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Office of University Communications

October 25, 2013

Volunteer Speaker & American Cancer Society Advocate Jeff Ross to Share on Oct. 29

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Dimensions program at Gardner-Webb University is pleased to welcome American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay for Life Hall of Fame member, Jeff Ross, as a distinguished speaker. The Shelby, N.C., native will share his story with students and community members on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 9:25 in the Paul Porter Arena, located inside the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center (LYCC).

When his mother was diagnosed with a rare form of gastric cancer, Jeff Ross's life flipped upside down. She went into the hospital for a routine diagnostic procedure but left with news that she had cancer and it had spread throughout her entire body. After fighting a courageous battle, Ross's mother passed away just 29 days after the initial diagnosis. Unable to help his own mother, he vowed to do whatever he could to prevent another family from going through the same pain that his had endured.

After getting involved with ACS and being introduced to Relay For Life, Ross realized that this was his calling and a way he could have the most impact. As a leader of local events, chair of the local chapter, and a volunteer for ACS's national and international campaigns, Ross's combined efforts have helped ACS raise over \$1 million. He is one of only five volunteers in the world to be inducted into the Relay Hall of Fame.

"Although Jeff Ross is local, he is nationally known as a Relay for Life ambassador and speaker," said Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister to the University. "We are grateful to have him speak in Dimensions during the same week as Gardner-Webb University's Relay for Life event."

Started in 1985, by a Tacoma, Wash. doctor, Relay for Life has become a worldwide phenomenon raising over \$5 billion dollars for the American Cancer Society and cancer research. An organized community fundraising walk with food, games and entertainment, the walk is a unique event that unites people currently fighting cancer, cancer survivors, family members and friends all for one cause. Gardner-Webb will be sponsoring a Relay on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 8 p.m. until midnight. For more information on Relay for Life, visit relayforlife.org.

Gardner-Webb University's Dimensions programs are free and open to the public. The goal of Dimensions is to enhance the spiritual, intellectual and cultural life at the University and also to promote a sense of community. Dimensions programs are held on Tuesday at 9:25

a.m. in the LYCC. More information is available by calling 704-406-4277.

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.