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Office of University Communications

October 23, 2013

BADD (Bulldogs Against Drunk Driving) To Host Oct. 30 Event

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University is introducing a new student club that is taking the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) mission and putting it into action on campus and in the community with what they call BADD (Bulldogs Against Drunk Driving). The group's first event will be a candlelight vigil on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. on the GWU quad, located on the Boiling Springs campus.

Much like MADD, BADD's intentions will be to stop drunk driving and support the victims of this sometimes deadly crime, as well as eliminate underage drinking. According to the National Highway safety Administration drunk drivers cause a death every 51 minutes and on average, one in three people will be involved in a crash in their lifetime.

GWU student Lee Cooper, who has been working to organize the club, knows first hand about the impact of being a victim of a drunk driver. Cooper lost his wife and their unborn child, who were both pronounced dead at the scene, during a terrible car accident in Kentucky. Cooper, the only survivor of his family, remained in a coma for nearly five months and suffered numerous injuries, including brain damage. Today, Cooper, who returned to college later in life, continues as an advocate for the mission he has been promoting for years, and hopes others will join the cause.

"We will be collecting donations for luminaires," said Cooper. "Each one can be in the name of a loved one or friend, or even someone unknown, that was killed by a drunk driver. Participants can even add a personal message to their luminary."

BADD's fundraising events for the candlelight vigil will be held in the GWU CAFÉ, located in the Dover Campus Center on Oct. 24, 25, 28, and 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The vigil is open to the entire community on the evening of Oct. 30.

For more information and how you can get involved, email Cooper at lcooper4@gardner-webb.edu.

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).