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10-13-2011

### **Gardner-Webb Receives \$1.3 Million Gift From Bill and Sue Masters**

Office of University Communications

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# Gardner-Webb Receives \$1.3 Million Gift From Bill and Sue Masters

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Office of University Communications

October 13, 2011

## *Gift to Benefit GWU Baseball Program*

 baseball endowment

Boiling Springs, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University is pleased to announce that long-time GWU supporters Bill and Sue Masters have given \$1.3 million 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. This gift brings the Higher Ground Capital Campaign total to \$40 million.

“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. “When I was a kid I always said that ‘I’d rather play baseball than eat when I was hungry,’” said Masters. 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, working for the White Horse Cotton Mill in Greenville, S.C., Riegel Textiles in Ware Shoals, S.C. and 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.

“I was inspired that Cone Mills was involved in supporting private colleges like Gardner-Webb, and I wanted to be a part of that kind of community. Through the years, Sue and I have seen Gardner-Webb grow from a two-year college to 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, and on Nov. 12, Gardner-Webb will also be naming the Bill and Sue Masters Athletic Facility in the family’s honor with a ribbon cutting and dedication at 10 a.m. This facility houses the baseball and tennis offices. The Masters family will also be recognized at halftime of the GWU vs. Stony Brook football game on the same day.

The \$45 million Higher Ground campaign will solidify the University's commitment to spiritual, academic, athletic, civic, and structural development. For more information or to get involved in the Higher Ground campaign, call (704) 406-4250.