of young people over the past two decades. His love for Gardner-Webb as an institution was always front and center. Mike’s dedication to our department, our students and to doing his job with the highest level of detail and integrity was exemplary. Today we mourn the loss of an absolutely outstanding person.”

Under his supervision, Gardner-Webb student-athletes made tremendous strides in the classroom—earning numerous accolades. More than 30 student-athletes earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors under Roebuck’s watch, and 10 earned Academic All-America or FCS ADA Academic All-Star honors.

Since 2008, five Gardner-Webb student-athletes have earned the Big South Conference’s George A. Christenberry Award—the highest academic honor awarded by the league.

Gardner-Webb teams were consistently recognized—both regionally and nationally—for their outstanding grade point averages, and the departmental GPA improved steadily over the past decade.

Roebuck graduated from Wofford College in 1972. He played football and ran track from 1967-1972. Roebuck played football for the Terriers under head coach Jim Brakefield and former assistant coach—and College Football Hall of Famer—Fisher DeBerry. Roebuck was a lineman on the 1970 Wofford team that went 11-1, earned a No. 1 national ranking and played in the NAIA Championship Bowl.

Roebuck starred at Shelby (N.C.) High on the gridiron as well while playing for legendary head coach Gerald “Pearly” Allen in the 1960s.

He was honored with the Paris Yelton Memorial Award in 2010 by the Cleveland County Sports Hall of Fame. The award recognizes individuals not involved in competition who have given distinguished service in other ways to the sports life of the community.

A service of prayer and remembrance will be held on Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m. in Stewart Hall of the Tucker Student Center on the main Gardner-Webb campus.

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).