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Office of University Communications

February 20, 2012

Community Invited to Attend Multidisciplinary Conference on Feb. 25

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb's annual Life of the Scholar Multidisciplinary Conference (LOTS-MC) puts some of the University's best undergraduate and faculty research on display. This year's conference, set for Sat., Feb. 25 at the Boiling Springs campus, is free and open to the community. Lunch is available for \$15.

The event begins with registration and an opening ceremony in Ritch Banquet Hall at 9 a.m. More than two dozen student presentations will then be organized by topic into several concurrent sessions. There will also be a faculty showcase after lunch, and an awards reception with refreshments. The event will conclude by 4 p.m., though attenders may come and go in between various sessions.

"This year, we'll have presentations in art, English, sociology, education, psychology, athletic training, and even musical performance. It truly is an interdisciplinary experience," said Dr. Shea Stuart, professor of English and a LOTS-MC sponsor. "It's a wonderful opportunity for the community to come and learn interesting new things, in the spirit of lifelong learning."

Dr. June Hobbs, professor of English at Gardner-Webb, is also a co-sponsor for this year's event.

The 2012 LOTS-MC will inaugurate two grand prizes: a \$200 prize and plaque for best paper and a \$200 prize and plaque for best presentation. The prizes are sponsored by Gardner-Webb business professor Dr. Don Caudill, in honor of his parents. Caudill will be among the presenters in this year's faculty showcase.

"This event is unique. Most universities don't offer anything like this undergraduate research conference," said Stuart, who cites the LOTS-MC as one of the contributing factors in her choice to teach at Gardner-Webb.

"It's wonderful to watch students take that leap of vulnerability," Stuart said, "putting their original ideas and research out there for constructive criticism. It's a safe environment, because the judges offering feedback are also professors who want the best for these students. But it's an encouragingly critical environment, nevertheless, and it sharpens them."

"No matter whether they go on to graduate school or into various professions," continued Stuart, "the experience of having presented at a conference like this is invaluable preparation."

More information about this year's LOTS-MC is available at 704-406-2237.