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January 28, 2014

School of Performing and Visual Arts Presents James Ackley

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University's School of Performing and Visual Arts presents a Distinguished Artist Concert with James Ackley, professor of trumpet at the University of South Carolina (Columbia, S.C.) on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. in Blanton Auditorium, located in Hamrick Hall. The concert is free and open to the public with an optional donation to support the music program. Prior to the show, Ackley will visit with students in a GWU distinguished artist master class.

Ackley has performed with symphonies in Charleston, S.C., Charlotte, N.C., and Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as the Moscow State Radio Symphony. As a soloist and recitalist, he has performed in more than 30 countries and in some of the most heralded concert halls in the world. Ackley has also recorded several solo CDs, which have received critical acclaim.

Participating in the concert will be Gardner-Webb's own trumpet expert Tim Hudson, assistant professor of music. Hudson feels Ackley is an exceptional talent.

"James is one of the better trumpet players in the country," said Hudson. "During this concert both of us will perform solo sessions, as well as a duet. His session will include a new piece that was specifically written for the International Trumpet Guild."

Hudson will return the favor when he visits USC to speak in a master class for students and performs a public concert in the weeks to come.

Ackley and Hudson also serve as a Yamaha Performing Artists for the Carolinas. "Yamaha develops a wide variety of musical instruments, offers music education programs, and provides music advocacy and research programs. Yamaha Performing Artists endorse the company's products at clinics, concerts and other events."

More information about the School of Performing and Visual Arts music division is available at 704-406-4453.

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).

