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August 15, 2012

Opening Exhibit Covers the History of GWU Visual Art Students' Creations

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The upcoming official opening of the Tucker Student Center at Gardner-Webb University will serve a dual purpose with the unveiling of the new exhibit gallery for the School of Performing and Visual Arts. “The Alumni Collection Exhibit” will feature a variety of artwork covering nearly the entire history of the visual arts department. An invitation-only kickoff celebration for the entire Tucker Student Center, including the new gallery, is scheduled for Aug. 28 at 4 p.m.

“Artwork by graduates going back as far as 1997 will be a part of the exhibit,” said Justin Humphries, office assistant for the visual arts department. “The show will include mostly paintings, but there will also be drawings, 2-D and some 3-D prints, sculptures, and collage.”

GWU Professor of Visual Arts Susan Bell believes the gallery will benefit both student and professional artists. “We are so thrilled to showcase our talented graduates,” Bell said. “The gallery will be the most visually exciting gallery on campus and the first with the security necessary to host professional artists, an important component of any visual arts program.”

The gallery will also be a location for displaying the work of Presidential Purchase Award winners. The award, announced last spring, enables the University to spend \$1,500 per year to purchase students' original artwork for permanent display in campus facilities. Artwork considered for purchase will primarily consist of items exhibited at the annual undergraduate and senior art shows. “We are pleased that the President's Purchase Award provides a permanent place for art by our own students in their own center. How great is that?” added Bell.

Architects of the Tucker Student Center designed it in such a way that students and visitors will still be able to view the work through glass walls even when the gallery itself is closed, an important component when considering the value of many of the pieces displayed combined with the strategy of keeping the work visually accessible.

All of the artwork for the exhibit was recently professionally framed and mounted, and the process is currently underway to hang the pieces in the gallery for the Aug. 28 opening. The exhibit will remain on display through Sept. 28. More information about visual arts and the gallery is available at 704-406-4656.

The Tucker Student Center is a new 110,000 square-foot building for students to fellowship on campus. The facility includes conference rooms, common areas for group and study time, entertainment options featuring a small movie theater and three story climbing wall, restaurants, the campus book store, and over 15 departments.