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Gardner-Webb Hosts World-Champion Music Corps



Office of University Communications

May 21, 2014

Carolina Crown Returns to Campus for Rehearsals

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – World-class student musicians will call Gardner-Webb University home for the next month. More than 150 instrumentalists from across the nation and around the globe are rehearsing on campus with drum and bugle corps, Carolina Crown.

In August 2013, South Carolina-based Carolina Crown won the distinguished Drum Corps International World Championships Competition. Celebrating a quarter-century of performances this year, Carolina Crown has partnered with Gardner-Webb since 2007 for practice and rehearsal space prior to its national tours. This year, the organization brings musicians ages 15 to 22 to Boiling Springs.

“What those kids experience in music education is one of the best programs out there,” said Mark Cole, director of athletic bands and coordinator of music education for the GWU School of Performing and Visual Arts. “Their visit to Boiling Springs ends up being a bit of a recruiting opportunity for Gardner-Webb, and they’re a model for our students to watch. I tell people if they’re visiting here in the summer to watch Carolina Crown rehearse.”

Gardner-Webb’s relationship with Carolina Crown was evidenced in the corps’ 2013 world championship show, according to Nancy Barth, Carolina Crown’s director of operations and tour manager. “One of our props was a bench from the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center,” Barth shared. “A bench was ordered to be a prop in the show, but it hadn’t arrived. We were rehearsing one night, needed a bench and someone brought down one from the LYCC. It became part of our show and we took it with us. People from all over the country took their pictures on that bench at our show.”

This year’s Carolina Crown show is the cosmic-themed “Out of This World,” and its performers include musicians from as far as the Netherlands and Japan. The ensemble rehearses about 14 hours a day, seven days a week, at various sites on and surrounding the GWU campus, Barth said.

The GWU and surrounding community is invited June 15 to a free Carolina Crown dress rehearsal and preview show, from 7-9 p.m. in Ernest W. Spangler Stadium. The musicians will then pack up and start a tour that will culminate in the world championships Aug. 9 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

For more information about Carolina Crown, visit carolinacrown.org or “like” Carolina Crown on Facebook. Video of Carolina Crown’s 2013 world championship is available on the Drum Corps International page at YouTube.com.



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/gjTI8PwQZrQ>

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University provides exceptional educational opportunities within a Christian environment, preparing students to think critically, to succeed professionally, and to serve faithfully as members of their local and global communities.