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Office of University Communications

September 20, 2013

Students, Faculty and Staff Reflect on Their Journeys at Dimensions on Sept. 24

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – As a university with a large-scale commitment to service in the community, Gardner-Webb places particular emphasis on missions. During the 2012-2013 academic year, over 100 students, faculty, and staff members served both the local and global communities through mission trips. Participants went where there was a need, with eight different trips crossing the county and the globe. The Dimensions program will give those University family members an opportunity to reflect upon their spiritual journeys and first hand experiences with students on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 9:25 a.m. in the Paul Porter Arena, located inside the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center (LYCC).

The trips, which were offered from October to May, included travel to Guatemala, Belize, Ecuador, Brazil and India, to help others. There were also groups looking to make a difference domestically with trips to other towns in North Carolina as well as Pennsylvania and Hawaii.

“One of the things that truly sets Gardner-Webb University apart from many other universities is the number of mission opportunities we offer our students – locally, nationally and internationally,” said Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister to the University. “The Missions Emphasis in Dimensions gives us an opportunity to look back and celebrate the work of God, through last year’s mission trips as well as look ahead to mission trips we have planned for the current academic year.”

The first trip set out to Red Springs, N.C., during fall break, from Oct. 19-23. Sponsored by the N.C. Baptist Men, participants helped with disaster relief, construction and vacation Bible school. Spring missions offered similar rewarding experiences with four teams sent out to Pennsylvania, Guatemala, Belize and Ecuador, which concentrated in youth ministry, construction, and mentoring children in outdoor camps and sports. Those who traveled to Guatemala had the special experience of staying in an orphanage and fully interacting with the children by helping with daily operations.

After final exams were over, the summer trips which included Brazil, Hawaii, and India, left on May 14, 20, and 27 respectively. The Hawaii and India missions were geared towards students focusing in medicinal fields giving participants the opportunity to further their ministry in a hospital or clinical setting. Brazil offered another opportunity to help in an orphanage, one run by the parents of a Gardner-Webb student.

The 2013-14 mission trips will also be announced during the Dimensions program, giving faculty and students a preview of where they can serve next. The trips, which are sponsored and organized by the Christian Life and Services office, provide students with a number of valuable experiences, including personal growth, cultural understanding, and a sense of personal ministry.

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.