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Gardner-Webb University's Top News of 2012

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Office of University Communications

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University Achievements

The multi-million dollar Tucker Student Center project was successfully completed in 2012, and the building was unveiled to the community during a huge celebration in August. As work on the Tucker Student Center came to an end, several other University building projects were still underway, including the brand new science wing and a much-needed addition to the Dover Theater. The foundation for several new programs was established, including the new Physician Assistant (PA) program, the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program and the Exercise Science major. The **Higher Ground Capital Campaign** came to a successful conclusion, exceeding the \$45 million fundraising goal.

2012 Awards & Accolades

The University was honored with several distinctions during the 2012 calendar year... including being named to the President's Community Service Honor Roll for the fifth straight year and being the only University in the Carolinas (and in the top two percent in the nation) for Core Curriculum requirements. As an institution, Gardner-Webb is committed to making higher education accessible to as many individuals as possible. Those efforts were recognized by *U. S. News and World Report* as GWU's Online Graduate Program in Business was named first in the nation among 161 college and university business programs in the "Student Services and Technology" category. The University also experienced record-breaking enrollment during the Fall 2012 semester. Gardner-Webb Baseball Coach Rusty Stroupe was named the recipient of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes prestigious "Character in Coaching" national award. GWU alum Carl Cartee was nominated for not one, but two Dove awards in 2012 for Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year. He won the Dove Award for "Hope for the Broken World" as recorded by the group Selah.

Student and Alumni Activities/Accomplishments

Several political science students were given an opportunity to observe the political process up close as they participated in several events affiliated with the 2012 Democratic National Convention, hosted by Charlotte, N.C. GWU Alum Savanna Yount's research on post-partum depression was featured in a national medical journal for primary care providers. Gardner-Webb students were successful in their social media campaign to bring the Christian rock band "NEEDTOBREATHE" to the University for a special spring performance. The event helped raise money and awareness for victims of human trafficking.

National & Regional Headlines

Republican Presidential candidate Newt Gingrich made Gardner-Webb University part of his campaign trail, and GWU student Nick Carpenter made national headlines as one of the youngest delegates in the U.S. serving at the Democratic National Convention. Cleveland County native and Olympic silver-medalist Manteo Mitchell visited the University and encouraged students, athletes, and Bulldog fans by signing autographs, speaking to the football team, and watching the game. GWU Master of Nursing graduate Dolly Wilson received the surprise of a lifetime during Summer Commencement when her two military sons—stationed in Arizona and Alaska—joined her on stage after telling her they couldn't attend. The heartwarming story later appeared in local, regional and national news outlets, even airing on the nationally syndicated news show "CBN Newswatch."

In Memorium

The University family grieved the loss of Dr. Gayle Bolt Price following her courageous battle with cancer. Students, faculty, and members of the community mourned the loss of 21-year-old Ariane Patterson, in her junior year at GWU, who died unexpectedly.

Community Service & Leadership

The University opened its doors to all high school students in Cleveland County for Rachel's Challenge, a non-profit organization established in honor of Columbine High School shooting victim Rachel Scott and her pay-it-forward philosophy. Students at GWU also committed their support to victims of sexual trafficking during Human Trafficking Awareness week. The movement resulted in at least one former victim of trafficking enrolling

in college with the help of GWU for a chance at a brand new future. Members of the University family became involved in a service project to meet the basic needs of low-income school children and their families with the continuation of the Bulldog Backpack program. Hundreds of freshmen and new students helped dozens of local and regional agencies during the Freshmen Service Projects day. And the GWU baseball team went under the knife—or rather, the razor—as they shaved their heads to raise money for childhood cancer research through the Basebald fundraiser.