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Southern Appalachian Culture Series Film Festival Scheduled Oct. 8-11, 2012

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Office of University Communications

September 28, 2012

Screenings Begin at 7 p.m. Gardner-Webb University

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – As part of the upcoming Southern Appalachian Culture Series, Gardner-Webb University will host a film festival beginning Monday, Oct. 8 through Thursday, Oct. 11. Each screening begins at 7 p.m. in the Tucker Student Center Time Warner Cable Theatre, and will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

The films are brought to audiences in part from the 15th Annual Native American Indian Film & Video Festival of the Southeast and the Cleveland County Arts Council's Real to Reel Film Fest. Several award winning documentaries will be screened during the four-day festival.

Monday:

“The Blue Ridge Parkway: A Long & Winding Road”—produced by GWU Alumnus, Bruce Bowers. Bowers will also be available for a question/answer session following the screening. “Blue Ridge Parkway: The Long and Winding Road” tells the story of the most visited segment of the U.S. National Park Service. It examines the Parkway's impact on people along the route and events and political controversies involved in building the 469-mile scenic drive through the mountains of North Carolina and Virginia.

Tuesday:

“The Mountain Music Project: A Musical Odyssey from Appalachia to Himalaya” follows the journey of two traditional musicians from their roots in the hills of Virginia to the mountains of rural Nepal, where they explore the extraordinary connections between Appalachian and Himalayan folk music and culture, particularly with the traditional musicians of the Gandharba caste.

“An Appalachian Tale” is a first-hand chronicle of director Dave “Papa Razzi” Hauver's thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 2005. This 92 minute documentary explores the adventure of a thru-hike, the beauty of the trail, and most importantly, the people met along the way. Fellow thru-hikers, section hikers, hostel owners, trail angels, ridge runners, and other members of the trail community are all met over the course of a six month trip. It's an unforgettable journey of friendship.

Wednesday:

“Riding the Removal”—winner of the 2011 Regional Film Documentary short—by Taige Wachacha (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians). This documentary traces the steps of 18 riders who rode the 900-mile route of the “Trail of Tears.” The “2011 Remember the Removal” marked the third time Cherokee Indian riders have retraced the Trail of Tears route. Twelve riders from Cherokee Nation and six riders from the Eastern Band of Cherokees undertook the challenge, which lasted more than three weeks. The event served as the first year the Eastern Band of Cherokees participated in the commemoration.

“Spiral of Fire”—by Carol Patton Cornsilk (Cherokee) & Frank Blythe (Cherokee/Dakota). This documentary explores the challenges faced by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on their reservation in North Carolina. Through the eyes of Choctaw writer LeAnne Howe, we see how their fusion of tourism, cultural preservation, and spirituality is working to insure their tribe’s vitality in the 21st century.

Thursday:

“Reel Injun”—winner of the 2010 Regional Film Documentary feature—by Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge and Jeremiah Hayes. Hollywood has made over 4000 films about Native people; over 100 years of movies defining how Indians are seen by the world. “Reel Injun” takes an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through the history of cinema. Traveling through the heartland of America, Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond looks at how the myth of “the Injun” has influenced the world’s understanding—and misunderstanding—of natives.

Special guest Dr. Will Moreau Goins will be on hand following the screenings on Wednesday and Thursday. Goins is the director of the Native American Indian Film and Video Festival of the Southeast.

For details on the film festival, contact Noel Manning at 704-406-4631. For additional information on the Southern Appalachian Culture Series, scheduled for Oct. 12-13, visit www.soappculture.com.

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.