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### **Gardner-Webb Graduate Student Captures First Place at Writing Competition**

Office of University Communications

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# Gardner-Webb Graduate Student Captures First Place at Writing Competition

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Office of University Communications

March 20, 2014

## *Christina King Honored by Southeast Decisions Sciences Institute Conference*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb graduate student Christina King, for the second year in a row, won overall best paper in the master's level category of the prestigious Southeast Decisions Sciences Institute Conference for her writing ability, unique topic, and presentation.

Last year, King attended the conference and presented her paper "Social Support, Self Efficacy and Depression Levels in College Students" and won first place. This year's event, held February in Wilmington, N.C., gave King another chance to present a paper. She submitted and garnered yet another first-place finish.

"For both papers, I had to design a study, obtain IRB (institutional review board) approval, and write a full research paper," said King. "The last paper took about three months to complete. I'm trying to get my first paper published in a journal. The *Slice-of-Life vs. Slice-of-Death Advertising Appeal* will require more data to be considered for publication, which I'm working on now."

King was born in Nebraska, but lived most of her life in Knoxville, Tenn. Today, she makes her home in Cleveland County, N.C., with her family, including husband John Johnson, director of housing and residence education for Gardner-Webb. King received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Tennessee (Knoxville, Tenn.) and began the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in 2011 at Savannah State University (Georgia). She is currently continuing those studies at GWU.

"I enjoy the students and professors at Gardner-Webb," King shared. "I feel like it's a large family and your professors care about you as an individual. The unique attribute to this program is that you can specialize in a specific area for your MBA and even take courses online."

King looks forward to completing the MBA program and hopes to then be able to teach statistics and psychology. "I eventually would like to complete a PhD in statistics," she added.

The Southeast Decisions Sciences Institute is a multidisciplinary association of university professors, graduate students, and practitioners, who are dedicated to advancing knowledge and improving instruction in all business and related disciplines. Members of the institute

share their research findings at annual meetings, regional conferences, or international gatherings.

For more information on the Godbold School of Business and the MBA program contact Natetsa Lawrence at 704.406.2260.

*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 professional success and for productive citizenship.*