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Office of University Communications

November 7, 2011

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Set for Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.— Gardner-Webb University will dedicate the Bill and Sue Masters Athletic Facility in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 10:30 a.m. The Masters family will then be honored at Spangler Stadium during halftime of the Runnin' Bulldogs football game against Stony Brook, which kicks off at 1:30 p.m.

The ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony will be held just outside the Bill and Sue Masters Athletic Facility, located on Stadium Drive behind the right-field wall of Masters Field, just next to the traffic circle.

The Facility, which houses the baseball and tennis offices, is named in recognition of the Masters' recent \$1.3 million gift to the Runnin' Bulldogs baseball program. Fifty percent of the gift will be set up to endow the program while the remaining half is designated for baseball scholarships.

“The remarkable generosity of the Masters family will change the playing field for Gardner-Webb baseball. A gift of this magnitude and focus will allow our program to recruit the brightest student athletes who can make the right plays in the classroom and on the field,” said Woody Fish, associate vice-president for Alumni Relations and Development.

Bill Masters grew up in Easley, S.C., with a deep love for baseball that took him from the sandlot to the ACC, where Masters was a walk-on at Clemson. He also went on to play semipro baseball, and served in the U.S. Army Air Force. Masters spent most of his career in the textile industry, including several years with Cone Mills in Cliffside, N.C., where he served as production manager. It was while in Cliffside that he began his relationship with Gardner-Webb 40 years ago.

“Through the years, Sue and I have seen Gardner-Webb grow from a two-year college to a university status, and we have continued to see improvements along the way. This is a thriving university that we just want to be a part of,” Masters said.

In 2008, the GWU baseball field was named in honor of Bill for his generous support to the baseball program.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University seeks a higher ground in higher education – one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, balances conviction with compassion, and inspires in students a love of learning, service, and leadership.