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Office of University Communications

August 8, 2012

Dr. Gayle Bolt Price Remembered During Summer Commencement Ceremonies on Monday

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Gardner-Webb University Graduate School now has a new name. The accomplishments of a beloved professor, colleague and friend were celebrated during Monday's Summer Commencement Ceremonies at Gardner-Webb University.

"Be it resolved that from this day forth," read GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner, "the graduate school at Gardner-Webb University will be known as the Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies."

Price passed away on March 6 at her home in Greenville, S.C. after a battle with cancer. The loss was felt throughout the Gardner-Webb family due to her many years of service as a professor, dean, associate provost, mentor and friend. Recently, members of the GWU Board of Trustees endorsed a resolution renaming the graduate school in her honor.

"Over the years, Gayle influenced not only the policies and procedures, but more importantly the very heart of the graduate school," said longtime friend and colleague Dr. Franki Burch, associate provost for professional and graduate studies. "She set high expectations and standards coupled with a sense of dignity, grace and fairness. We love her and miss her every day."

Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie worked closely with Price, and he believes she accomplished more in her 21-year career than most professionals do in a lifetime. "Her contributions represent an amazing legacy," Leslie said. "Academic quality and institutional integrity, life-long learning, and a workplace characterized by joy and laughter as well as hard work and productivity are all elements of that legacy. Her accomplishments are going to continue to transform this place in many positive ways for years to come."

A native of Greenwood, S.C., Price joined the Gardner-Webb faculty in 1991 as a professor of English, and eventually served as chair of that department. She founded and directed both the Learning Assistance Program and the Writing Center, coordinated the Writing Across the Curriculum Program, and served as dean of the Graduate School. In 2007, she was named associate provost for graduate and professional studies, the position in which she worked tirelessly until her death.

Dr. June Hobbs, current chair of the English department, said that Price was one of her closest friends and that she lived life with a passion and intensity that is not easily replicated. Hobbs said, “We as a community and I personally will be drinking from wells she dug for a long time.”

GWU Board of Trustees Resolution Honoring Dr. Gayle Bolt Price

Whereas during the period of her administrative leadership, Dr. Gayle Bolt Price established herself as a staunch advocate for teaching excellence in all of our academic programs;

And whereas Dr. Price advocated tirelessly for competitive compensation for faculty, academic freedom and the principles of shared governance;

And whereas Dr. Price, even as the administrator charged with oversight of professional programs, committed herself to an undergraduate curriculum steeped in the liberal arts and the goals of critical thinking, cultural awareness, and scientific and mathematical skills;

And whereas Dr. Price earned a reputation as a champion of ethical integrity throughout the University in all its operations;

And whereas Dr. Price, as former Dean of the Graduate School, through her indefatigable efforts, laid many of the foundations upon which the School has now flourished;

Be it resolved, that from this day forth, the Graduate School at Gardner-Webb University will be known as the Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies.