

2006

## The Webb Magazine 2006, Summer/Fall

Noel T. Manning II

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A publication of Gardner-Webb University

Summer/Fall 2006

## Inside

**Dr. Frank Bonner's Inauguration**

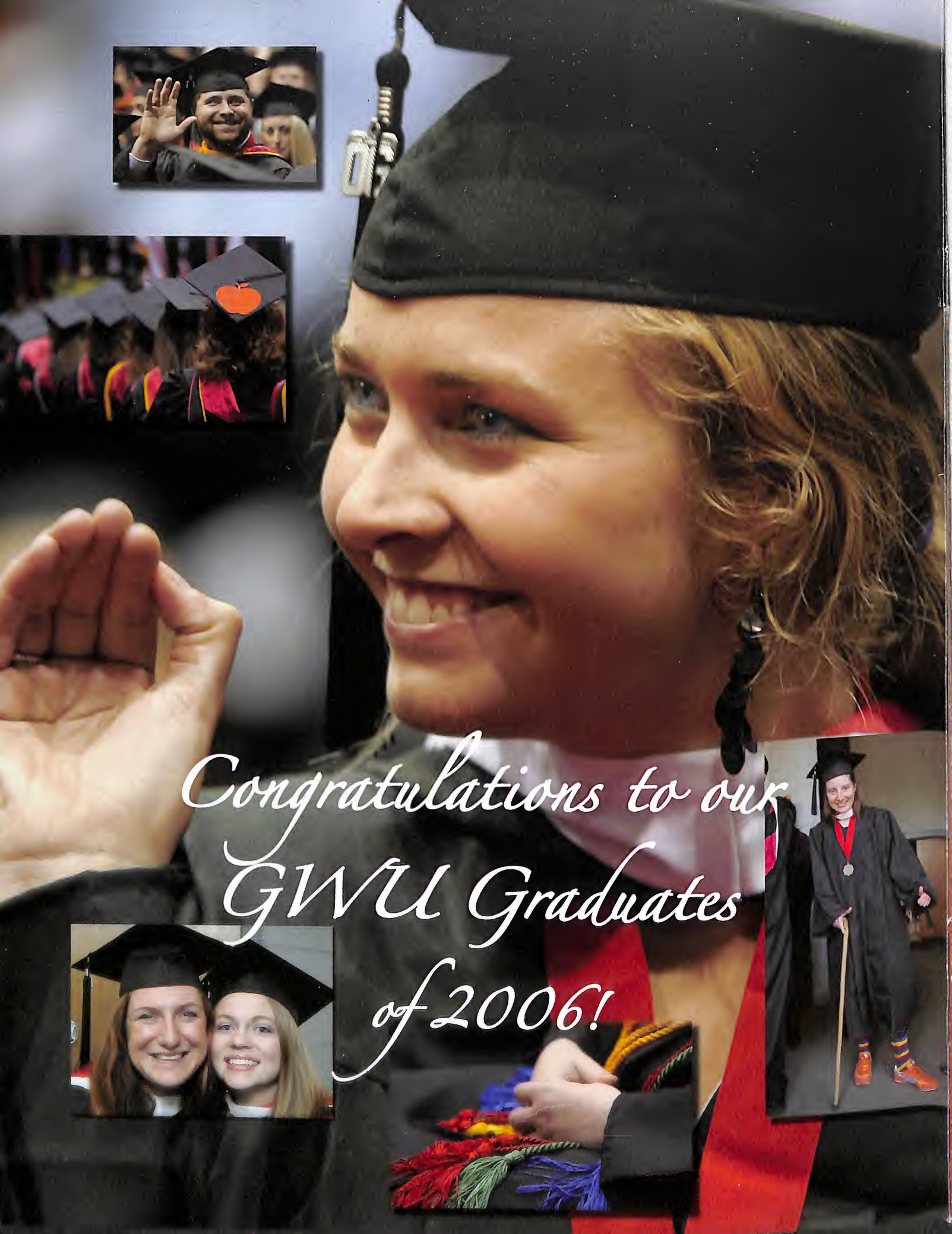
**GOAL Program Reaches into War-torn Region**

**School of Nursing Celebrates 40 Years**

**GWU Joins Big South Conference**

**Gardner-Webb  
University**

We have great things in mind.



*Congratulations to our  
GWU Graduates  
of 2006!*



Vol. 39, No. 2

SUMMER 2006

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Division of University Relations and Marketing

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Above: Gardner-Webb First Lady, Flossie Bonner, spends time with students during president's dinner.

Left: GWU Trustee, Adelaide Craver, enjoys inaugural festivities.

# A Greater Purpose



**W**hat is the essential purpose of Christian higher education? What is the essential purpose of Gardner-Webb University?

That question should be examined in the context of our vision for the future of the University.

I envision Gardner-Webb as a highly respected leader in Christian higher education—and even widely regarded as one of the very finest Christian universities in the nation. It will be the graduates of Gardner-Webb who will bring about that reputation through their character, their accomplishments, and their service.

Our graduates must be people who—

- Think critically and independently. Demonstrate a broad base of knowledge and skills.
- Understand the interrelatedness of knowledge and apply their knowledge, not just in career, but also in their personal lives and in citizenship.
- And most importantly, understand the vital relationship of character and intellect.

Our graduates must be people who are fulfilled as persons. People who exemplify genuine care and citizenship, respect diversity, relate effectively to persons of all backgrounds, are at peace with themselves and at peace with their Maker, and thus face successfully the challenges of life and succeed in family, in church, in community and in career. That is the product; that is what we are about.

How will we go about meeting the challenges, fulfilling the vision of the preeminent Christian university, and producing graduates who bring about that reputation for their alma mater?

We have five over-arching goals:

- First, we must strengthen and recommit to our Christian foundation. The Gardner-Webb experience must embrace faith and intellectual freedom. The refinement of the intellect without the development of character is not only an incomplete but potentially a dangerous education. Furthermore, we will remain loyal to our Baptist heritage and to traditional Baptist principles, and we will serve North Carolina Baptists and will strive always to be worthy of the love and support of all Baptists.
- Second, we will continuously build upon genuine academic excellence, while honoring, preserving and protecting academic freedom. While we will attain the necessary resources and strengthen the standard measures of quality, we will attain a distinctive academic program whose hallmark will be connecting students:
  - 1) to the mentoring and positive influence of faculty through research and scholarship, and other activities;
  - 2) to civic responsibility through service learning;
  - 3) to the global community in which they will live and work.
- Third, we will exemplify a student-centered culture and campus. Our standards, our policies and procedures, and our programs will maintain high expectations of students, and they will be based upon the best interests and needs of students first and foremost. Student life will interface with academic programs to form a comprehensive educational experience that develops the whole person and produces the kind of graduates that will bring acclaim to their alma mater.



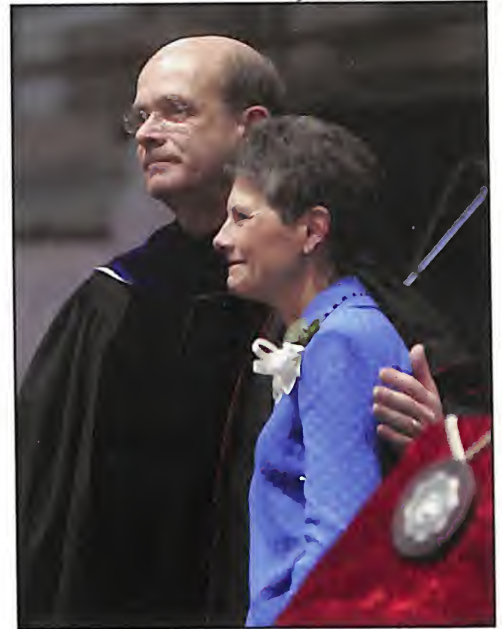
- Fourth, we will maintain an athletic program that will be a model for other schools to emulate. Our athletic program will comply both in letter and in spirit with NCAA requirements and the highest ethical standards. It will be a program that reveres the ideal of the student athlete, instills the finest life lessons athletics can

teach, unites the entire university family, and is highly competitive.

- Finally, we will be a university community that embodies the fullest meaning of Pro Deo et Humanitate, for God and Humanity. We will produce graduates who exemplify that ideal.

If we fulfill the essential purpose of this University, we will send forth graduates who not only embody all the intellectual and personal qualities alluded to earlier, but who are fully prepared, motivated and inspired to make a significant difference in the lives of others, to make the world a better place than they found it, and in so doing embody the words found on Gardner-Webb's seal, Pro Deo et Humanitate, for God and Humanity.

Indeed, at Gardner-Webb we must seek 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. We have great things in mind—for our students and the world.



God's Blessings to you,

A. Frank Bonner  
President

*\*The preceding excerpts were taken from Dr. Frank Bonner's Inaugural Address – for the complete text of the inaugural address go online to [www.inauguration.gardner-webb.edu](http://www.inauguration.gardner-webb.edu) or to request a printed copy, contact Noel T. Manning, II at [ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu) or 704-406-4631.*





THE INAUGURATION OF *A. Frank Bonner*  
TWELFTH PRESIDENT OF GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY



A crowd of about 1,100 faculty, staff, students, dignitaries and other guests witnessed the installation of Dr. A. Frank Bonner as the president of Gardner-Webb University on April 6 in a 1:30 pm ceremony. Delegates from nearly 100 colleges, universities and learned societies were represented for the inaugural activities as well. Bonner, who officially took office July 1, 2005, is the 12th president in the 101-year history of this Christian Liberal Arts University.

Franklin V. Beam, chairman of the Board of Trustees, presided over the ceremony. Also on the program was Dr. Frank Campbell, 11th president of Gardner-Webb. Campbell, along with Beam and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Gene Washburn, officiated the investiture of office.

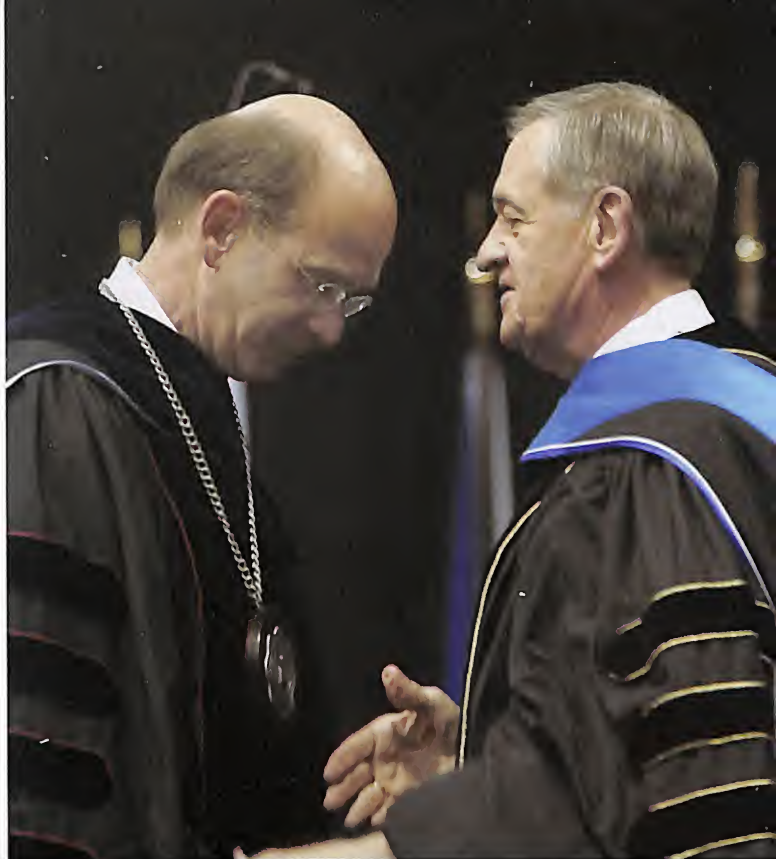
The ceremony included greetings from the student body, the faculty, staff and alumni, with remarks from community leaders, representatives of the founding Baptist associations and the State of North Carolina.

In his inaugural address, Bonner paid tribute to the rich traditions of Gardner-Webb while setting a challenging agenda and focused priorities to guide Gardner-Webb's future. "I envision Gardner-Webb as a highly respected leader in Christian higher education- and even widely regarded as one of the very finest Christian universities in the nation. It will be the graduates of Gardner-Webb who will bring about that reputation through their character, their accomplishments, and their service," noted Bonner.

Bonner added that during his presidency he will focus on Gardner-Webb's strong academic programs, endowment growth, and facility and program improvements. But most important, Bonner noted that Gardner-Webb must be committed to educating the whole student.

In Bonner's inaugural address, he also set forth some of the following challenges for the Gardner-Webb family. "There must be an endowment that will enable genuine quality and reduce the financial burden on students.

There must be strong alumni loyalty and steadily growing support from friends, churches, corporations and foundations, as well as alumni.



## *Week of Festivities Honor A. Frank Bonner as Gardner-Webb's 12th President*



We must build a new science building and facilities consistent with the quality of our faculty and their teaching.

We must have a true student center that is the hub of campus life and the headquarters for strong, progressive student life programs.

We must have a performing arts center that will do justice to our fine arts programs and that will be the cultural center for this region.

And, we must implement our existing Campus Master Plan and transform a beautiful campus into a magnificent campus."

The installation ceremony was preceded by a week of activities including a scholarly lecture, concert, worship service and several banquets.





## GARDNER-WEBB CELEBRATES WINSTON-SALEM LOCATION

During the spring semester, Gardner-Webb University hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house event in celebration of its new satellite location in downtown Winston-Salem. Gardner-Webb's Winston-Salem Center houses classrooms and offices.

Although Gardner-Webb has offered degrees and course work previously in the Winston-Salem area, this is the University's first true Winston-Salem home. Courses will be offered at the Winston-Salem center allowing students to pursue undergraduate, graduate and MBA degrees.

According to Dr. Carolyn Jackson, assistant provost, the search to find a central location in Winston-Salem that would accommodate all classes had been ongoing for sometime. In the past, Gardner-Webb offered courses at a variety of locations in the area, such as the Forsyth County School Career Center, Wake Forest Hospital and Forsyth Home Health. Jackson says the new location means, "programs are now going to be offered all together which provides a stronger identity for the university."

## GARDNER-WEBB NAMES NEW PROVOST

In April, after a nation wide search, Dr. Frank Bonner, Gardner-Webb president, announced the appointment of the next Provost and Senior Vice President of the University. This position is that of the Chief Academic Officer of the University and, in accordance with the bylaws of the Board of Trustees, is second in command of the University. Dr. Ben Leslie was named to the position.



Leslie most recently served as Academic Vice President and Dean and Professor of Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He holds the B.A. from Samford University, the M.Div. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Master of Theology degree from Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and the Doctor of Theology degree from the University of Zurich, Switzerland. For those less familiar with the University of Zurich, it may be noted that three graduates of the University have won the Nobel Prize, including Albert Einstein, and over the University's history, twelve of its faculty have won the Nobel Prize.

Bonner says, "Dr. Leslie's academic credentials, scholarship and administrative experience are superb, and he has pastoral experience as well. He has the personality, experience and skills necessary to provide outstanding leadership to the academic program. You may expect to find not only a highly competent manager, but also an energetic and progressive academic leader and innovator. Above all you will find a great colleague who will fit exceptionally well in the Gardner-Webb family."

## GWU ASSOCIATE PROVOST IN THE DARK .... LITERALLY



This was an amazing trip," says Dr. James Dire, associate provost for arts and sciences at Gardner-Webb

University. "I was so lucky to have the great opportunity to travel across the world to view such an incredible phenomena."

On March 29th 2006, Dire stood outside of his hotel in Turkey to view a spectacular event that he had waited years to see. He traveled to Turkey to view a total solar eclipse that any single location on the Earth will only witness every 400 years. "These total solar eclipses are one of the most spectacular natural phenomena that a human can witness," notes Dire.

"Photographs, live television broadcasts and video cannot duplicate the experience of seeing it in person." This particular eclipse was only going to be visible across Africa, the

Mediterranean, Turkey and parts of Russia and Mongolia.

While in Turkey, Dire spent time sharing advice and tips on viewing the eclipse to a group of nearly 100. The group included a journalist, a teacher and numerous students.

Dire has been studying astronomy for twenty-five years. He says, "I became interested in astronomy by stargazing far away from city lights in the Midwest when I was growing up."

## NEARLY 800 STUDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES AT COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

A week of special luncheons, receptions and departmental gatherings honoring graduates culminated with the 2006 Spring Commencement exercises. Graduates received honors for their years of dedication and their commitment to the principles of Gardner-Webb as a total of 803 degrees were conferred in two separate ceremonies on May 13. Several thousand family members, friends and special guests attended the events honoring the achievements of these new Gardner-Webb Alumni.

Dr. Earl Leininger, provost for Gardner-Webb, gave the commencement address to the 2006 graduating class. A native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Leininger has worked with the senior administration of Gardner-Webb since 2002.

Prior to coming to Gardner-Webb, Leininger served at Mars Hill College for over 30 years. Leininger was also presented with an honorary doctorate during the ceremony. Leininger retires from Gardner-Webb this summer. During commencement exercises, awards were presented to graduates exemplifying excellence in academics and citizenship. Several students were honored for comprehensive academic achievement during their collegiate careers. Summer Hess of Kennett Square, PA was awarded the outstanding female graduate honor while the outstanding male graduate honor was presented to Lance Robert Lucas of Port Matilda, PA. This honor is awarded to students exemplifying the Gardner-Webb motto – “Pro Deo et Humanitate” - For God and Humanity.



## GARDNER-WEBB HONORS FACULTY AND STAFF AT ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON



*Dr. Sophia Steible*

At Gardner-Webb’s annual awards luncheon, Apples and Accolades, honors were presented to the educator of the year, staff and faculty members completing ten and twenty-five years of service, male and female staff members of the year, and the new president’s awards for community engagement.

Dr. Sophia Steible, associate professor of Christian education, was named the Excellence in Teaching Award winner. Faculty members are nominated by students for this honor and chosen by a committee of trustees, past recipients, students and a local educator.

Carmen Butler, academic advising coordinator, was named Female Staff Member of the Year. Michael Schau of the Department of Technology Services was named the Male Staff Member of the Year. Outstanding staff members are selected through a nomination process from faculty and staff.

The Faculty and Staff Community Engagement Award is given in keeping

with the Gardner-Webb motto “Pro Deo et Humanitate” - for God and Humanity. Recipients of the award are recognized for their civic responsibility through active participation and service to the community

at large. Awards were given in this category to one staff and one faculty member. The staff award went to Andy Byers, director of student ministries for his work with the Shelby, NC Mayor’s Task Force and disaster relief for the Gulf Coast region.



*Michael Schau*

The faculty award was presented to Sydney Brown, assistant professor for the School of Education, who works as a model for students in trying to encourage them in the importance of volunteerism. Brown’s work has included working with Communities in Schools and helping to collect donations to help school children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

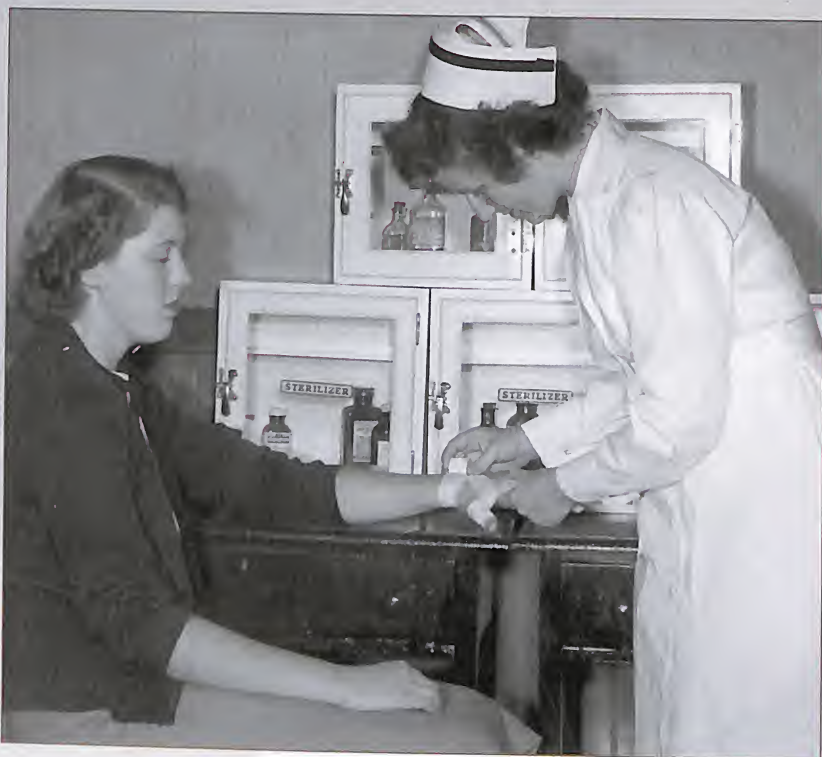
Other faculty and staff members were recognized for long-term service and retirement from the University.



*Carmen Butler*

# Healing Hands

## GWU School of Nursing Celebrates 40 Years



Forty years ago the nursing school at Gardner-Webb University welcomed 45 students into the program. That number has grown immensely. There are currently 350 students enrolled in the nursing program at the university. Forty years may seem like a long time, yet each of those years is filled with great memories of how the nursing program has grown. This year, the Gardner-Webb School of Nursing celebrates their 40th Anniversary and Dr. Shirley Toney, dean of the School of Nursing, takes a trip down memory lane to explain what this significant anniversary means to her.

"This anniversary is special because not only is it a time to celebrate all of our accomplishments over the past 40 years, but this is also a time to thank all those who have contributed to the nursing program at Gardner-Webb," noted Toney.

The Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing was brought about by the vision of the Founding Director, Mrs. Grace C. Lee (1913-2000). "Mrs. Lee was the Director of the Rutherford Hospital School of

Nursing and she saw the 'handwriting on the wall,'" said Toney. "She knew it was time for nursing education to take place in institutions of higher learning." The nursing programs at the hospital became too expensive and students needed a solid well-rounded nursing education. Therefore, Mrs. Lee did some investigating into the Associate of Nursing Degree (ADN) program. This particular curriculum was developed in 1952 and was to help reduce repetition in the program and provide additional structured learning experiences in collegiate settings.

Toney worked along side Lee at the Rutherford Hospital School of Nursing from 1963-1965 and was also involved with investigating the possibility of bringing the nursing education program to Gardner-Webb. Lee had already established an affiliation with the university as the first Rutherford students traveled to Gardner-Webb two times a week to take anatomy, physiology, chemistry and psychology courses. At this time, the nursing school was a two year program which included frequent meetings with Dr. Eugene Poston, the President of Gardner-Webb, hospital administrators and the directors of nursing at Rutherford and Cleveland Memorial Hospitals.

In the summer of 1965, the hospital nursing program was completely phased out at Rutherford and Cleveland Memorial Hospitals and Gardner-Webb joyfully welcomed the first 45 students into nursing school. The Nursing School was originally housed on the second floor of the science building. "Throughout the forty years the nursing program has existed at Gardner-Webb, we have moved from the science building to the Dover Campus Center to Lindsay and Elliott Hall where the program has currently been since 1970," stated Toney.

Lee was the Program Director of the Gardner-Webb School of Nursing, and she and Toney shared a chemistry lab/office with Mr. M.A. Mosley, the chemistry professor at the time. Glennie McRee Beam and Toney were the first two instructors of nursing and their office was a

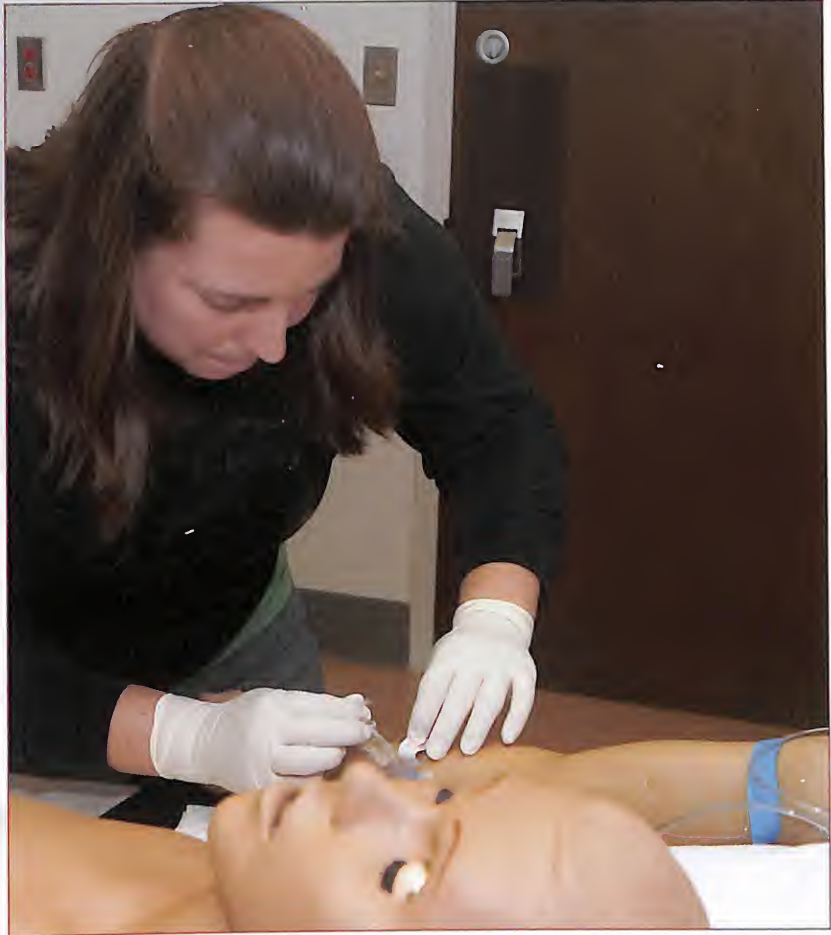
storage room at one end of the science building. All 45 nursing school students had classes in the Microbiology lab, which was designed for only 24 students; therefore, chairs were always added into the classroom. At the time, the nursing school had supplies consisting of one bed, some nursing equipment, a manikin and a movie projector, which were all donated by Rutherford Hospital.

Beam, Lee and Toney were all hospital nursing program graduates, and at the time no one was completely sure what an associate degree of nursing education should consist of. Although Beam and Toney demonstrated skills to their students by showing Navy training films, the only demonstrations that nursing students performed were bedmaking and the practice of giving injections. "In September 1965, the first time I went to the hospital to make patient assignments the head nurse said, 'Well, this might be all right, but they'll never make nurses,' stated Toney. "I remember thinking frankly, I wasn't sure either; however, it wasn't long until her unit was staffed with Gardner-Webb Nursing School graduates and one even became her successor after she retired."

In 1970, the Gardner-Webb Nursing School was one of the first two ADN programs in the state to become nationally accredited. When Lee retired in 1978, Toney became the School of Nursing Chair and has been in that administrative role since that time. She notes, "I have had the extraordinary privilege of not only helping develop the ADN program, but also conducting feasibility

*The Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing was brought about by the vision of the Founding Director, Mrs. Grace C. Lee (1913-2000).*

studies for the RN (Registered Nurse), BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) and MSN (Master of Science in Nursing) programs." The BSN and RN programs began at Gardner-Webb in 1983; the MSN program began in 2001. All three of the programs are currently offered at the Gardner-Webb campus in Boiling Springs. In addition, the BSN, RN and MSN programs are offered in Charlotte, Shelby and Statesville with the BSN program also offered in Lake Norman and Winston-Salem.



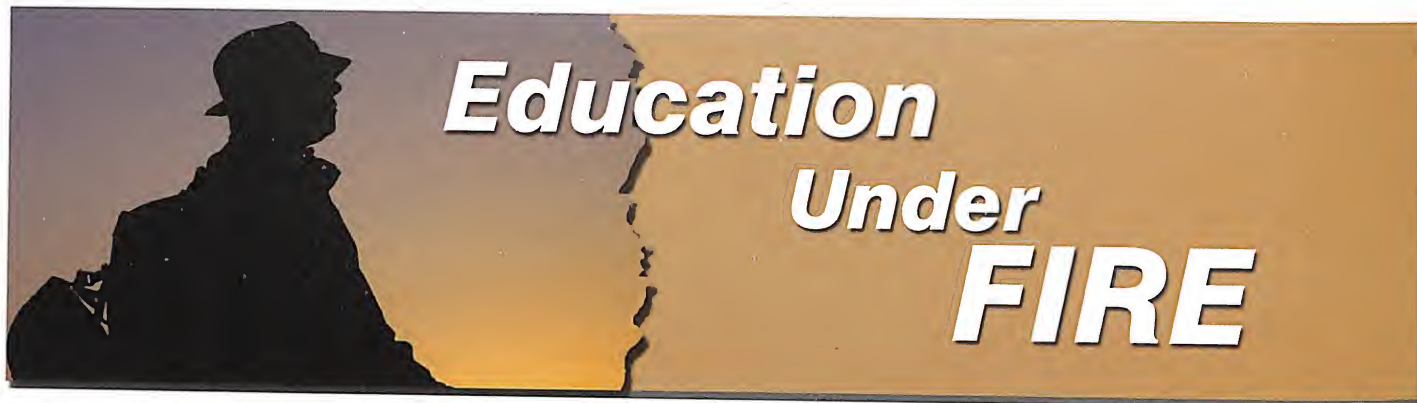
Toney notes that this anniversary of the nursing school at Gardner-Webb is extremely special because it celebrates how far the nursing program has come over the past forty years. This dream of creating such a program is fulfilled by the works of Gardner-Webb University and clinical and community colleagues who responded to a vision and

continued to fulfill that vision. "This anniversary is a testament to the foresight and courage of Mrs. Lee and those hospital and Gardner-Webb people who dared to make a

move into unfamiliar waters," notes Toney. "I am firmly convinced that we all stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us."

Almost 2,000 registered nurses have graduated from Gardner-Webb University and now fill major leadership positions throughout the world. "I compare what we as nursing faculty do to tossing a pebble in a pool," stated Toney. "The rings keep growing outward and larger as we educate nurses; and in turn, that influence continues."

-Bailey Holt, Gardner-Webb Student



## U.S. Soldier Continues Gardner-Webb Education While Serving in Iraq

For North Carolina native Brian Green, September 11, 2001 was a day that began a wave of change that would teach him to never stop trying, no matter how difficult life became. Green was a student at The Citadel in Charleston, SC, when he made the life-altering decision to join the army. "I joined to do my part in the fight against terrorism and to further my experiences," stated the 23-year-old Gardner-Webb Business Administration major. He became a member of the North Carolina National Guard 505th Engineer Battalion, Bravo Company out of Kings Mountain, NC.

Soon the challenge of his military duties and the financial cost of college forced Green to withdraw from The Citadel. Green then moved back home to Lattimore, NC and worked a full time job while taking classes at Cleveland Community College. During this time, Green first heard about the Gardner-Webb GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners Program). According to Green, "the

GOAL Program is very beneficial to the working adult trying to achieve or finish their college education." Green also felt that Gardner-Webb was the right choice for him because of the school's reputation, location and programs offered.

Green found out last year that he would be deployed to Iraq. Green's deployment made pursuing his education a challenge. But it is a challenge worth taking. "The army has it's own agenda for me, and what I want to accomplish must fall into my free time," explained Green.

Like some soldiers, Green is using his free time in Iraq to take online classes through the GOAL program. "I have learned to manage my time more effectively while taking classes over here, because you don't always know when you are going to have the time available to study," Green explained.

When asked about his typical day as a soldier and student in Iraq, Green responded, "Being in a combat zone, there aren't any typical days." However, by serving as an engineer, Green's days are more settled than those that serve in the infantry. His days usually run from 8 am to 5 pm, six days a week and a half-day on Sunday. For most of the soldiers, free time can vary from day to day because of different missions. If they decide to take online classes, then they have to do their schoolwork whenever they have a chance. "I decided to spend my time working on my education rather than playing video games," stated Green.

For Green, life in Iraq is very different than it is back home in North Carolina. In Iraq soldiers learn to live on very few luxuries. According to Green, "everything I own here can fit in one box and one duffle bag. If you want a desk, you have to find the materials and tools to build one. Every little thing that I took for granted when I was home is a major luxury here." The biggest challenge that Green has faced while taking his online classes are getting his schoolbooks. Green has also had to adjust to interacting with a computer instead of the personal interaction that comes in a traditional classroom lecture setting, which he prefers.

The most important thing that Green believes he'll bring back home is the understanding of other cultures. "The language and cultural barriers are amazing; however, the interaction I have had with one group in particular has opened my mind and eliminated some of the ignorance of the Muslim culture." With the experience Green has gained in Iraq he has become more aware of the different needs of different people. He believes that his experience in Iraq will be a great asset to his future in business management.

Green's advice to students back home is to never stop trying. "As hard as life gets, it can always get worse, but only you can make it better," Green replied. After he graduates from Gardner-Webb, Green plans on getting a Master's degree in Construction Management.

*Ashley Dye, Gardner-Webb Student*



## Dr. Watson, I Presume ...

### Gardner-Webb has First Candidate to Complete Requirements for Doctorate in Educational Leadership

Serving as a middle school and high school math and science teacher for twelve years, then working as an assistant principal for four years, Tanya Watson, has spent many years throughout her life working for the school system. All of her hard work paid off as she became the first candidate at Gardner-Webb University to complete requirements for the Doctorate in Educational Leadership. "It is a tribute to her personal commitment and discipline to complete this course of study in this time frame," said Dr. Allen Douglas Eury, assistant professor of education. "Throughout the program, Tanya has exhibited exceptional leadership qualities as well as exemplary study habits."

This particular doctorate program is very competitive. Each candidate for this program must have a master's degree and be licensed in Educational Administration. Candidates must have three years of administrative experience and a

Watson currently works for Rutherford County Schools as the Director of Federal Programs and Professional Development. She received a B.A. in Intermediate Education in math and science from UNC Charlotte in December 1985. She then earned her M.A. in School Administration from Gardner-Webb in December 1998. In 2003, Watson received her National Board Certification in Early Adolescent Mathematics and then continued on with her studies in order to earn her doctorate. "It has been a lifelong goal of mine to receive my doctorate," noted Watson. "I was in contact with Gardner-Webb when the doctoral program was still in the planning

*In December 2005, Watson was the first member of her cohort to earn the Ed.D in Educational Leadership. "The School of Education at Gardner-Webb is proud of her accomplishments in this program," notes Eury.*

competitive GRE (Graduate Record Exam) score is required for the application process. A transcript with evidence of quality work at post secondary level is necessary for the application process along with five references. Upon screening, a number of candidates are interviewed for final consideration.

phase and was anxiously awaiting word that the program was going to be offered." This was the third year of the Doctorate Educational Leadership program at Gardner-Webb. This program is a cohort model: Cohort I has 15 students, Cohort II has 16 students and Cohort III has 11 students. The design of this program is two



*Dr. Watson, right, was impressed with new doctoral program.*

years of classwork consisting of 54 hours in integrated modules of study. Dissertation is a nine-hour module to be completed following the first two years. "I thoroughly enjoyed the master's program at Gardner-Webb and was thrilled that I was able to continue my studies at this university," said Watson. In December 2005, Watson was the first member of her cohort to earn the Ed. D in Educational Leadership. "The School of Education at Gardner-Webb is proud of her accomplishments in this program," notes Eury. "We anticipate that Tanya will contribute to the field of Educational Leadership in significant ways."

*Watson received her degree at the May 2006 commencement ceremony.*

*- Bailey Holt, GWU Student*

# BULLDOG



## Dogged Determination

### Gardner-Webb Wrestler Claims His Place in the Record Books



"It's not the size of the dog in the fight that counts. It's the size of the fight in the dog." This old saying is an excellent summary of Gardner-Webb's Daniel Elliot. Elliot got his start in wrestling at age six because his parents were afraid he wasn't big enough to play other sports. But as Gardner-Webb witnessed this year, Elliot has accomplished big things. Competing in the 149-weight class, he fought his way to the top of his sport by claiming a spot on the National Wrestling Counsel's poll for top ten wrestlers in the nation. He and three of his teammates were also named East Regional Champions and competed at nationals in the spring. Daniel's personal 2005-2006 record settled on an amazing 38-2 and he made Gardner-Webb history by accumulating over 100 wins in his college wrestling career. Head-wrestling coach Richard Wince remarks that, "Daniel is the first Gardner-Webb wrestler in its history to break the 100 win mark. This achievement is even more impressive when you realize that Daniel has been wrestling at the

Division-I level during his entire time at Gardner-Webb. He's been going up against the best each year and it has made him a stronger competitor." Elliot says, "I am proud of myself and I am proud of my team," and he isn't alone. Gardner-Webb wrestling fans were very excited over the team's success this year and couldn't be more proud.

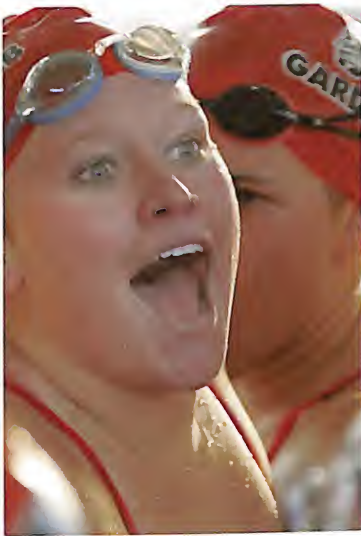
Elliot landed at Gardner-Webb in 2001 after meeting Coach Wince at a tournament. "After talking to him I came down to visit the school. I liked the personable atmosphere a lot and Gardner-Webb really made me feel like they wanted me here because by August, they had given me the financial means to come." But Elliot also has history on the Bulldog campus. His father came to play football at Gardner-Webb in the late 1960's. Elliot laughs because his favorite professor, Dr. Tony Eastman, was a professor to his father as well.

While Elliot has come a long way, he has big dreams and goals that will carry him even farther. He plans to attend graduate school with hopes of coaching high school or college wrestling someday. One thing is certain, no matter what obstacles he may face, Elliot's hard work and steady determination are sure to bring him success. Coach Wince says, "Daniel is a leader by example with a strong work ethic in everything he pursues. His impact on the Gardner-Webb wrestling program is almost indescribable."

*-Gabrielle McClure, Gardner-Webb Student*

# Athletics

[www.gwusports.com](http://www.gwusports.com)



## Making a SPLASH ..... in the classroom and in the pool

Although a little intimidating when together, the twenty-eight swimmers who make up Gardner-Webb's swim team are an amazing group of women. "Swimming is a way of life for us," says Gardner-Webb swimmer Erin Pledger. "We are just a big family of girls who train hard and have a good time together." Swimmer Katherine Williams says that, "People find their identity in different things. This team has really shaped my college experience because I have something I can be a part of – and part of my identity is in this team." Gardner-Webb's swim team is a force to be reckoned with in the pool and in the classroom – receiving national acclaim for their sport and for their academic achievement. Their hard work and determination has made it possible for the team to break several school records and set the bar for incoming swimmers. Terra Wilson, a swimmer

from California, is a testament to determination all the girls put into their sport. Terra made Gardner-Webb history when she was the first swimmer invited to compete in the NCAA national championships.

The girls attribute their success to their coach, Mike Simpson. Swimmer Heather Roka says, "Coach Simpson is one of the best coaches I've ever had. Every exercise he gives us has purpose. He knows when to push us, and when to let off." Lindsay Palmer, adds that, "Coach works us hard, but he is sensitive to our personal needs. If someone is having a bad day, he is aware of it and does his best to make it better. He always knows how to lighten the mood." Palmer continued, "He is also good at recruiting new swimmers who want to swim fast, love the Lord and work hard. So every year we have great additions to our team."

Williams chimes in. "We have a great staff. And the best thing about them is that they don't focus on success. Coach never puts that kind of pressure on us. He asks us to do our best and glorify God in everything we do."

Focusing on academics is a priority for Coach Simpson and it shows. The College Swim Coaches of America Association honored the swim team by naming them an Academic All-America Team. Gardner-Webb swimmers have also been recognized by the NCAA as having one of the most successful academic teams in the nation (all sports included).

Congratulations to Coach Simpson and the swim team for these well deserved honors.

*-Gabrielle McClure, Gardner-Webb Student*



# EXTREME Living

## Former Postal Worker Makes Art Community-Friendly

"If you're going to do something, don't just do it. Overdo it," says Gardner-Webb Alumnus, John Edmund "Eddy" McGee ('86). He laughs and gives a grin that puts everyone at ease. Eddy is one of those people that visibly cares for others. He says he developed this capacity in his time at Gardner-Webb. "One of the greatest things about Gardner-Webb is its people. I look back and realize that college matured me and prepared me for creating relationships. I'm able to look people in the eye, and have confidence. All of that came from Gardner-Webb."



After graduating, Eddy began delivering mail for the United States Postal Service. He worked there for 10 years and taught tennis on the side. "I was so caught up in college, I didn't even think about what I was going to do afterwards. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do." Eddy eventually found his way to the Stokes County (NC) Arts Council. "We get to do so

much here," he says. They offer Art Classes to the public, provide

**"I LOOK BACK AND REALIZE THAT COLLEGE MATURED ME AND PREPARED ME FOR CREATING RELATIONSHIPS. I'M ABLE TO LOOK PEOPLE IN THE EYE, AND HAVE CONFIDENCE. ALL OF THAT CAME FROM GARDNER-WEBB."**

scholarships to aspiring art students and host a myriad of free activities for the community to enjoy. "The arts are usually only enjoyed by an elitist group of people. But if you want to create community, you can't be an elitist." Eddy has made it his mission to make art available to everyone. Eddy and the Stokes County Arts



Council have hosted events such as art auctions, bicycling fundraisers, and motorcycle rides, all free for the public. Here, he gets to be with people and build strong relationships.

Eddy is also musically gifted. In 2005, Phil Morrison released his Academy-award nominated film, "JuneBug," a movie about relationships and the differences between the North and the South. Eddy can be seen singing in a few of the scenes, but his voice shines the brightest when he sings harmony for a main character in a splendid rendition of "Softly and Tenderly." Additional acting opportunities have presented themselves since his first film appearance, but Eddy is waiting to see what will happen. "It wasn't something I went looking for," he says, "but it was a great experience."

When asked what he would say to current or prospective Gardner-Webb students, Eddy explains that, "it's all about your people skills. Gardner-Webb will help you to be personable. It has something that other schools don't because

of its intimate atmosphere." Eddy suggests that students take every opportunity to develop good relationships. "They don't tell you this, but that's what life is all about. And when you do something, don't just do it. Overdo it."

-Gabrielle McClure, Gardner-Webb Student



## Prescription for Success

*Casey Cooper's pressed suit and checkered tie are all business despite his friendly smile. Because his title is Chief Executive Officer of the Cherokee Indian Health Hospital, it may be difficult to guess that he started his career as a nurse; but maybe his quiet confidence and friendly demeanor give it away. His real love is for people and being able to help them.*

people's lives is invaluable. Not just being successful, but to have some level of significance. To be able to relieve suffering and improve people's lives is without a doubt one of the most rewarding things anyone can experience."

This year, the Gardner-Webb Nursing Program celebrates its 40th anniversary, and it's not hard to look around and see how many lives it has helped to shape. Casey Cooper says he is one of those people.

"The Nursing Program at Gardner-Webb helped me to adequately prepare for my career. I felt like, as a Gardner-Webb nurse, I was very competent. It gave me the confidence to really apply the information I obtained in school to real world settings."

Cooper danced his way into the hearts of Gardner-Webb and the Boiling Springs Community several years ago and hasn't been forgotten since. He found a unique way to share himself and his Native American Culture with others – through dance. Cooper performed his Native American dances at schools and festivals in the surrounding Cleveland County area. He has also been able to travel and perform his dances at Native American Festivals across the country. Cooper is enrolled in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and it is this Native American background that has taught him to appreciate comradery and

*"The faculty at Gardner-Webb are not only qualified, they are caring and committed."*

kinship among friends. He says this is one of the reasons he came to love Gardner-Webb. "There are several similarities between my tribal community and the Gardner-Webb community," he says. "A lot of it has to do with the concept of contribution to your community and ideas about leadership. Folks

"Nursing is one of the greatest careers anyone can have. The ability to be significant in

at Gardner-Webb measure their success by how much they contribute to the lives of people in the community. There is a real value for servant-leadership there. That is just one more reason Gardner-Webb was a really good fit for me."

As the CEO of the Cherokee Indian Health Hospital, Cooper is able to put his leadership skills and love for people to work. He has been a part of many great projects including: new multi-million dollar health system, a wellness complex for the community, and a large diabetes prevention program. "Here, I get to be part of helping shape the health policies, but more importantly, I've had the opportunity to actually be part of other individuals' successes."

Cooper developed his love for nursing in high school, but he has continued to carry it with him. He appreciates the way it helps him to improve people's

lives. He carried that interest to college and found himself in the middle of Gardner-Webb's nursing program. "The great thing about Gardner-Webb is the fellowship, support and camaraderie that you can find there make it

almost impossible to fail." Cooper recommends the Gardner-Webb Nursing Program partly because of its strong faculty. "The faculty at Gardner-Webb are not only qualified, they are caring and committed. They have a genuine interest in the success of their students."

Cooper's favorite author, Ken Blanchard says that, "We shouldn't be in the business of creating failures. We should have all 'A' students.

What we should do is set the bar really high, and then do everything that it takes to help students make it over that bar." Cooper responds by saying, "That's exactly what the nursing program at Gardner-Webb does."

- Gabrielle McClure, Gardner-Webb Student



# Spring Come

*Gardner-Webb and the Town of Boiling Springs Celebrate the First Annual*

The sun was shining, the grass was green, and trees were starting to be in full bloom as thousands of people from surrounding towns gathered on the campus of Gardner-Webb on a beautiful Saturday. The Gardner-Webb Quad was full of activities and events for the entire family.

Neighbors from all over the community came out to take part in this first-year event. The weekend began with the Gardner-Webb theater program and fine arts department joint-production of "Baby," the Broadway Musical. Also featured were numerous award-winning films in a film-festival co-sponsored by the Cleveland County Arts Council.

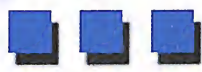
The rain parted and warm temperatures greeted the day as Saturday started off early with the Tour de Springs Bike Ride, featuring a 30 or 60-mile ride. Shouts and screams were heard around campus as the Gardner-Webb Student YMCA cheered on children in kindergarten through sixth grade as they participated in a Healthy Kids Fun Run at the Gardner-Webb football center.

The town then joined together to celebrate the revitalization of the boiling spring. This event was a very special partnership between the town of Boiling Springs, Gardner-Webb University and the Pamela Gail Darnell Family. The ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication service featured speeches, a prayer of dedication and a time of remembrance. Key members of the community were a part of the program including Dr. Frank Bonner, president of Gardner-Webb, Max Hamrick, Boiling

Springs mayor, and Dr. Carroll Page, pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church. The Boiling Springs renovation concept began forty years ago with an idea to restore the original Boiling Springs, near Lake Hollifield on the Gardner-Webb campus. Now, that dream has become a reality.



es



# Alive

ual Springs Alive Festival

Families brought their lawn chairs and blankets and stayed for the entire day as they enjoyed numerous activities on the Quad of Gardner-Webb including carriage rides, carnival games, train rides, arts and crafts, and numerous other events. The Broyhill Adventure Course and the Gardner-Webb Swimming Complex were also open for everyone to enjoy. The main stage of the O. Max Gardner Hall welcomed a variety of musical performances such as In His Glory, the 42nd Street Jazz Band, Mama Said, 4 Anointed and the Muddy Fork Orchestra. There were also children's dance and choral performances by areas schools and dance academies.

The Springs Alive Festival brought the community together to celebrate the beginning of Spring. Yet, more than anything, this festival brought area residents together to fellowship and participate in a day of celebrating their community. Festival attendees and participants received exciting news as plans are already underway for next year's festivities scheduled to take place on April 21.

*-Bailey Holt, Gardner-Webb Student*



# Embracing Life's Chaos

## GWU Head Baseball Coach Releases New Book

Gardner-Webb Head Baseball Coach, Rusty Stroupe has recently released his first book, *Embracing the Chaos*. The book is a collection of the first 100 columns that he wrote for several newspapers throughout the years. Readers enjoyed his column so much they encouraged him to put them into a book. Mike Fox, head baseball coach for the University of North Carolina writes, "I pictured myself and my family throughout this book. Rusty is a colleague, friend and fellow Christian. His book is funny and inspiring. I applaud Rusty for his character and for writing a book laced with family values."

Stroupe began writing for his hometown newspaper, The Cherryville Eagle, when he was 9 years old. Putting aside his writing made him a "closet writer" for

*I was a closet writer for years" says Stroupe. "Now I want to spend the rest of my life making up for that time that I lost."*

a while, but didn't stop his interest in writing. He resumed writing on a weekly basis in 2002 when he began writing columns for the Shelby Star Newspaper (NC). "I usually don't have to choose my topic," he says. "It chooses me." The book categorizes the

columns into chapters with such titles as: Southern Born and Southern Bred, God and Country, Inspirational People and Family Matters.

Karen Rinehart, a Nationally Syndicated, Award Winning Humor Columnist has said, "Rusty Stroupe tells it like he sees it – without losing heart or humanity. My kind of writer." Of his own writing Stroupe says, "It is a gift that I appreciate. When someone tells me they enjoyed the book so much they had to share it with a friend, it is all worth it."

"My readers are my encouragement and inspiration," Stroupe says. "All I need to keep me going is for

someone to tell me that my column made them laugh, or cry, or that they could identify with what I wrote." Ray Ban, Executive Vice President of The

Weather Channel, Inc. writes, "Rusty Stroupe captivates the reader by providing insight into everyday experiences that entertain, inspire and just makes you feel good."





# Operation MOTIVATION

## Alum Uses Real-world Experiences In Educational Resource Text

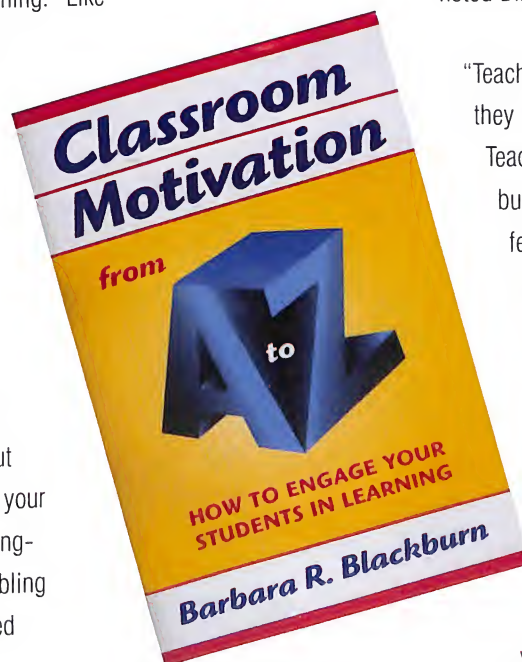
"There is an old saying used in medical schools: 'If you hear hoof beats, think horses, not zebras.' It was used in response to medical students who looked for exotic diagnoses for basic illnesses. Some teachers fall into the same trap. The solution to many of the challenges you face is not purchasing the latest program; it is a focused effort to provide your students an environment in which they can thrive," states GWU alum Dr. Barbara Blackburn ('82 and '88) in the intro of her book *Classroom Motivation from A to Z: How to Engage Your Students in Learning*.

As a professor, advisor to teachers, author and national conference presenter – Blackburn is concerned when teachers talk about buying something to fix the challenges they deal with in the classroom. "I wanted to remind teachers that there are basic strategies they can use to make a difference with students," explained Blackburn. In ABC chapter format the book focuses on basic strategies teachers can use in instruction. Blackburn uses first hand experiences from her own career and stories from fellow teachers about how students can be engaged in the classroom.

Blackburn's experiences have not only shaped this book but also who she is and how she teaches. When asked about her best experience as a teacher Blackburn responded, "it's that moment you see the light in their eyes, when they finally 'get' what you are teaching." Like many, there have been times that Blackburn felt she hadn't done enough as a teacher. "I've learned that you can always learn and get better, but you have to view your failures as stepping-stones, not stumbling blocks," explained Blackburn.

Blackburn earned her undergraduate degree in Education (K-9), a Master's in School Administration (both from Gardner-Webb) and her Ph.D. in Curriculum

and Teaching from UNC-Greensboro. Some of the lessons in Blackburn's life came from her time here at Gardner-Webb. "You need to meet challenges head-on and deal with them. Also if you don't succeed the first time, learn from that and then try again," noted Blackburn.



"Teachers underestimate what they do with their students. Teachers do great things, but many times, they don't feel like it," remarked Blackburn about today's teachers. Blackburn believes that teachers are the most powerful motivating force in many children's lives, and as a society we need to value that. Currently

Blackburn is working on a follow-up book and has plans for several more books in this series.

-Ashley Dye, Gardner-Webb Student



# Class Notes

The following classnotes were processed before March 31.

**FAYE TURNMIRE FINCANNON COMER '48 A.A.** was recently named to the Caldwell County Schools Hall of Fame for her life-long work as a missionary.

**EDWARD SCHOONMAKER '67 A.A.** retired on March 1, 2005 as a division forest fire warden with the with the NJ Forest Fire Service after 30 years of service and two years of service with the Paterson NJ Fire Department.

**PAUL HUFF '72 B.A.** is serving as president of Paul Huff International, a company he started, since 1997. He is a keynote speaker, professional trainer and author of several books.

**ETHEL PEDERSEN '73** retired on December 20, 2005 after 31 years in education. She was serving as principal of Kings Mountain, (NC) Intermediate School.

**KENNETH REID '73 B.S.** is now serving as a regional manufacturing manager with National Gypsum Company.

**ROBERT CRIBB '75 B.S.** has been promoted to director of operations for BellSouth Telecommunications in Atlanta, GA. His responsibilities include the oversight of all the engineering/construction and record systems for the corporation.  
rcribb1@bellsouth.net

**RANDY GARDNER '75 B.A.** began serving as pastor of First Baptist Church of Walterboro, SC on March 1, 2006.

**LACOUNT LOUIS ANDERSON III '77 B.A.** has assumed the role of associate director of Youth On Mission of Rocky Mount, N.C. He joined Youth On Mission in January 2005. He is the former pastor of First Baptist Church of Smithton, NC. He has served in various ministry assignments throughout North Carolina since his graduation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1980. anderson672@aol.com

**RANDY BRIDGES '77 B.S.** began serving as pastor of Rolesville, (NC) Baptist Church in January 2006.

**JIM PARKER '80 B.S. AND DEBORAH LANKFORD PARKER '77 A.A., '79 B.A.** Jim was recently promoted to director of talent acquisition for ARAMARK Education Facility Services. In this role, he leads a team that has national responsibility for recruiting, succession planning and talent acquisition strategic planning. He has worked for ARAMARK for 21 years in various recruiting related roles. Deborah practices psychiatric nursing at Linden Oaks in Naperville, IL. The Parkers live in Aurora, IL. They have two sons, Taylor and John. John was married in May 2006.

**MARY LEE CUDD '82 B.S.** has joined the team at Fayetteville, (NC) Plastic Surgery as a physician assistant.

**STAN JOHNSON '82 B.S.** recently purchased Atlantic Ford in Loris, SC. He has a daughter, Heather (20), and a son, Matthew (7). s-johnson29@dealeremail.com

**BARBARA BLACKBURN '83 B.S., '88 M.A.** recently wrote a book entitled *Classroom Motivation from A to Z: How to Engage Your Students in Learning*. She is an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at Winthrop University.

**CHRISTOPHER WINANS '83 B.A. AND DEBORAH WINANS '84 B.A.** are serving as missionaries in Japan through the International Mission Board. They returned to the U.S. during the summer of 2006 for their stateside assignment.  
cwinans@jcom.home.ne.jp

**BOBBY HARRISON '84 B.S.** was recently promoted from patrol lieutenant to deputy chief of services for the Salisbury, (NC) Police Department.

**KIMBERLY RANDOLPH RIVERA '84 B.S.** is a special projects/media specialist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. She and her husband, Ken, have two daughters Kaley (14) and Kristin (11). kriviera@carolina.com

**LISA CAROL ABERNETHY '85 B.A.** was hired in December 2005 by the Cleveland County Council on Aging to serve as the Senior Center Director at the Neal Senior Center. She previously worked for the Rutherford Senior Center. lcabernethy@gmail.com

**BILLY GENE SHEEHAN '85 B.S., '02 M.B.A.** is serving as the office manager for the Offices of Joyce Odell, MSW, LCSW and Shelton Woodard, LCSW, LMFT.

**TERI JACOBS MELTON '86 B.S.** recently retired from Richmond Community College after 30 years of service. During that time, she held several positions including registrar, director of admissions and director of planning and research.

**AMY CAWOOD ROSS '88 B.S., '91 M.A.** and her husband, Rodney, purchased Solitude Pointe in Cleveland, SC. in December 2005. Solitude Pointe is a Christian campground. You can visit their website at [www.solitudepointe.com](http://www.solitudepointe.com). Amy and Rodney have nine-year old twins, Rebekah and Ryan.

**SUSAN LINEBERGER '89** was voted the 2005-2006 teacher of the year at Carr Elementary School.

**TIFFANY HUGHES '90 B.A.** was a recipient of the South Carolina Technical Education Association's Educators of the Year Award. She is the associate director of advertising and public relations.

**HENRY STYRON '90 B.A. AND RENEE STYRON '90 B.A.** Henry is serving as pastor of North Pamunkey Baptist Church in Orange, VA. In 2004, he earned his D.Min. from Liberty University. Renee is a homemaker, homeschooling teacher and sales representative for Avon. They have three children Madeline (12), Margaret (10) and Isaac (2). hstyron@msn.com

**KIMBERLY WILSON CAPPS '91 B.A.** began working as the preschool director for Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Hermitage, TN on January 1. paigeandmommy@yahoo.com

**MICHAEL J. KEITZ JR. '91 B.S.** has been awarded his physician assistant recertification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. He is a physician assistant with High Point, (NC) Family Practice.

**CRAIG MEGLII '91 B.S.** is the coach of the U-11 Gaston, (NC) Flames. His team was a finalist in the Greensboro Clash in the Blue Division. It was the team's first tournament. cemas@yahoo.com

**KIMBERLY ANN WEBER '91 B.S.** and her husband, Robert, announce the birth of Allison

Elizabeth, born May 24, 2005. She joins older sister Katie (4) [scwebbers@yahoo.com](mailto:scwebbers@yahoo.com)

ANGELA DUFFORD '92 B.S. was selected as Teacher of the Year for 2005-2006 at Polk Central Elementary School, (NC). She is a Title I teacher and works with students in first to fifth grades to help them strengthen their literacy skills.

JEREMY LLOYD WEBB '93 B.S. and Kelly Blair Blackmon were married on October 15, 2005. He works for Webb Mortgage Group. She is employed by Dr. Haberl and Dr. Henderson in Mooresville. The couple resides in Mount Holly, NC.



Laurie Bass Varley '93 B.S. and Steve Varley '00 M.B.A. proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Stevie Teague, born March 22, 2006.

THOMAS GARRETT '94 B.S. was inducted into the Easley, (SC) High School Hall of Fame in October 2005. He was a member of the GWU golf team.

ANISSA BRADLEY HAWKINS '94 B.S. and Jeffrey Scott Smith were married on January 21, 2006. She is employed by Hunter Douglas Designer Shades. He is the owner of J&J Race Cars. The couple resides in Bessemer City, NC.

KEN JACKSON '94 B.A. was named the 2005 Citizen of the Year for Elgin, SC. He has pastored Hillcrest Baptist Church in Elgin since 2000.

JENNIFER BUNTON-BRYANT '95 B.S. was named SC Spanish Teacher of the Year in a ceremony at the Citadel on November 15, 2005. She received her master of arts in Spanish at Appalachian State in 2000 and

recently attained National Board Certification in World Languages Other than English. She is a fifth year Ph.D. student at the University of SC.  
[jennifer\\_bryant@bellsouth.net](mailto:jennifer_bryant@bellsouth.net)

JEFFREY DEAN '95 B.A. began serving as the associate pastor/students at Jonesville Baptist Church in Jonesville, SC in November 2005. He is married to Jennifer Courtney and has one daughter, Ruthie Alice (2).

JIM DAVIDSON '96 B.A., '99 M.Div. began serving as senior pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, VA on March 5.

PATRICK LANE '96 B.S. was recently promoted to captain in the U.S. military. He is assigned to the 505th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division.

RACHEL BURLESON WILLIS '96 B.S., see Andy Willis '04 M.Div. listing.

CARIN IANNOU '97 B.S. was recently appointed associate vice chancellor for finance of the North Carolina School of the Arts. She has worked at the school since 1996 and since 2000 has served as the director of budget.

TOMMY JAMES '97 B.A., '00 M.Div. began serving as pastor of East Sylva Baptist Church on February 1.

DEBORAH VANHOY PYLES '97 B.S. has been promoted to assistant vice-president for BB&T. She is a member of BB&T Best of the Best and Sterling Performance Club.

KEVIN SHANE O'NEAL '98 B.S. and Andrea Merlene Smith were married on October 1, 2005. He is a banking officer and branch manager with Southern Community Bank and Trust. She works for BB&T. The couple resides in Mt. Airy, N.C.

JAMES PASS '98 B.A. AND TARA PASS '98 B.A. announce the birth of their second child. Tyler Matthew was born on June 1, 2005. His older brother, Carson James, is three. [thepassfamily@att.net](mailto:thepassfamily@att.net)

UNDERGRADUATE AND GOAL PROGRAM ALUMNI

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**KAREN LUKRIDGE**  
704-406-3327 or  
[klukridge@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:klukridge@gardner-webb.edu)

or

**JIM CORN**  
Bulldog Club Director  
(704) 406-4288 or  
[jcorn@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:jcorn@gardner-webb.edu)



UNDERGRADUATE AND  
GOAL PROGRAM ALUMNI

**JOEL THOMPSON '98 B.S.** graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2005 with a master of divinity in evangelism, missions and church growth. In March 2006, he began working for Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana, a pro-family group, in Louisville, KY. Joel is married to Elizabeth Carraro '98 B.A. The Thompsons have two children, Jack (3) and Sarah Cate (5 months).  
joel.w.thompson@insightbb.com

**KAREN BOWER RHODES '98 B.A., '05 M.B.A.** and her husband, Zach, announce the birth of their daughter, Laney Ella, born January 9, 2006.



**ROBIN CAROLINE WATTS '98 B.A.** and Adam Clay Yount were married on December 17, 2005. She is a seventh grade teacher at

Granite Falls Middle School. He is the owner of The Green Advantage. The couple resides in Granite Falls, NC.

**JENNIFER YORK '98 B.S.** has been named the Ebenezer Elementary School teacher of the year. She has taught third grade at the school since 1999.

**DANIEL CALL '99 B.A., '03 M.DIV.**

has been promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Air Force. He is a chaplain in the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base. He and his wife, Yadira '00 B.S., proudly announce the birth of their son, Isaiah Stephen, born February 9, 2006.



**MATTHEW HAMRICK '99 B.A., '05 M.DIV.** is serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. He began chaplain school on January 8. His first three years of service will be at Ft. Jackson in Columbia, SC.  
matthamrick@bellsouth.net

**BOBBY HOCKETT '99 B.A.** graduated from the University of West Georgia with a master of education degree on December 17, 2005. He has changed positions from intervention specialist to school counselor at Lilburn Elementary School, where he has worked for six years. gwinnettctf@yahoo.com

**SARAH MOORE '99 B.A.,** see **AARON MOORE '02 B.A.** listing.

**JASON NEILL '99 B.S.** is serving as the associate pastor of pastoral care and counseling at Hardin Baptist Church in Dallas, NC. dsstudent@yahoo.com

**SOLOMON WILLIS '99 B.S.** recently appeared in the 10th edition of "Who's Who Among American Teachers." It was his third year to be featured in the publication. He is a math teacher at Gaston, (NC) Day School.

**APRIL RENEE BLEVINS '00 B.S.** and Benjamin Paul Wheatley were married on August 12, 2005.

**YADIRA CALL '00 B.S.,** SEE **DANIEL CALL '99 B.A.** listing.

**JULIANNA BROOKE CODY '00 B.A.** and Jason Williams Roberts were married on November 18, 2005. She is an admissions counselor at Western Carolina University. He is a teacher. The couple resides in Marshall, NC. jul\_c\_@hotmail.com

**JULIE CLINE ESTES '00 B.S.** and her husband, Steve, announce the birth of Rachel Joy born July 17, 2004.



**JASON MCMANUS '00 B.S.** is now serving as an assistant football coach at UT-Chattanooga. jason-mcmanus@utc.edu

**MELISSA SUZANNE PERRY '00 A.D.N.** and James Michael Tingen were married on August 13, 2005. She is a registered nurse with Cross Country TravCorp. He is Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service and works as a nurse consultant for the U.S. Marshall's Office. The couple resides in Lorton, VA.

**BEN BOSTIC '01 B.S.** was recently promoted to assistant vice president of information technology and global architecture at Scottish Re, Inc. He is based at Scottish's Charlotte, NC offices where his primary tasks include managing systems architecture and development and developing strategic systems, architecture standards and practices for the company.

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We have great things in mind.

**ARY BOTTOMS '01 B.A. AND SHERYL COX BOTTOMS '01 B.A.** proudly announce the birth of their son, Ira Glenn Bottoms IV, born January 4, 2006. Proud grandparents are GWU professors Glenn and Nancy Bottoms.

**WALTER MILLER '01 B.A., '05 M.B.A., M.Div.** was ordained on January 22 by Zoar Baptist Church.

**KANDRA MACE ALEXANDER '02 B.S.,** see Brian Alexander '05 M.Div. listing.

**CHRISTY CECILE CORRELL '02** and Larry Robert Hughes were married on May 21, 2006. She serves as a resident chaplain for Baylor University and is pursuing a master of divinity degree from Truett Theological Seminary.

**BETTY COULTER '02 B.S.** began serving as the risk manager for the City of Asheville, NC on October 3, 2005.

**CAROLYN MICHELLE HENSLEY '02 B.S.** and Jason Clifton Padgett were married on October 22, 2005. She is employed by New Vistas Behavioral Health. He is an employee of the town of Forest City. The couple resides in Ellenboro, NC.

**SHANE KOHNS '02 B.A.** and his wife Elizabeth, announce the birth of their first child, Keyana Grace, born March 6, 2006.

**MICHAEL MCCAULEY '02 B.S.** is the manager of Fleet Feet in Greenville, SC.

**DOUGLAS MONROE '02 B.S.** has been promoted to the position of lieutenant with the North Carolina Highway State Patrol.

**AARON MOORE '02 B.A. AND SARAH MOORE '99 B.A.** announce the birth of their son, Caleb Emmanuel, born January 23, 2006.

**EMILY NORMAN '02 B.S.** and her husband, Rodney, announce the birth of their second child, Logan Worth, born May 12, 2005. He joins older brother Luke Cameron. emmienorman@aol.com

**CARRIE RENEE PARLIER '02 A.D.N., '04 B.S.N. AND JEFFREY MICHAEL RINEHART '03 B.S.** were married on October 8, 2005. She is a nurse at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. He is employed by Transmarketing, Inc. The couple resides in Campobello, SC.

**CHUCK SCRONCE '02 B.S.** is vice-president and chief nurse executive at Caldwell Memorial Hospital. He is also a member of the 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, which provides "care in the air" for the military.

**TIM WALKER '02 B.A., SEE TIFFANY WALKER '03 B.S.** listing.

**SUMMER LEIGH CRISP '03 B.A.** and James Michael Self were married on December 10, 2005. She is an eighth grade social studies/science teacher at Chavis Middle School. She is also pursuing a master of arts in school administration. He is employed at EDS as a senior network administrator. The couple resides in Cherryville, NC.

**JANET FULK '03 B.S. AND STEPHEN FULK '05 B.S.** announce the birth of a son, Andrew Stephen, born December 8, 2005.

**BONNIE ELIZABETH HAMRICK '03 A.D.N.** and Bryan Douglas Cook were married on January 21, 2006. She is employed by Cleveland Regional Medical Center. He works for Beam's Construction. The couple resides in Casar, NC.

**JONATHAN BRAD HILL '03 B.S., SEE NATASHA LEIGH COLE '04 B.S.** listing.

**RACHEL KEYT '03 B.S.** graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University's Physician Assistant Program in August 2005 with a master's degree in medicine. She works in the ER at Parkridge East Hospital in Chattanooga, TN. keytpa2b@hotmail.com

**PAMELA OWENS RENFRO '03 B.S.** and Donald Freeman Martin Jr. were married on January 28, 2006. She is a social worker at Carolina Community Care. He is employed by AGI Shutz. The couple resides in Forest City, NC.

**JEFFREY MICHAEL RINEHART '03 B.S., SEE CARRIE RENEE PARLIER '02 A.D.N.** listing.

**THOMAS JUSTIN STIKELEATHER '03 B.S.** and Candace Dawn Fox were married on November 5, 2005. He is a poultry farmer. She is an occupational therapist with Children's Neurotherapy Services. The couple resides in Statesville, NC.

**TIFFANY WALKER '03 B.S. AND TIM WALKER '02 B.A.** announce the birth of their first child, Selah Jordan, born January 17.



**NATASHA LEIGH COLE '04 B.S. AND JONATHAN BRAD HILL '03 B.S.** were married on December 10, 2005. She is a secretary with JBH Enterprises. He owns a landscaping business. The couple resides in Rutherfordton, NC.

**AL HENSON '04 B.S., SEE KATHRYN MARGRETTE ALFORD '05 B.S.** listing.

**CHRISTINA KORINE HOPPER '04 A.D.N.** and Jason Ronnie Stacey were married in the fall of 2005. She is a nurse at Rutherford Hospital. He is employed by the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The couple resides in Shiloh, NC.

**JONATHAN MANSFIELD '04 B.A. AND JENNIFER MANSFIELD '04 B.A.** Jonathan is serving as a sales consultant with Curtis 1000. Jennifer is a swim coach with the Columbus Aquatic Club. They are residing in Hamilton, GA. big\_e007@hotmail.com

**AMY LEIGH POPE '04 B.S., '05 M.A.C.** and Jeffrey Wayne Clemmons were married November 21, 2005. He is a golf course superintendent with Lake Hickory Country Club. The couple resides in Newton, NC.

**KATHRYN MARGRETTE ALFORD '05 B.S. AND WILLIAM THOMAS ALVIN HENSON, III '04 B.S.** were married on December 17, 2005. She is a kindergarten teacher at Twin Lakes Elementary School. He is a physical education teacher. The couple resides in Jacksonville, FL.

**MANDY ELIZABETH BLACKMAN '05 B.S.** and Brittany Randall English were married December 10, 2005. She is employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He works for the Marlboro County Sheriff's Department. The couple resides in Wallace, SC.

**STEPHEN FULK '05 B.S., SEE JANET FULK '03 B.S.** listing.

**CHRISTINA MARIE O'GRADY '05 B.A.** is married to Aaron James Tissue. She works as a dispatcher for the Winter Haven Police Department. He is a lineman apprentice for Progress Energy. The couple resides in Winter Haven, FL. Do1252@aol.com

**AMANDA WRIGHT '05 B.S.** was recently hired as the assistant vice president/consumer loan officer at Surrey Bank and Trust.

## Graduate Alumni

*The '80s*

**BARBARA BLACKBURN '88 M.A.**, see Barbara Blackburn '83 B.S. listing.

*The '90s*

**STEPHEN LANE '96 M.A.** began serving as the superintendent of Davie County Schools on January 1. He previously served as the deputy superintendent of the Iredell-Statesville School System.

**DONALD PERSOHN '97 M.B.A.** has joined the firm of Moore Kirkland and Beaston as a senior accountant.

**JOAINE MCKEEL '98 M.B.A.** is serving as the manager of animal control for Catawba County, (NC).

**SHARON RICHARDSON '98 M.A.** is serving as principal of Northwest Middle School.

**JIM DAVIDSON '99 M.DIV.**, see Jim Davidson '96 BA listing.

**JONATHAN PRATT '99 M.DIV.** earned a Ph.D. in religion from Baylor University in August 2005. His dissertation was entitled "A Landmark Baptist's Ecclesiology: Ben M. Bogard and Local Church Protectionism." He is now employed as an assistant professor of religion at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

**TANYA WATSON '99 M.A.** began serving as the director of federal programs and professional development of the Rutherford County, (NC) School System in September 2005.

*The '00s*

**STACY SUTTON CARROLL '00 M.A.** received national board certification in 2004.

**TOMMY JAMES '00 M.DIV.**, see Tommy James '97 B.A. listing.

**REBECCA HORNER SHENTON '00 M.DIV.** was ordained on November 13, 2005 by First Baptist Church Frederick, MD. She and her husband, Doug, have relocated to Fremont, CA to minister to Afghan refugees in the East Bay area. missbec@juno.com

**STEVE VARLEY '00 M.B.A.**, see Laurie Bass Varley '93 B.S. listing.

**TRACEY LEWIS '01 M.A.** is serving as principal of Westfield Elementary School. For her excellent career in education, she has been awarded the Partnering in Educational Excellence Award from the African American Heritage Council.

**JULIE MCMURRY '01 M.B.A.** is serving as interim director of the City of Shelby's, (NC) utilities operations. She has been employed with the city since 1992.

**AMY CAWOOD ROSS '01 M.A.**, see Amy Cawood Ross '88 B.S. listing.

**AMANDA HUFFMAN '02 M.B.A.** was recently promoted to manager of human resources for Blue Ridge Electric Corporation.

**DENISE PATTERSON '02 M.A.** began serving as principal of Norris S. Childers Elementary School in the fall of 2006. She is the first principal of the new school in Lincoln County, (NC).

**BILL GENE SHEEHAN '02 M.B.A.**, see Billy Gene Sheehan '85 B.S. listing.

**DONNA HEAVNER '03 M.A.** began serving as principal of River Bend Middle School on March 1, 2006.

**DONNA SIGMON '03 M.A.** began serving as principal of Blackburn Elementary School on March 1, 2006.

**KAREN MORNING-CAIN '04 M.A.** is serving as vice-principal of Cash Elementary School. She is the youngest administrator in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System, (NC).

**DANIEL CALL '04 M.DIV.**, see Daniel Call '99 B.A. listing.

**HENRY GILMORE '04 M.A.** is now serving as principal of Kings Mountain, (NC) Intermediate School.

**ANDY WILLIS '04 M.DIV.** AND **RACHEL WILLIS '96 B.S.** announce the birth of their second child, Daniel Aaron, born October 21, 2005. He joins older brother, Abraham. tawillis2@wmconnect.com

**BRIAN ALEXANDER '05 M.DIV.** is serving as pastor of Center Hill Baptist Church. His wife, **Kandra '02 B.S.**, is working for Senior Services of Davidson County.

**FELICIA BURGESS '05 M.A.** was a presenter at the Texas Instruments International Conference in Denver, CO in February. She is a math teacher at Mill Creek Middle School.

**MATTHEW HAMRICK '05 M.DIV.**, see Matthew Hamrick '99 B.A. listing.

**RENDELL HIPPS '05 M.DIV.** was ordained on February 12 by Forest Hills Baptist Church.

**WALTER MILLER '05 M.DIV., M.B.A.**, see Walter Miller '01 B.A. listing.

**AMY LEIGH POPE '05 M.AC.**, see Amy Leigh Pope '04 B.S. listing.

**KAREN BOWER RHODES '05 M.B.A.**, see Karen Rhodes '98 B.A. listing.

**DEBORAH GADDIS '06 M.DIV.** was ordained by Boiling Springs Baptist Church, (NC) on February 5, 2006. She is also working as Development Director at GWU's Divinity School.

## DEATHS

**JAMES P. HOYLE '38 A.A.** died October 17, 2005. He was the owner and operator of Valdese Implement Company. He was a member of Abee's Grove Baptist Church, where he served for several years as music director. He is survived by his wife, two sons, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**REV. FRED CARROLL CRSIP '48 A.A.** died February 7, 2006. He was a minister for over 50 years. He retired from Westmoreland Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in World War II. He is survived by his son, daughter, sister and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**REBECCA MCKINNEY MCABEE '49 A.A.** died January 15, 2006. She was a member of Northside Baptist Church in Gaffney, SC for 44 years. She assisted her husband in a variety of ministry capacities including serving as a Sunday School teacher, choir member and Vacation Bible School director. She also served in WMU and a variety of organizations and traveled with her husband to revivals and Bible conferences. She is survived by her husband, two sons, two daughters, six grandchildren, three brothers and two sisters.

**WINFRED SNIPES '49 A.A.** died December 9, 2005. He served as a staff sergeant in the US Air Force. He was a retired executive of Canal Insurance Company in Greenville. He was a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church and the American Legion. He is survived by several family members including a brother.

**REV. KENNETH L. HOLLIFIELD '54 A.A.** died February 14, 2006. He served as a minister in several Baptist churches across North Carolina including 15 years at Durham Memorial. After his retirement, he served as pastor of Flint Hill Baptist for seven years and served in an interim in several other churches after leaving Flint Hill. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a sister, three grandchildren, four great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

**WALTER POPE '57 A.A.** died December 11, 2005. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army having served two terms. He was a teacher in Kentucky and retired from the Job Corps Center at Pisgah National Forest. He is survived by his wife, son, two stepsons, two stepdaughters, one brother, one sister and nine grandchildren.

**DAVID TILDEN PUTNAM '61 A.A.** died November 23, 2005. From 1956-1959, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He worked in the Atomic Weapons Program with the Sandia Corporation. He also served as a mechanical engineer for IBM for 30 years until his retirement in 1995. He is survived by his life partner, two sons, two sisters, a brother, a niece and a nephew.

**THOMAS MCREA WATTS '80 B.S.** died October 18, 2005. He was a retired quality inspector with Freightliner. He was a member of First Baptist Church Cherryville, NC. He is survived by his father, uncle, two aunts and several cousins.

**GREGORY G. ALFORD '98 B.S.** died October 23, 2005. He was a customer service representative for EDC Industries. He is survived by his parents, his wife, a daughter, two brothers, a sister and his mother and father-in-law.

**DOLORES ANN STROUPE '02 HONORARY ALUMNA** died February 18, 2006. Despite contracting polio in 1953, she devoted her life to education and helping others. She served as a tutor for children and volunteered in the Learning Lab at the Lincoln Campus of Gaston College, NC. She was also a Girl Scout leader and the public relations volunteer for the Humane Society of Lincoln County. She was an author and columnist with articles appearing in the Gaston Gazette. She is survived by her parents, a brother, a sister, two aunts, an uncle and several cousins.

**ROBERT BURNS ISNER II, FORMER ACADEMIC DEAN**, died December 29, 2005. He was a U.S. Army veteran having served in the Medical Administrative Corps. He was a retired educator having taught at Wingate University. He also served as president of Pineland College-Edwards Military Institute and Oak Hill Academy. He was a 20-year member of Wingate Baptist Church (NC). He is survived by his wife, son and four grandchildren.

**FRED MAUNEY, TRUSTEE**, died February 16, 2006. He was a banker and an Army veteran of the Korean Conflict. As a life member of Elizabeth Baptist Church, he served as chairman of the deacons, sang in the choir and taught Sunday School. He is survived by his wife, two sons and four grandchildren.

**BOB MOORE, FORMER BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION**, died January 24, 2006. He was a retired construction superintendent with Duke Power. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, two brothers, two sisters, six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

**RUTH ANNE JOHNSON SMITH, FORMER PUBLIC SERVICE LIBRARIAN**, died November 17, 2005. She spent her career as a librarian serving numerous institutions including Limestone College, Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic and the Spartanburg County Public Library. She was also an organist for several churches. She was a member of the American Guild of Organists and the Spartanburg Philharmonic Music Club. She is survived by her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, a daughter and son-in-law, two grandchildren and three cousins.

**JAMES TAYLOR, FORMER PROFESSOR AND COACH**, died February 12, 2006. He taught English at Gardner-Webb for 32 years and served as the tennis coach from 1964 to 1983. He was awarded the Alpha Chi Faculty Merit Award in 1981 and 1986. He was an active member of Boiling Springs Baptist Church (NC) and taught several Sunday School classes. He was also a member of the Shelby Tennis Association. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, sister and nieces and nephews.

**WILLIAM HARRILL WITHROW SR., FORMER PROFESSOR**, died February 17, 2006. He was a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. After his retirement from the Navy, he taught political science and geography at Gardner-Webb. After retiring as a professor, he volunteered for 20 years with the peace and environmental movements giving talks throughout the United States. He also served one-term in the NC House of Representatives. He was a member of Big Springs Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

# Fighting the Good Fight

*As a bitterly cold wind whips through the air in the dark hours of the night, you pull your uniform closer and look out at the soldier who stands guard over the encampment. In searching his face, you recognize the lines that fear, doubt and fatigue have begun to carve out in your own features.*

Is he thinking about his wife and children? The harsh realities of war dawn on you again, and thinking of what you might say to support and encourage him you begin making your way towards the man.

There is no way around it; chaplains are a vital resource for the military. The message of hope and peace they bring to the soldiers is a safe house in times of grief and heartache. Matthew Hamrick ('05), an army chaplain says, "The mission of my chaplaincy is to 'bring God to the soldiers and the soldiers to God.'" He also says that Gardner-Webb's Divinity school is a big part of why he chose to become a chaplain. "The training I received at Gardner-Webb University Divinity School gave me the confidence I needed to even consider this undertaking. I have so much to learn, but GWU gave me a firm foundation to build on."

Matthew is not the only Gardner-Webb student to become a chaplain. In fact, Gardner-Webb has witnessed a surprising trend of students trading the pulpit for a place in line at the mess hall. Daniel Call ('04), a chaplain at Florida's Tyndall Air Force Base, comments on this trend. "I've seen an increasing interest for ministry in nontraditional settings and a military chaplaincy provides this. I am

sure the post 9/11 world we live in has a lot to do with this trend. However, I believe God is at work in the lives of soldiers, and He is calling chaplains to be His hands and feet. I feel blessed that God

has called me to minister to our incredible soldiers."

Pastors and chaplains share similar responsibilities. Call comments that, "The military chaplaincy requires many of the same pastoral skills the divinity school and undergrad religion department sought to instill in me as a student. For me, becoming a chaplain didn't mean giving up

pastoral ministry; it just adds new aspects of ministry to it." The role these chaplains play cannot be underestimated. They perform a number of difficult tasks for the military. Not only are they ministers, they are soldiers as well. They experience the same physical taxation, and emotional concerns that all soldiers do. They must be ready to deploy at any moment as well as encourage and counsel soldiers, minister to the wounded and possibly comfort the family of a dead soldier. Dean Akers ('05), battalion chaplain in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, shares one of the most difficult tasks he performed as a chaplain. "One of my responsibilities as a chaplain is to be the bearer



of bad news from time to time. Shortly after beginning active duty I was called upon to go to Charleston, SC and inform a father that he had lost his son in Iraq. Being able to grieve the loss of a son with this father was more difficult and touching than my words can explain. I am grateful to God for giving me the wisdom and the words to minister to that family during their time of loss."

Lieutenant Iris Dickerson ('04) is yet another Gardner-Webb Divinity School graduate who felt God's call to the chaplaincy. She says, "My call into ministry was directed toward women and soldiers. I am a woman who has been blessed enough to overcome many obstacles during my life. I have also been a soldier for 14 years, which is not always easy. God called me to continue in that direction." Dickerson is the highest-ranking woman in the Army National Guard 178th Combat Engineer Battalion. Major Coral Dobson, administrative officer of the 178th says, "Dickerson is part spiritual support, psychological support and family support. I have a lot of soldiers and she is right there at the top." Dickerson says she felt the call to be a chaplain even before she came to Gardner-Webb. However, she remarks that,

***The stresses and hardships of the military are numerous, but these chaplains have chosen to answer the call regardless.***

"Gardner-Webb helped to equip me with the tools needed to carry out ministry in the Chaplaincy."

The stresses and hardships of the military are numerous, but these chaplains have chosen to answer the call. The few mentioned here only represent a snapshot of the many who work to glorify Christ and



share His love with soldiers around the world. They live the Gardner-Webb motto every day. Pro Deo et Humanitate –

for God and humanity. Dickerson says, "I just want to help the soldiers with all that I have in me and all that is at my disposal." Thank you chaplains for your willingness to give of your time and energy. Thank you for fighting the good fight.

-Gabrielle McClure,  
Gardner-Webb Student

# Simply Unforgettable

## Classes of 1956 and 1957 Celebrate 50-Year Reunion



From California to North Carolina, “unforgettable” alumni from the classes of 1956 and 1957 converged on the campus April 21 and 22 to celebrate their 50-Year Reunion. Although it had been nearly half of a century since they had seen each other, the fond memories of their days at Gardner-Webb quickly brought them together. Activities for the weekend included a bar-b-que and bluegrass bash, a memorial service and the annual Half-Century Club Luncheon. During each event as members of the classes of '56 and '57 exchanged stories from their GWU experience, they quickly discovered a sense of connectedness that transcended the decades.

### *The French Connection*

WHERE: Destination: Southwest France

When: March 8 -17, 2007

WHO: Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff and Families

WHY: Explore the vast countryside, culture and history of Southwest France while experiencing the Post-Impressionist art of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec as part of this Gardner-Webb educational journey.

#### *What else can I expect?*

- ☞ Small countryside towns surrounded by rolling hills and vineyards.
- ☞ French cooking lessons.
- ☞ Prehistoric caves.
- ☞ Medieval villages.
- ☞ Kayaking trips on the Tarn River.

Contact: Nancy Bottoms at 704-313-3118  
or 704-406-3905 or email at [nbotts@shelby.net](mailto:nbotts@shelby.net)

## FINE ARTS/THEATRE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                       |  |         |
|-----------------------|--|---------|
| • SEPTEMBER 4         | Children's Concert Carnival of the Animals | 8:00 pm |
| • SEPTEMBER 14        | Lindsay Family Brass Quintet/Jazz Combo    | 8:00 pm |
| • OCTOBER 3-7         | Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett        | 7:30 pm |
| • OCTOBER 10          | GWU Concert Choir                          | 8:00 pm |
| • NOVEMBER 9-10       | GWU Opera Workshop, "The Promised Land"    | 8:00 pm |
| • NOVEMBER 18         | The Navy Brass Quintet                     | 8:00 pm |
| • NOVEMBER 28         | GWU Symphonic Band                         | 8:00 pm |
| • NOVEMBER 30         | The Festival of Lights                     | 7:00 pm |
| • DECEMBER 4          | GWU/Community Orchestra                    | 8:00 pm |
| • FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 3 | King Lear by William Shakespeare           | 7:00 pm |

# HOMECOMING 2006



CALLING ALL **SUPERDAWGS** TO JOIN  
US FOR HOMECOMING 2006!

**OCTOBER 27-28**

JOIN FELLOW ALUMNI IN ALL OF THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING ADVENTURES.  
THE ANNUAL BRUNCH FOR THE DECADES WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY MORNING.  
STAY FOR THE GAME AS THE **DAWGS** TAKE ON VMI.

This is an adventure you don't want to miss!!!

*For more information call the  
Office of Alumni Relations at 704.406.3682  
or email: [alumni@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:alumni@gardner-webb.edu)*



# Living for Others

## Ruth Hamrick Honored for Lifetime of Service

She is an encourager to everyone she meets. Her compassion for those in need, her unyielding devotion to church and family, and her contagious smile are but a few of the attributes associated with Ruth Hamrick.

Because of her unyielding commitment to the Gardner-Webb family, Hamrick recently received the North Carolina Baptist Heritage Award. The North Carolina Baptist Heritage Award recognizes individuals who have given exemplary service to organizations associated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The Council on Christian Higher Education and the North Carolina Baptist Foundation co-sponsor the award.

She was born Ruth Putnam in September 1923 to Clyde G. and Elizabeth Cantrell Putnam of Shelby, NC. She has been involved in Baptist life since childhood, taking an active part in congregational activities at Zoar Baptist Church until she met and married Maxwell "Mackie" B. Hamrick in 1941.

When she married Mackie, the two became an institution at Boiling Springs Baptist Church and in the town of Boiling Springs itself. Mrs. Hamrick spent a number of years working for Dr. Wyan Washburn, the community and college

*When she married Mackie, the two became an institution at Boiling Springs Baptist Church and in the town of Boiling Springs itself.*

physician. Through this opportunity of healing the sick, she became well-acquainted with and earned the respect of the students, faculty and the community.

She has been an integral member of Boiling Springs Baptist serving on numerous committees and singing with the Adult Choir for over 50 years. For over 30 years, Ruth has organized and prepared meals for family members mourning the loss of a loved one.

She has participated in civic organizations such as the Philsonian Book Club and the Boiling Springs Garden Club and has also volunteered with the Cleveland County Board of Elections during election season. Hamrick also serves on the Cleveland County Council on Aging Committee.

The Ruth and Mackie Hamrick family has been involved in Gardner-Webb life for six generations. Mackie's father, O.P. Hamrick, was the 2nd student to enroll at Gardner-Webb (Boiling Springs High School) and

after graduating from Wake Forest came back to teach and serve as a long-time principal in Boiling Springs.

Throughout the early years of Gardner-Webb, her in-laws, O.P. and Jessie Hamrick, welcomed numerous students to live in their home. Carrying on the tradition of ministering to students, the Ruth Hamrick family has been involved in the "Adopt a Gardner-Webb Student" ministry of Boiling Springs Baptist Church – helping students to have a home away from home.

As Gardner-Webb's dreams and visions have grown, so has the support of the Hamrick family. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren continue to be involved in academic life at Gardner-Webb – some as students and others as financial contributors.

Mrs. Hamrick's commitment to Gardner-Webb exemplifies our motto – "For God and Humanity." She has given a lifetime of love, compassion and commitment to this university and to this community – and today we thank and honor her.

*If you would like to honor or recognize someone with a gift to the University, contact David Boan, vice president for development at 704-406-3251 or via email at [dboan@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:dboan@gardner-webb.edu).*



# Phone-a-thon Makes An Impact ...On Students and Donors

*Kathryn Salmon, a junior at GWU, has been a student caller for the Gardner-Webb Fund Phone-a-thon for the past two years. Larry Durham '99, is a Human Resources Executive at Duke Energy. He receives a call every year during Phone-a-thon, and this year, he spoke to Kathryn.*



**Kathryn Salmon**

The Phone-a-thon gives Kathryn a chance to use her outgoing personality to help her fellow classmates.

*"I have always been a people person and this way I can help other GWU students by talking to alumni and reminding them of their days here at GWU."*

She doesn't view Phone-a-thon as a job, but an opportunity to connect with alumni.

*"My favorite part is when they ask questions about what is going on here at the university. It is my pleasure to inform them about the activities."*

Being a student caller also provides the opportunity to give back to the school that is providing her education.

*"It is a great feeling to talk with a donor who helps GWU students. GWU [awards] me a nice amount of financial aid, and Phone-a-thon is my way of helping other students in similar situations. When you get that donor who understands the demands of a student and is willing to donate any amount to help relieve some of that stress, [it] is a feeling I cannot put into words. I hope donors realize how much of a difference they make when they donate to this fund."*

Larry understands the sacrifices of students and their families.

*"I believe it's my responsibility as an alumnus to give to Gardner-Webb. It's a continuation of a special experience that began a decade ago."*

He looks forward to his phone call every year as a way of staying connected.

*"I truly enjoy asking the student about his or her experience, their major, what's "hot" on campus, etc. It's one of many ways for me to stay plugged in with GWU. The students placing these calls have given of their time and obviously love Gardner-Webb as much or more than I do as an alum, so it's interesting to pick their brain a bit."*

By keeping up with campus events and doing his part to support Gardner-Webb financially, Larry is a vital member of the Gardner-Webb Family.

*"To me, Gardner-Webb is a multifaceted bond that will never be broken over time. The relationships established while at GWU will live on for ages and the memories will be passed from generation to generation. I'll never have another experience similar to my time at Gardner-Webb. I continue to realize this truth as time passes by."*



**Larry Durham '99**

For further information contact **The Office of Annual Giving** at: (704) 406-4252 or email: [ccarter@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ccarter@gardner-webb.edu).

**GWU ♦ Annual Giving Office ♦ P.O. Box 997 ♦ Boiling Springs, NC 28017**

*Keep your ears open for Kathryn and the rest of the  
Phone-a-thon student callers this fall or send your gift today !*

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## Youth Trustee

Lindsey D. Donnan, '04, Alpharetta, GA,  
 Kellie A. Robinson, '05, Asheville, NC

## Alumnus Trustee

John E. Roberts, '49, Greenville, SC

## Trustee Emeriti

Bernard H. Parker, Raleigh, NC  
 W. Wyan Washburn, Boiling Springs, NC

## Officers

Franklin V. Beam, Chairman  
 H. Gene Washburn, '52, Vice Chairman  
 Dorothy A. Spangler, '47, Secretary  
 Adelaide A. Craver, Treasurer  
 A. Frank Bonner, President  
 Fred A. Flowers, Attorney  
 Mike W. Hardin, '86, '00, Assistant  
 Treasurer

## Alumni Board

Doris Banner 1954  
 Orstell Barnett 1985  
 Daphne Bridges 1954  
 Martha Bumgardner 1982, 1988  
 Sue Camp 1973  
 Phillip Campbell 1975  
 Roger H. Dixon 1964  
 Larry Durham, Jr. 1999, 2001  
 Dorothy W. Edwards 1935  
 (lifetime member)

Lucille C. Hamrick 1944  
 (lifetime member)  
 Ray Hardee 1984  
 Andrea Hardee 1984  
 Chris D. Madden 2000  
 Gary T. Mitchem 1995  
 Donnie Mitchem 1994  
 Pam Mitchem 1994  
 Bernadette Parduski 2005  
 Bob E. Patterson 1950  
 Robert Pettyjohn 1977  
 Karen Pettyjohn 1977  
 John E. Roberts 1949  
 Lavonda Fox Shires 1973  
 Heather Thomas 1999  
 Kerry Traynum 1997  
 Sue Wilson 1953  
 Roberta Wilson 1987  
 Eric R. Wise 2000  
 Shree Wise 2001  
 Patrick Woody 2003



**NEW JOB? BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT? WEDDING? LET US KNOW!**

CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Earned: *(Example - BS, MA, etc.)* \_\_\_\_\_ GOAL Graduate (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
*If female, include maiden name*

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
*If alumnus, please include graduation year*

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street or Box City  
 State Zip

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS NOTE INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS INCLUDED IN YOUR CLASS NOTE?  No  Yes

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete, clip and mail to: Jeff Porter, The Webb Magazine, Gardner-Webb University,  
 P.O. Box 997, Boiling Springs, NC 28017  
 or submit your class note online at: [www.gardner-webb.edu/alumni/classnote.shtml](http://www.gardner-webb.edu/alumni/classnote.shtml)

# The Final Word

## "A True Vision"



Great things are happening everyday at Gardner-Webb University, and the 2005-06 academic year was a time filled with excitement, pageantry and celebration. It was a time to explore the future of Gardner-Webb as we hold strong to the foundations of our Christian heritage. It was a time to remember who we are as an institution and to live out our motto,

Pro Deo et Humanitate – "For God and Humanity."

In April, we officially welcomed Dr. A. Frank Bonner as the twelfth president of Gardner-Webb with a week of activities recognizing his installation (pages 4-5). During that week we also invited our students to share in this unique experience. They participated in the Inaugural Essay and Poetry Competition focusing on the theme, "Great Things in Mind." Certificates and cash prizes were awarded to the following students: Undergraduate Essay Competition – Vickery Sullivan, Graduate Essay Competition – Sarah Thomas and Poetry Competition – Summer Hess. We salute these students for their commitment to the Gardner-Webb University vision. If you would like to read the award-winning essays, they are available online at [www.inauguration.gardner-webb.edu](http://www.inauguration.gardner-webb.edu) or you may contact Dr. Anthony Negbenebor at 704-406-4375 for printed copies.

During Dr. Bonner's inaugural address, he shared his vision for the future of Gardner-Webb. It is a vision that offers hope and addresses the challenges ahead for our fine university (pages 2-5).

During the month of May, Gardner-Webb academics and athletics were in the spotlight. We conferred over 800 academic degrees (a record number) during our spring commencement exercises (page 7) and on May 26, Gardner-Webb was approved as a full-member of the Big South Conference ([www.bigsouthsports.com](http://www.bigsouthsports.com)). Joining the Big South with full membership offers more regional visibility and natural rivalries for Gardner-Webb. Currently, the Big South has nine full members spanning North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Alabama. Gardner-Webb will remain with the Atlantic Sun – its current league - during a two-year transition period, and in July 2008, Gardner-Webb along with Presbyterian College will both begin competition in the Big South. Gardner-Webb has been an associate member of the Big South for football only since 2002. This move will take 18 of Gardner-Webb's 20 varsity sports into Big South play.

In closing, we would like to invite you all to experience Gardner-Webb throughout our upcoming academic year. Concerts, athletic events, theatre, lecture series and alumni gatherings are all on slate for you to explore during the upcoming fall and spring. We look forward to seeing you here.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scoot". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ralph "Scoot" Dixon  
Sr. Vice President for University Relations and Marketing,  
Gardner-Webb University

# Fall 2006 Calendar Highlights

## GWU HOME FOOTBALL

- September 9 – GWU vs. TENNESSEE TECH - 6:00 pm  
September 23 – GWU vs. APPALACHIAN STATE - 6:00 pm  
October 14 – GWU vs. GLENVILLE STATE - 6:00 pm  
**OCTOBER 28 – GWU vs. VMI - 1:30pm - HOMECOMING**  
November 11 – GWU vs. COASTAL CAROLINA - 1:30 pm  
November 18 – GWU vs. WOFFORD - 1:30 pm

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND

October 27-28

## GWU FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

November 30 – 7:00 pm

## 9TH ANNUAL CARL CARTEE CONCERT

December 1, 2 – 7:00 pm

*Benefit for Salvation Army toy closet and food pantry*

Gardner•Webb  
University

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