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## Veteran Political Reporter Rob Christensen to Visit Gardner-Webb University on March 25

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Office of University Communications

March 19, 2013

*Raleigh News and Observer Correspondent to Lecture Political Science, Communication Studies Students*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Veteran political correspondent and author Rob Christensen will return to the campus of Gardner-Webb University on Monday, March 25 for a reception and guest lecture series at Hope Hall, located in the Tucker Student Center. A meet-and-greet time is planned from 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m., with the guest lecture beginning at 10 a.m. The event is being coordinated by GWU Distinguished Visiting Professor—and former N.C. Lieutenant Governor—Walter Dalton.

Christensen has covered North Carolina politics for nearly 40 years at the “News and Observer” in Raleigh. He remains the chief political writer for the paper and authored the book “The Paradox of Tarheel Politics: The Personalities, Elections, and Events that Shaped Modern North Carolina.” Dalton is currently using that text as a basis for the curriculum in his “Southern Politics” class, which he teaches at Gardner-Webb.

“We are pleased to offer our students an opportunity to hear from a man who has become one of the most successful political writers of our time,” said Dalton. “The words on a page or heard through lecture are valuable, but to have the opportunity to hear from someone who has been a powerful voice within the political scene for decades will give the curriculum an even greater depth.”

With decades of experience covering state and national campaigns, Christensen explores the rich history of the state of North Carolina in his book and helps guide his readers through the often-murky political waters. “Although party divisions and the issues of race that often distinguish them are deeply rooted,” Christensen explained, “North Carolina voters remain loyal to candidates who focus on issues such as education and building a business-friendly infrastructure.”

Beginning at 10 a.m., Christensen will address members of Dalton’s American Government and Southern Politics classes along with other students, faculty, and community members who would like to hear the lecture. Students will be given an opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session with Christensen. In addition, he will have autographed copies of his book available for purchase.

“In a climate of competition and challenge,” Christensen shared, “North Carolina was enabled to rise from poverty in the 19th century to become a leader in research, education, and banking in the 20th.”

Admission to the lecture is free and the event is open to the public. For additional information, contact the Office of University Communications at 704.406.2349.

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University provides exceptional educational opportunities within a Christian environment, preparing students to think critically, to succeed professionally, and to serve faithfully as members of their local and global communities.*