

2016

## Gardner-Webb, The Magazine 2016, Fall (Volume 51 No. 2)

Noel T. Manning II

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# GARDNER-WEBB

VOL. 51, NO. 2, 2016

THE MAGAZINE



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*SCHOLARSHIP NAMED FOR LEGENDARY PROFESSORS*

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## FEATURES

**WHERE THE WORLD BECOMES THE CLASSROOM**

Through study, service and ministry programs, students, faculty and staff members expanded Gardner-Webb University's footprint and impact to nations and people around the world.

In 2016, numerous students traveled to other countries and experienced foreign cultures while also completing academic courses, utilizing ministry support and providing translational aid.

These are examples of some of those life-changing opportunities.

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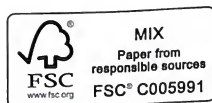
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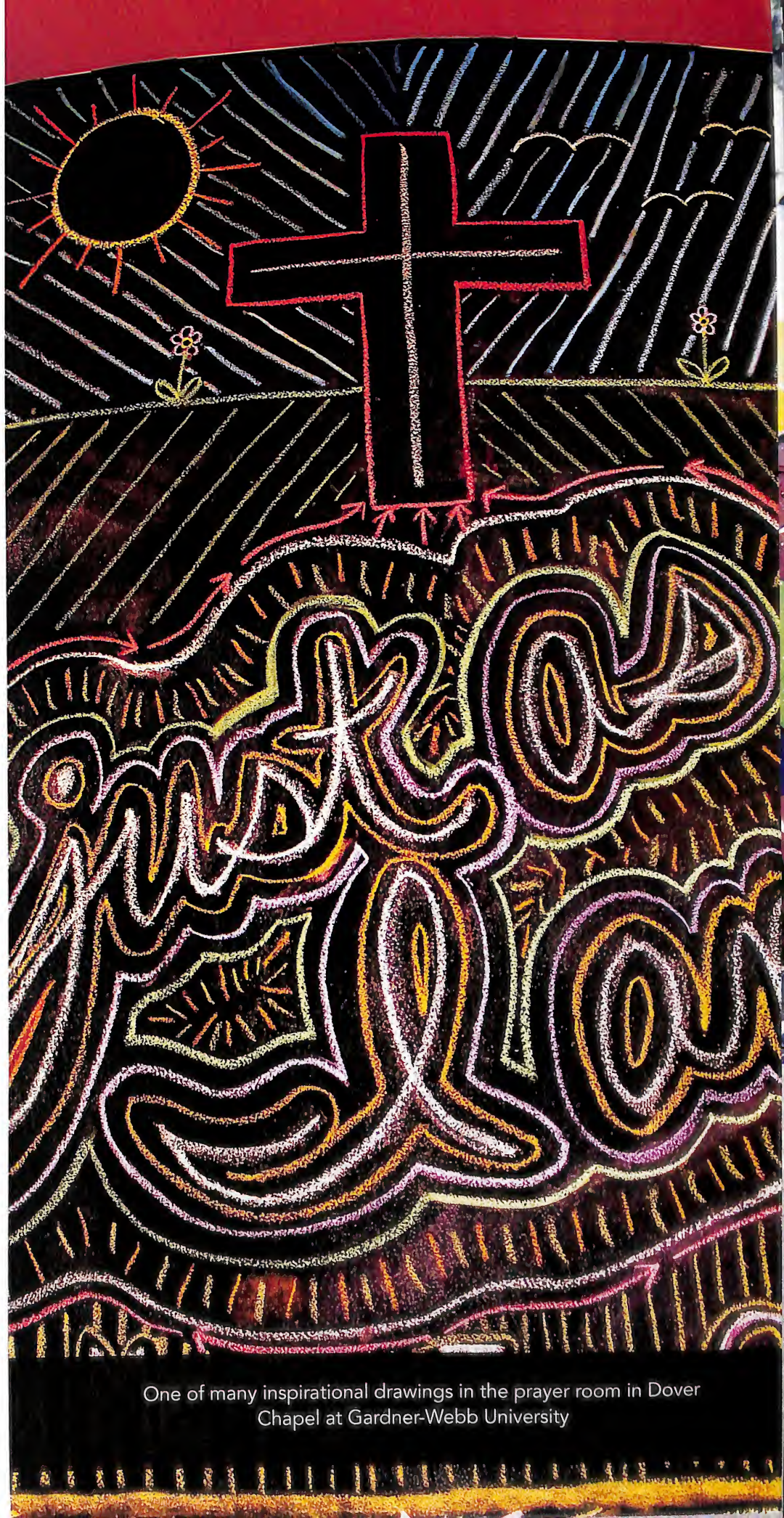
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**ON THE COVER:** In this issue of the Gardner-Webb Magazine we  
celebrate the students and the alumni who represent the University on  
every continent. You will find stories of service to God and humanity  
through career, ministry, leadership and character. GWU offers students  
options to reach well beyond the classroom and into the heart of  
international study abroad and mission opportunities.



One of many inspirational drawings in the prayer room in Dover  
Chapel at Gardner-Webb University

# PASSION FOR CARING AND SERVICE

I once asked Dr. Tracy Jessup, our Vice President for Christian Life and Service, the following question: Is there something about Gardner-Webb that attracts students passionately dedicated to service in worthy causes, or does their experience here make them that way? Quite astutely, Tracy replied, “Both.” And I agree.

My original intent for this letter was to describe the kind of service in which many of our students are regularly involved. As I assembled the information I needed, I found that to be nearly impossible without filling this entire magazine. Instead I will illustrate with a brief description of two forms of service engaged in by our students. One form is service that is organized within our Community Engagement program. It consists of a variety of initiatives, often centered on a particular theme. The current theme is “Deep Impact in Local Education & Hunger,” and there are at least six activities underway. One of these endeavors is “Positive Role Models,” which is a response to needs identified by Cleveland County Schools. Already, more than 60 of our students have been placed in schools as lunch buddies, study buddies, tutors, and after-school mentors. Another is the “Gap Food Program,” which partners our students with a local non-profit organization, “Feeding Kids Cleveland County.”

Another major form of service is that which grows out of our students’ academic endeavors and is somewhat different from typical “service learning” because it is something more than responses to particular class assignments. Students of history professor, Dr. Joseph Moore, have formed a group undertaking entitled, “Release the Captives.” Here is Dr. Moore’s commentary on his students:

*“These students have done a tremendous job translating awareness of human trafficking into action on human trafficking. The funds these students raised will go to an organization, Challenging Heights, which is run by a former child slave worker and has been internationally recognized for its efforts to rescue children from forced labor camps. . . Gardner-Webb students have developed a world-class awareness campaign to fight modern trafficking around the world, and are a model for universities across the country on how to build a viable organization that makes a lasting impact on modern slavery.”*

Many of our students do indeed arrive here with a passion for caring and service already instilled in them. But that passion ignites here and inspires others to join in putting faith into action. What excites me is the way in which this passion for service so beautifully embodies Gardner-Webb’s motto, “For God and Humanity,” while fulfilling our mission of preparing students to make “meaningful contributions for God and Humanity in an ever-changing global community.”

I salute our students. We are immensely proud of them.

Sincerely,



Dr. Frank Bonner

President, Gardner-Webb University





University President, Dr. Frank Bonner, participates in the Rescue Race 5K, which raised funds for human-trafficking awareness.

# Doctoral Program Growth at GWU Propels University to National Elite Status

The 2017 U.S. News Best Colleges List is in, and Gardner-Webb University is positioned among the top 20 percent of higher education institutions in the nation. In addition, GWU is one of just six National Universities in the country that reported no classes with more than 50 students in 2015.

Recently, Gardner-Webb achieved Doctoral University status with The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, moving from a pool of some 750 institutions in the U.S. to an elite list of just 334 in the nation. Among private schools in North Carolina, only Gardner-Webb, Duke University (Durham) and Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem) share the Doctoral University (Carnegie) and National University (U.S. News) categorization.

“Like the move to NCAA Division I athletics over a decade ago, Gardner-Webb University’s new classification is simply one more indicator of the remarkable growth the University has experienced in recent years,” shared GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie. “The most rapid growth has been in the area of graduate degrees, particularly in education, nursing and our new physician assistant program.”

U. S. News utilizes the Carnegie classification system to develop its annual rankings. According to officials, the Carnegie categories are “the accepted standard in higher education.” Although U.S. News created the category names (National Universities, National Liberal Arts Colleges, Regional Universities and Regional Colleges), their definitions are based upon the Carnegie principles.

“National Universities offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master’s and doctoral programs, and emphasize faculty research,” share Eric Brooks, Matt Mason, and Robert Morse of U.S. News.

This year, due to its doctoral program growth, GWU is listed as a first-tier, National University. The only institutions in North Carolina with National University status are Duke, East Carolina, Gardner-Webb, NC State, UNC at Greensboro, UNC at Chapel Hill, UNC at Charlotte, and Wake Forest.

“This new classification,” Leslie affirmed, “is simply one measure of the success that the University has been blessed with as we continue to expand the kinds of educational opportunities available both on the Gardner-Webb campus and through our distance education programs.”



## GWU Ranks in Top Two Percent in U.S. for Core Curriculum Standards

An annual study on core curriculum requirements at over 1,100 colleges and universities from all over the United States has placed Gardner-Webb University at the head of the class for the fifth year in a row. Ranked among 25 institutions throughout the nation with an “A” grade, Gardner-Webb is the only school in the Carolinas to earn an “A” distinction for general requirement standards.

The 2015-2016 What Will They Learn? Study, conducted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), ranks the core curriculum of all the major public and private colleges and universities in all 50 states. The ranking places GWU in the top two percent in the nation, included with schools such as Pepperdine University (Malibu, Calif.), Baylor University (Waco, Texas), Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.), and the United States Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs, Colo.), among others.

The ACTA study analyzes seven core subjects and rates universities accordingly. ACTA believes that composition, U.S. government/history, economics, literature, math, science, and foreign language components help students gain the knowledge and values necessary for responsible democratic citizenship. “A”-rated schools require at least six out of the seven core courses; “B” schools must offer four or five out of seven.

The 1,100 institutions measured in the What Will They Learn? Study comprise all public universities with a stated liberal arts mission as well as hundreds of private colleges and universities selected on the basis of size, reputation, and regional representation. Last year, GWU was among only 23 schools in the nation to earn an “A.”

To learn more, visit [goacta.org](http://goacta.org). For additional information on the What Will They Learn? report, visit [whatwilltheylearn.com](http://whatwilltheylearn.com).



Karen Platt-Dominguez (right) and Desmond Tutu (left)

## Gardner-Webb Nursing Alum Joins Battle Against HIV in South America

Gardner-Webb University graduate Karen Platt-Dominguez ('98) became a nurse for two reasons—to provide medical care and travel wherever the job would take her. So far she's worked in Brazil, Haiti, Florida and California. Currently, she's in Cape Town, South Africa, working as a project manager at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation (DTHF). Tutu, the Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, drew attention to apartheid in the 1980s and through his advocacy and leadership, the country's system of racial segregation ended in 1993.

Although he is retired now, Tutu continues to promote human rights around the world. He established the HIV Foundation and is a major financial supporter of the work to treat and prevent HIV and related infections. Platt-Dominguez is honored to have met Tutu a few times. “He is still generous enough to come to some of our events and celebrations as our patron,” she shared. “He is kind and has a great sense of humor—always cracking jokes. He still plays a significant role as a strong leader in the country.”

After earning an associate's degree in nursing from Gardner-Webb, Platt-Dominguez completed her bachelor's in nursing at the University of North Florida (Jacksonville) and then Master's of Public Health at the University of Florida (Gainesville).

She traveled to South Africa to gain experience working with HIV in an international public health setting. Platt-Dominguez joined DTHF as a volunteer, and was offered a contract position as data manager, then study coordinator once her work permit came through. “As project manager, my day focuses more on current and future project needs as well as budgets,” Platt-Dominguez explained. “I enjoy being part of research and feeling like we are making a difference in HIV and with the individuals we work with each day.”

For more information about the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, visit [desmondtutuhivfoundation.org.za](http://desmondtutuhivfoundation.org.za).



# Student Develops Business Plan for Disabled Children in Cambodia

A seven-week summer internship in Cambodia gave a member of the Gardner-Webb swim team an opportunity to gain practical experience for a career in missions. Tessa Walsh ('19), a global studies major and business administration minor from Blacksburg, Va., worked with Lina's Hope, a Christian non-profit organization that cares for children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

She chronicled her experiences by writing a blog and a journal.



Tessa Walsh

In one journal entry, Walsh explained how this visit differed from others she has taken. "This trip wasn't about me. People didn't stop and go out of their way for me as much, rather I was working for them," she wrote. "I was given tasks to do, projects to accomplish, and jobs to complete. I enjoyed that and it fostered my task-based personality."

Walsh learned the language and observed the culture. She assisted with caring for the children, developed videos, created a photo display and organized a playroom at the center. Her main project was to help the children at Lina's Hope develop a business plan to provide additional income for the center. The children decided they wanted to plant a garden and sell the produce.

Through a GoFundMe account set up by Walsh, the group collected donations to buy seeds, soil and wood to make raised beds.

# Gardner-Webb Announces New Associate Provost of Arts and Sciences

Longtime professor of history at Gardner-Webb, Dr. David Yelton, has been named to a position of academic leadership at the University. Dr. Ben Leslie, provost and executive vice president, named Yelton to the post of Associate Provost of Arts and Sciences.

"I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Yelton as a Gardner-Webb faculty member for the last decade," Leslie stated. "He has a record of proven leadership along with the full faith and confidence of his colleagues. He brings with him to the position not only years of teaching experience but also a deep-seated commitment to student learning in the context of the liberal arts. I am excited about the future of the arts and sciences at Gardner-Webb under his highly competent direction."



Dr. David Yelton

Yelton has served the University with distinction as Professor of History since 1990. Prior to that he served as a teaching and research assistant to the History Department

at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned his doctorate. Yelton established himself as a faculty leader at Gardner-Webb, serving as Chair of the Social Sciences Department from 2002-07 and Chair of the Faculty from 2007-09. He is author of

*"I am excited about the future of the arts and sciences at Gardner-Webb under his highly competent direction."*

*- Dr. Ben Leslie*

numerous publications, including "Hitler's Volkssturm: The Nazi Militia and the Fall of Germany 1944-45" (University Press of Kansas, 2002).

"I feel honored to have been chosen for the position," Yelton asserted. "I think it essential that Gardner-Webb communicate how the liberal arts, now more than ever before, are at the heart of producing graduates who are not only ready for a career, but who are ready to be informed and engaged as citizens, Christians and inhabitants of a changing, challenging world."





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UNIVERSITY**

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Alumni are our most important connection with high school students who are seeking the "right fit" for college. Every time you share your successful Gardner-Webb experience with a prospective student, you serve your alma mater by recruiting potential Future Dawgs who will continue the University's legacy of excellence in higher education.

Help extend the Gardner-Webb message into your community and refer a student today.

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## GWU Alumni Recall Experience of First Panthers Game in Charlotte

As the Carolina Panthers recently marked the 20th anniversary of the team's first-ever game in Charlotte, several Gardner-Webb University alumni reflected on their experiences from that day.

In September 1996, a team of GWU students, staff and alumni served as assistants for photographers who captured the historic event with their cameras. GWU representatives helped transport, organize and operate equipment for photographers from publications like Sports Illustrated and National Geographic.

For Gary Eller, a 1997 GWU graduate who now works as a professional photographer, participation in the project led directly to his eventual career. "I remember standing on that field with 70,000 people cheering, and I got to be on the field for free," he reminisces. "Looking back on it now, I know it was a defining moment in my career choice. I wanted to be a professional photographer."

Photos from the day were organized into a book, "Carolina Panthers Sunday," which chronicles a behind-the-scenes experience of the Panthers' first game in their home stadium.

"I remember the excitement that was there in Charlotte on day one," shares 1994 GWU alumna Noel Manning. "As a team from Gardner-Webb, it was pretty amazing to realize that we were a part of history."

# GWU Trustee Frank Beam Receives Honorary Doctorate

Gardner-Webb University bestowed its highest recognition of merit, the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, to Franklin “Frank” Beam (Shelby, N.C.) during its Spring Commencement ceremonies in May.

GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner explained that the awarding of an honorary doctorate degree affirms the University values, honors individual achievements, and recognizes the recipient’s embodiment of Gardner-Webb ideals of caring and Christian service. “These guidelines are exemplified to the fullest degree by Frank Beam in his personal, professional, church, and civic life, and in innumerable leadership roles,” Bonner shared. “The common denominator in all of these areas is a firm commitment to service, consistent with strong Christian faith.”

Beam is a native of Cleveland County, N.C., and in 1963, he co-founded a business that later became Quality Insulation and Siding in Shelby. More than 50 years later, he is still a co-owner. In the 1970s, he stepped into a corporate role at Lowe’s Company, Inc., where he served for more than 40 years. When he retired from Lowe’s as regional vice president of operations, Beam was directing senior management and all store operations in the southeast, and was responsible for more than 15,000 employees.

In addition to his lengthy career at Lowe’s, Beam has remained an active member at First Baptist Church in Shelby, and has been involved in the community as a board member for several organizations, including the Cleveland County Chamber and HomeTrust Bank. He is chairman of the HealthCare Foundation of Cleveland County, and is a longtime member of the Gardner-Webb University Board of Trustees.

“As stellar as Frank’s professional and civic life has been, his devotion to Gardner-Webb is just as noteworthy,” Bonner reflected. “He really loves this University, encouraging others and serving tirelessly as a trustee and committee chairman.”



Frank Beam and Dr. Ben Leslie

# GWU Trustee’s Gift Increases Safety for University Police



Frank Stewart (center) with members of the GWU Police force.

New steel body gear is offering Gardner-Webb University Police better protection as they serve and defend the security of the campus, thanks to a generous gift from a GWU trustee and Premier Body Armor of Kings Mountain, N.C., a manufacturer of protective equipment for law enforcement personnel.

Frank Stewart, owner of Premier Body Armor and current chair of the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees, donated body armor systems for eight University officers during a presentation in GWU’s Tucker Student Center in June. Each set of gear includes a vest, lightweight front and back steel plates that conform to an officer’s body for comfortable wear and two insert plates to provide extra protection against dangerous objects.

“The vest an officer normally carries will protect against handguns, but it does not offer protection against everything,” Stewart shared. “This body armor provides extra protection against high-powered rifles and other ammunition, allowing officers to confront a situation with much more confidence.”

In the past decade, more than 500 American officers have died after suffering gunshot injuries while on duty, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Because of the danger of the profession, all efforts to increase officer safety are critical measures of support, offered Barry Johnson, GWU Chief of University Police.

“We appreciate that there are great people like Mr. Stewart who realize what we face every day as officers, with things that happen nationwide and things that can happen here at Gardner-Webb,” Johnson added. “It makes us feel good that people in the community support us and want to ensure that we are as safe as we can be.”

# GWU Professor Explores Slave History at Yale Seminar

Wallace Turnage is not a famous person, but historians are fascinated with the discovery of the former slave's story. In a letter written to his family 100 years ago, Turnage recorded a vivid account of his escape to freedom. Dr. Joseph S. Moore, assistant professor of history at Gardner-Webb University, studied this handwritten document and other slave narratives during a seminar this summer at Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

"His family passed it down in a small clamshell box for a century," Moore explained. "Turnage attempted to run away five times before finally succeeding. His story—which involves all the drama of a great movie escape—would be lost to history had he not written it down to explain to his children the lengths he went to in order to free himself. It is a remarkable story of human will in the midst of oppression that I'm thankful to now teach my students. I'll be incorporating more of those stories, many of which are still relatively obscure, into my courses."

Moore was one of 27 college faculty members from across the nation selected by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) to participate in the seminar. David Blight, Class of 1954 Professor of American History at Yale, led participants through a study of the texts, which included slave narratives written before and after the Civil War. The group also viewed original documents from the Yale archives, including letters written by former President John Quincy Adams and Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Moore teaches courses examining early America and the Atlantic World, especially regarding issues of race, religion and slavery. He is the recipient of various grants and fellowships from institutions such as Harvard, Duke, and the Organization for American Historians. His writings have appeared in *The New York Times* and a variety of books and journals. He is the author of "Founding Sins: How a Group of Antislavery Radicals Fought to Put Christ into the Constitution" (Oxford University Press).



Dr. Joseph Moore



Scene from "Child of Glass"

## GWU Professor Reflects on Disney Screenwriting Experiences

While teaching Gardner-Webb students the basics of video and film editing, Dr. Jim Lawrence gives them advice they won't find in a textbook. The life lesson comes from his own years working in the Los Angeles film and television industries.

"I try to impress upon students that you have to cultivate relationships," he asserted. "I realize the importance of being open to people helping you. There are key periods in my life when someone came along and was able to help me out at the very moment I needed it most. You have to cultivate these relationships. This is a business where you can't burn bridges. You can't afford to alienate anyone, because the industry is small and people work in the same circles."

Lawrence was reminded of that truth recently when he stumbled across a Facebook fan page dedicated to a film he wrote for Walt Disney Productions nearly 40 years ago. Called "Child of Glass," the made-for-television movie was his first big break into writing for network television. He got the job because of a connection he had made in the business.

The movie was first broadcast in 1977 and a few years ago Disney released it on DVD as part of the "Generations Collection." Until Lawrence found the Facebook page, he had no idea that the movie had such a following. "The gratifying thing is that after all these years so many people have found the film to be so enjoyable, and that folks who saw it as children are now sharing it with their children," Lawrence observed. "It was exciting to discover this and to realize that something I worked on so many years ago is still bringing people pleasure."

# WHEN THE WORLD BECOMES THE CLASSROOM

Through study, service and ministry programs, students, faculty, and staff members extended Gardner-Webb University's footprint and impact to nations and people around the world.

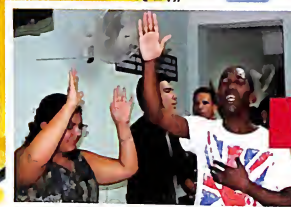
In 2016, numerous students traveled to other countries and experienced foreign cultures, while also completing academic courses, offering ministry support and providing humanitarian aid.

These are examples of some of those life-changing opportunities.

## 1. NEW MEXICO



## 2. CUBA



## 3. GUATEMALA



## 4. HAITI



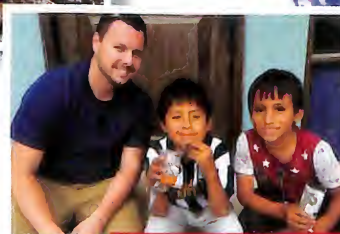
## 5. NICARAGUA



## 6. COSTA RICA



## 7. PERU



1 – New Mexico: A group of eight GWU students spent time serving First Indian Baptist Church and other citizens in need in Taos, N.M., by splitting firewood, planting flowers, and cleaning and refurbishing areas of the church.

2 – Cuba: Seven GWU students made history as the first group from the School of Divinity to travel and study in Cuba. Led by Dr. Hebert Palomino, associate professor of pastoral care and counseling, the group visited several places, including the Baptist seminary in Santiago de Cuba, where Palomino helped to establish a counseling program.

3 – Guatemala: Two groups traveled to Guatemala this year to provide outreach. The Hunt School of Nursing served residents of Chucavioc, Guatemala, by setting up a clinic in a newly-planted church to provide medical needs to the local village, and GWU Student Ministries leader Neal Payne guided a group of students in Chimaltenango, Guatemala.

4 – Haiti: American Sign Language (ASL) students and staff members traveled to Haiti serving both children and adults at the Haiti Deaf Academy, where sign language is the primary means of communication.

5 – Nicaragua: Dr. Ben Coates led a team to Jinotega, Nicaragua, over the summer where students ministered at the Jinotega campus of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN). Officials hope the trip marked the beginning of a long partnership with UNAN-Jinotega.

6 – Costa Rica: On a four-week study-abroad experience in the spring, undergraduate students strengthened their understanding and usage of the Spanish language, explored the culture, gained course credit, and developed numerous life skills.

## 8. ITALY



## 9. GREECE AND TURKEY



## 10. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



## 11. TANZANIA



7 – Peru: Five School of Divinity students supported a food ministry and other outreach programs in Lima, Peru.

8 – Italy: Part of an annual study-abroad initiative supported by President Dr. Frank Bonner, 10 students explored Italian language and culture while also earning course credits during a month-long visit to locations including Rome, Florence, Venice and Vatican City. (See story on page 16.)

9 – Greece & Turkey: More than 20 divinity students explored a variety of ancient sites in order to enhance their understanding of biblical texts, particularly the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. The trip featured visits to Istanbul, five of the churches of Revelation, the Island of Patmos, Corinth, Athens, Delphi, Berea, Thessalonica, and Phillipi.

10 – Dominican Republic: Men's Basketball student-athletes and coaches engaged in ministry, humanitarian relief projects and athletic competition during a summer visit to Santo Domingo, Juan Dolio and San Pedro.

11 – Tanzania – Six students helped construct a water tank at a church, shared in worship and ministry with local residents, and experienced the national Kiswahili language and culture during a spring visit to Arusha, Tanzania, in east Africa.

# Second Nature

ESL Major's Research to Provide Guide for Teachers

By Niki Bliss-Carroll



During her sophomore year, Gardner-Webb University student Shaquavia Chiles of Greenville, S.C., was approached by one of her professors with a unique idea. Dr. Anita Sanders, assistant professor of education, suggested the English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) major spend a portion of her summer on campus as part of the undergraduate research scholars program. As Chiles recounted her answer, she grinned.

“Funny story,” she shared. “I didn’t want to do it. I pretty much said, ‘No, thank you. I don’t want to.’”

Shaquavia Chiles (right) helps a student with her class work

Not long after that initial conversation, Chiles’ mother visited campus. “My mom and my professor started talking, and Dr. Sanders told her about the idea she had. Later my mom told me, ‘Oh yeah, you’re doing that,’” she recalled. But even though she hesitated initially, Chiles immediately began to enjoy the challenges of her project, and she took seriously her role as an advocate for an often-underserved population.

“In high school, I was a tutor, and a lot of my ESL friends would come to me ... they were struggling,” she reflected. “Obviously, I know much more now than I did then, but as much as I could help them, I would try. I realized that I loved teaching, being around people, and helping people, so I decided to pursue a career in it.”

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, an average of nine percent of students in U.S. public schools are English Language Learners; that number is closer to 14 percent in cities. Many of these students are integrated into mainstream classrooms within a year—well before their English language skills are proficient.

For her research project, Chiles developed a classroom handbook for K12 teachers who are trying to meet the needs of their students but who may not have direct access to an ESL professional every day. “Typically, ESL teachers travel between two and sometimes three different schools,” she explained. “So that can present a problem for classroom teachers who may not be sure about how to help their students whose primary language is not English. So the main goal of the project was to provide an immediate resource to teachers to help them implement strategies that can improve ESL-student interactions.”

# 9%

of students in U.S. public schools are English-as-Second-Language learners.

- National Center for Education Statistics



Shaquavia with project mentor Dr. Anita Sanders

Chiles initially planned to develop most of her information for the handbook from interviews of current ESL teachers; however, she wasn't able to gain access to as many direct sources as she had initially hoped. So she modified her research to include both primary sources (e.g. interviews) as well as secondary sources (e.g. previously-published strategies). The result is a printed handbook that Chiles plans to continue to refine.

She is grateful that her professor pushed her to go a little deeper and offers some advice to other students. “If an opportunity presents itself, don't just shut it down like I did,” she encouraged.

“I'm looking at these strategies and showing other people how they can use them, and I'm learning how to use them too,” she continued. “I feel like I have an advantage when I go out into my field. So take the opportunity. Don't just shoot it down. You may even end up loving it.”

For more information on the Undergraduate Research Program at Gardner-Webb, or to find out how to apply for the Summer Scholars Research Program, contact Dr. June Hobbs at 704-406-4412 or email [jhobbs@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:jhobbs@gardner-webb.edu).



Hear the full interview with Shaquavia at [gardner-webb.edu/chiles](http://gardner-webb.edu/chiles)



# ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

*Ruthie Lievsay '17 Combines Passions to Pursue Career in Art Therapy*

*by Jackie Bridges*

Ruthie Lievsay ('17) of Mount Airy, N.C., didn't expect to have a strong emotional response the first time she visited Gardner-Webb. She had received an application and scholarship information in the mail and decided to check out the campus. Yet from her first glimpse of the University, Lievsay felt a connection.

"All I know is something came over me as soon as we turned left at the stoplight (at the entrance to GWU's campus). Tears came to my eyes before I even got a good look at the campus from the car," she recalled. "I knew absolutely that, even if most of the scholarships fell through, this was exactly where the Lord was leading me, and he sure did make that known. As soon as I started meeting people, I knew this place was something special."

Ready to find her place on campus, Lievsay started participating in student ministries and developed friendships. She also began serving as a leader of Wyldlife, which is part of Young Life, a non-denominational Christian ministry that meets with adolescents at local schools. "I have changed and grown so much more spiritually than I ever thought was possible," Lievsay offered. "Through prayer and encouragement, I gained the courage to volunteer pretty much all of my free time as a Wyldlife leader to hang out with middle school students and tell them who Jesus is. That is absolutely something that high-school Ruthie never would have seen coming. Through the relationships I've made at Gardner-Webb, I'm able to keep going even though I should be completely exhausted. My friends pour into me and push me in the right direction."

She came to Gardner-Webb with clear goals in mind to major in psychology and minor in visual art. "I chose my field of study after meeting a small group of learning-disabled adults when I was in high school," she related. "My mom was one of their teachers, and during a free period in school, I went over to hang out with mom

and her class to pass the time. They captured my heart almost immediately. A two-year internship followed and not long into that internship I was certain that I would be working with special needs for the rest of my life."

She discovered her artistic talents when she was in middle school and continued



Ruthie Lievsay with Young Life Group at GWU

to pursue art in high school, where she was supported by her teacher. "With her encouragement, I developed a deep interest in creating art and learning about art," Lievsay reflected. "Combining my passion for special needs and art sparked my desire to become an art therapist. In researching the field, I found that a combination of art and psychology would set me up for an art therapy master's program."

Through her studies, Lievsay has learned more about the connection between art and psychology. "Art can be a gateway into the psychological realm of humanity," she observed. "People can calmly and freely express themselves without having to use words, and this gives way to huge insights into their thoughts and their life. Psychology is understanding human nature and why we are the way we are. Art is another form of communication into our innermost psychology."



# Living the Difference

*The Bonner Project Offers Annual International Study Experience for GWU Students*

*By Matthew Tessnear*

While visiting the official residence of the Pope, Alice Byrd '17 studied one of her favorite fresco paintings, Raphael's "School of Athens," from mere feet away. She had explored the world of art from a young age through the teachings of her artist father, but this was a unique opportunity to see a piece of historic artwork up close.

The moment was among many brushes with history for Byrd and her fellow Gardner-Webb University students during one month in the summer when Italy became their GWU classroom.

"We had class in museums, in courtyards, on trains, in the Vatican and just about everywhere we went," Byrd explains. "There is a special skill set you develop when you are taking notes, listening to a lecture and sketching a painting, while walking the entire time."

The adventure was the most recent international experience offered to Gardner-Webb students through The Bonner Project, an initiative that helps provide a one-month study-abroad experience to about a dozen students each summer.

"For centuries, travel has been regarded as a valuable and integral part of a solid education," GWU President Dr. Frank

Bonner asserts. "The benefits are too many to describe fully. Travel, especially as part of a study program, provides greater understanding of other nations—understanding that is so vital as globalization affects all aspects of our lives. It enriches our appreciation and awareness of other cultures and other languages, thus enhancing our ability to relate to and empathize with others."



Alice Byrd (right) and Hayden Corley (left) in Italy

In the past decade, The Bonner Project has taken GWU students to Strasbourg in France, Sussex in England, Athens in Greece and Heidelberg in Germany, among other locations. While visiting another country, students learn the local language, take a course from a Gardner-Webb professor, live on the foreign economy and participate in trips that enhance the course content, all while earning six course credits.





“You really learn a culture when you live there and you experience it,” GWU Director of International Programs Dr. Helen Tichenor relates. “These experiences are transformative for our students. They learn that things are so different in other places, and through the experience they come back different people.”

The trip to Italian cities included viewings of Renaissance artwork in Florence, travels along the canals of Venice and experiences with public transportation and Vatican City in Rome, along with a variety of chances to study art. “Italy is home to 70 percent of the world’s art, and Florence has more Renaissance masterworks than any other location,” offers GWU Professor of Art Susan Bell. “I truly believe that art is a wonderful window to understanding and appreciating the world both then and now. Both the students and I were enriched beyond measure, and we are thankful for the opportunity for an oversea adventure and learning opportunity that The Bonner Project gave us.”

The journey of a month studying abroad during the summer has encouraged Byrd to be more creative in her studies and to consider different perspectives she encounters in academics and in the world around her.

“The experience has made me understand that not

everything has to be one way,” she expounds. “Americans tend to want everything to move quickly and according to schedule. Italians are much more relaxed and less schedule-oriented, so I learned to enjoy more moments throughout the day. I now feel that I’m better equipped to interact with individuals from different cultures, as well as more well-rounded because of my experience.”

Those are benefits Bonner wants every student to have.

“My wife Flossie and I believe so much in the value of study abroad that we have established a scholarship fund to assist students with this vital part of their educational experience,” he shares. “Students returning from study abroad have frequently called it ‘life changing.’ It is my dream that all students will have that opportunity while at Gardner-Webb.”



The group at a train station in Venice, Italy



# An Honorable Experience

*Gardner-Webb Honors Students Excel Through Real-World Academic, Service and Social Activities*

*By Matthew Tessnear*

Students gather around a restaurant table covered in international cuisine. Food provokes conversation that offers education about foreign cultures, and the shared meal and intellectual exchanges help new friends connect.

This is a Gardner-Webb classroom.

Try Something Different night, or TSD for short, has become a favorite tradition of GWU students, and it serves as an example of the many University Honors Program activities that collectively advance students academically, socially and professionally.

“Development of these three aspects of life are central to a successful college education,” emphasizes philosophy major Josiah Parke (‘17).



*“TSD” Night at a Thai restaurant*



The Honor Olympics

from schools across the country, and travel abroad to cultural meccas like Paris, France.

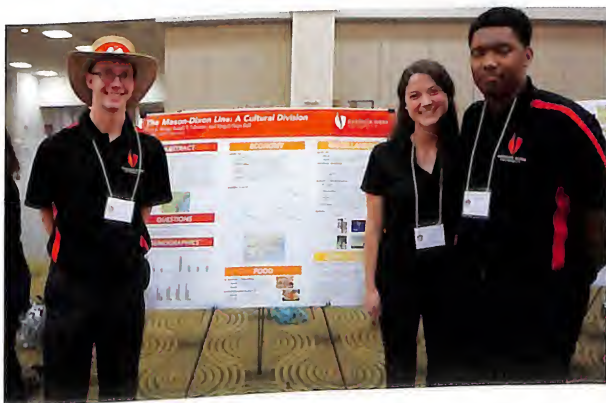
“In a University setting the default method of teaching is lecture, which is a great way to communicate from one person to another but not the best way to learn,” Jones explains. “If we can have a discussion, wherever that discussion takes place, learning becomes engaging.”

Each fall, students pack up and travel to the North Carolina High Country for a weekend of camping, socializing and canoeing down a mountain river. For several decades, Gardner-Webb students have made the annual visit to the New River to remove trash as part of the environmental initiative Big Sweep.

Along with Herd-4-Hire, where students complete service projects for a variety of residents in the greater Gardner-Webb community, the mountain trip has become a popular annual tradition for students to both learn and connect with fellow students in a unique setting.



Participating in the Big Sweep river clean up



Representing GWU at the 2016 Southern Regional Honors Conference

“The Honors Program at Gardner-Webb University definitely has assisted me in developing all of those areas and much more.”

Almost all of GWU’s Honors activities take students outside the walls of the traditional classroom and into the world, where experiences offer a combination of academic, service and social enrichment.

“The most educational thing you can do is travel,” relates Dr. Tom Jones, associate dean of the GWU Honors Program. “But travel with your eyes open.”

In addition to meaningful classroom discussions that serve as a core part of the Honors academic experience, opportunities also include original undergraduate thesis research and presentations, trips to regional and national conferences alongside elite students


Through interaction with other students, each journey often intertwines those social and service benefits with academic growth, asserts communication studies major Alice Byrd (‘18).

“Honors has taught me how to become more eloquent, poised and confident when presenting ideas, whether to a roomful or just my friends,” she expounds. “Honors has helped me grow in many different areas of my life, and academically I push myself harder in the classroom to ask more questions, research more thoroughly and produce higher-quality work.”

Jones sees students make significant strides in improving time management, writing and many other skills. Parke concurs, adding that his Gardner-Webb experiences have provided him with benefits that will help him far beyond his academic career.

“The ability to empathize, converse and find common ground with individuals coming from diverse backgrounds is crucial to modern social and work environments,” he offers. “GWU Honors focuses on placing students in situations where these skills are developed. This has been life-changing for me.”

For an interview with Gardner-Webb University Honors Program Associate Dean Dr. Tom Jones and Honors students, visit [gardner-webb.edu/honors](http://gardner-webb.edu/honors).



# A CALLING TO TEACH

*Sue Camp Has Connected  
Students to Life Goals for Four  
Decades*

*By Jackie Bridges*

In 40 years of teaching at Gardner-Webb University, Dr. Sue Camp has witnessed technology evolve, the campus develop and five presidents lead the University. While her motto is, "Grow and change or you will be left behind," her main objective has remained the same.

"I like to see my students succeed," she stated. "I feel like I can help students achieve their goals, because communication is important no matter what field the students choose. I've taught some of the Gardner-Webb trustees. Evans Whitaker, president of Anderson (S.C.) University, is one of my former students."

A graduate of Gardner-Webb with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Camp's proudest moment was the day she came to work at her alma mater after completing her Master of Arts in Teaching from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C. "I graduated in '73 from Gardner-Webb and came to work in '76," she related. "I just couldn't believe that I had changed sides of the desk in less than three years."

She hadn't applied for the job. The chair of the business department offered her the position when she came by Gardner-Webb to ask him to recommend her for the doctoral program at the

*Greetings from*  
**GARDNER  
WEBB**  
ALL 2016 ORIENTATION

University of Tennessee, Knoxville. "He said, 'I would rather have you come to work instead,'" Camp recalled. Within two months, she was teaching and working on her doctorate. She finished her doctoral studies in 1987.

Camp believes that, like pastors, professors are called to their career. "Working at Gardner-Webb is more than a job or a paycheck," she observed. "You don't have to apologize for your Christian beliefs, and you have an opportunity to work with good people and wonderful, interesting students. I have each student do a practice presentation on some aspect of his or her life. The students proudly speak of their families, church groups, friends, athletic achievements, and mission trips."

Camp's calling to teach was evident from an early age in her favorite activities. "The games that children play often surface in their careers," Camp assessed. "I played school and wrote plays and short stories. Teaching and writing became my career."

She wrote her first textbook in 1980. Since then she has written 20 or more books that have been translated into different languages and has also written software for some of them. Because her textbooks are used all over the world, Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, professor of economics and international business, says Camp has taught more students than any other professor at the University.

"She's a maverick, a pacesetter, a pioneer and part of the blueprint here," asserted Negbenebor, who has worked with Camp for nearly 30 years. "She's a very humble person, a magnet to students, a down-to-earth, great teacher. She took me under her wing and made me comfortable when I first got here. God uses people in your life, and she is one of those people."

Her commitment to students is also evident by two traditions she started in the Godbold School of Business: the chili lunch and Valentine's refreshments. In the fall, professors bring homemade chili in slow cookers along with all the condiments to share with over a hundred business students. "We enjoy spending time with students in this casual situation and consider the event a success when we run out of chili," Camp offered. "On Valentine's Day, the faculty provides refreshments for students. We do these events to make the students feel appreciated. If they weren't here, we wouldn't be here."



Dr. Sue Camp teaching one of her business classes

*"Dr. Sue Camp made a connection with students beyond her course content that made my classmates and me feel that she cared about us as individuals and wanted us to be successful. She motivated her students to do their best work, to have high goals and high standards, and to be passionate about what you do and who you serve as a professional. What she taught me both as a business major and as a person more than 33 years ago enriches my life and work today."*

**- Evans Whitaker '83, President of Anderson (S.C.) University**

*Today, I have had the great opportunity to speak to numerous groups on many different subjects, and I have to give Dr. Camp the accolades for the lessons and techniques she instilled in us. These same techniques still work today. Be prepared, become an expert in your subject, and remain calm.*

**- Rodney Allison '82, and Gardner-Webb Trustee**

*Every student who enters Dr. Sue Camp's class will leave at the end of the semester with a conceptual understanding of professional business communications. Outside of class, her dedication to her students is no different. She will spend as much time as needed to explain concepts to students, while also taking the opportunity to invest in her students on an individual basis. From talking politics during her office hours to catching up on family and how everyone is doing, her investment in me as an individual has been one of the best parts of my experience here at Gardner-Webb.*

**- Nate Allman '18, political science major**

*I love the way she genuinely cares about students and their well-being. She has us do activities that allow for creativity, but that still exercise the skills we have learned in her class. She is one of the most invested teachers I know, in the sense that she loves to know what her students are interested in and involved in. She loves to hear about our achievements and encourages us along the way to strive for the best.*

**- Jen Guberman '18, communication & new media major**

*Dr. Sue Camp, of Shelby, N.C., who serves as professor of business administration, was honored for her 40 years of service to Gardner-Webb University with induction into the Faith, Service and Leadership Hall of Fame for faculty. Only five other professors have achieved this award: Dr. Les Brown, Dr. Tony Eastman, Hubert Dixon, Dr. Barry Hambright and Patricia Harrelson.*



# Training for Life

**Alumnus Jeremy Martin '03 Exercises His Passions for Faith, Fitness**

**By Matthew Tessnear**

Jeremy Martin's success as a college and professional football player led him to discover a passion for training other athletes for elite performance in competition. His physical work as a sports trainer has allowed him to also be a spiritual coach who leads others to strengthen their relationship with Christ.

Martin owns Ultimate Athlete, in Charlotte, N.C., a fitness facility that works with more than 100 clients. "Athletes come to us to help them excel in their sport," he explains, "but if we can teach them how their faith in Jesus will carry them more than physical training, we're doing something important for them."



Jeremy Martin in 2002  
photo by Joe Young/Shelby Star

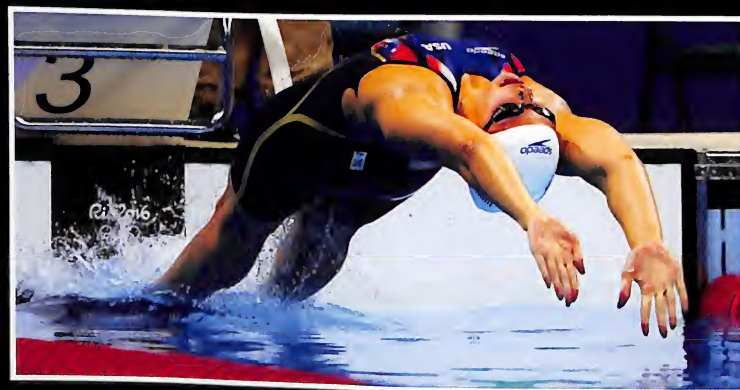
As a student-athlete at Gardner-Webb, Martin set football program records and was inducted into the University's Athletics Hall of Fame. After graduating with his bachelor's degree in sport management, he played professional arena and indoor football. During that time he realized how much he enjoyed encouraging

fellow athletes to reach for ultimate sports and life success, and he decided to earn a master's degree in exercise science and kinesiology.

In the 10 years since completing his graduate education, Martin has worked with several athletic training facilities where he has had opportunities to coach competitors in the National Football League and elite intercollegiate athletics. In 2015, he combined knowledge from his Gardner-Webb business degree with his education in exercise science to open Ultimate Athlete in Charlotte.

"Gardner-Webb gave me such a well-rounded education to apply to a variety of things in my life," he relates. "My minor in business administration and everything I learned in sport management really taught me how to form long-lasting relationships that can build my young business."

One of his most significant connections has been with the women's U.S.A. Olympic Swim Team, which invited him to help train some of its athletes several years ago. That's when he met and started to coach North Carolinian Kathleen Baker, first preparing her for high school competition and then for collegiate swimming at the University of California at Berkeley and the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil.




2016 Olympian Kathleen Baker

"When we started working together, we formed a great coach-athlete bond," Martin shares. "I think she appreciated from the start how I tried to individualize a program just to fit her. Eventually through that program, she really found how much more power she had in the water and took off from there."

Martin and his Ultimate Athlete (UA) organization watched with pride as their friend Baker earned a gold medal in the 4x100-meter medley relay and an individual silver medal in the 100-meter backstroke in Rio de Janeiro. "No question UA's proudest moment in its young history," Martin posted on his facility's Instagram page after Baker's individual medal-winning swim.

For all of the successful steps leading to that moment, Martin gives complete credit to God. A Christian focus guides his approach to providing performance training for Baker and others, including Gardner-Webb student-athletes for whom he provides consulting.



"We can use faith in our workouts. There are a lot of similarities in the consistency required for both faith and sports training. You have to do the little things every day, prayer and practice, that will eventually make a big difference for you," Martin relates. "There's no question I couldn't have done everything I've done in my life without my faith. Gardner-Webb has been a cornerstone for putting Jesus at the center of all I do. The University really built a platform for life for me."

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# The **TEE** in **TEAM**

*Longtime GWU Golf Coach Tee Burton Helps Student-Athletes Find Successful Course in Life*

*By Matthew Tessnear*

Golf and Gardner-Webb have both been part of Tee Burton's life, almost from the very beginning.

As a young boy growing up in the River Bend community just a few miles from the school, he witnessed Gardner-Webb golf at a time when it was nationally recognized for winning two national championships under the leadership of now-legendary coach Garland Allen. He remembers being around Gardner-Webb golfers like Jim Franklin, Wayne Myers, Steve Sherman and Zim Zimmerman, now all GWU Athletics Hall of Fame members.

At about eight years old, Burton started playing the sport himself. "I don't really remember not playing golf," he relates. "We had a good group of kids around our community, and we played with each other. I found something I enjoyed and people I enjoyed spending time with. That continues to be true."

Burton became a standout golfer at nearby Crest High School and then an all-conference and All-American athlete at the University of North Carolina. After college, he competed on professional golf tours for a decade and regularly attended the PGA Tour Qualifying School in pursuit of playing privileges on the sport's highest stage.

He continued to regularly practice at River Bend, where Gardner-Webb's golf team has also prepared itself for competition through the years. And it was the local course where he connected with the opportunity to become the University's golf coach in 2000, during GWU's move to NCAA Division I.

Burton has since directed GWU to another national title—the National Christian College Athletic Association championship in 2001—and coached numerous scholar and all-conference student-athletes on both the men's and women's teams.



His approach to coaching the sport rests on the principle that each individual has strengths and weaknesses. "Golf is unique to everyone," he elaborates. "I let golfers continue to do things they do well, and I want to help improve the things they aren't doing well. When we get better individually, we can get better as a team."

Burton enjoys coaching college golfers because he believes it's more about the team performance than

just the individual result. He appreciates the specific opportunities at Gardner-Webb to help young adults improve academically, athletically and spiritually. In his role, he even teaches a physical education course and imparts on his students that golf can be valuable as a social and professional skill in the business world.

His own college coach continues to be among his mentors for leadership, recruiting and life guidance. And many of those successful Gardner-Webb golfers he watched as a young boy now offer their support to the program he leads. Burton hopes to offer that same lifetime support to student-athletes on the teams he coaches, long after individuals complete their golf careers at the University.

"My coach always pushed me to get better. That's one of the things I've always tried to do here: help our students reach the goals they have," Burton shares. "Golf is a lot like life: Do things you're good at and you'll be successful. I want to help our young men and women succeed in the areas where they excel."





Dr. Tony Eastman

# Trio of *influence*

*Three Longtime Outstanding GWU Social Science Professors Honored Through New Scholarship*

*By Niki Bliss-Carroll*

Gardner-Webb University has established a new scholarship in honor of three outstanding former GWU social sciences professors. The Blackburn-Eastman-Hambright (BEH) Humanities Scholarship Fund will provide support for a rising GWU senior majoring in one of the social sciences. To institute a permanent endowed scholarship fund, organizers are working to raise \$25,000 over the next five years.

Andy Polk, an alumnus behind the idea, is just one of thousands of students influenced by the careers and personalities of Drs. Blackburn, Eastman, and Hambright.

"For many of us, Dr. Gil Blackburn, Dr. Tony Eastman, and the late Dr. Barry Hambright were more than our professors; they were our mentors and friends," said Polk, who earned a Bachelor



Dr. Barry Hambright



Dr. Gil Blackburn

of Arts in Business Administration and Political Science from GWU in 2002. “I had the pleasure of learning under the tutelage of all three of Gardner-Webb University’s own triumvirate. I can still remember their words of wisdom and their mannerisms in class each day. Most important, I remember seeing their integrity and honor in action—perhaps the greatest example they gave us all.”

Dr. Tim Vanderburg, GWU Professor of History, is another former student who was shaped by their guidance. “These professors had a profound influence on me. I attended Gardner-Webb College from 1977 to 1981 and graduated with a social science degree. I took history classes with Drs. Blackburn and Eastman and took all of my political science classes with Dr. Hambright,” Vanderburg recounted. “I won the political science award as a senior in 1981, which was presented by Dr. Hambright. When I came back to work at GWU in 2000 as a history instructor, my former professors, Dr. Eastman and Dr. Hambright, became my colleagues. The legacy of these professors has been carried forward in my life as it has in others.”

**Russ Horne (GWU Alumnus)** These gentlemen gave me a great gift, a love of history and how it affects present day events. I often would fill up a blue book and would want to keep writing but the class would be over so I would sheepishly hand in my work... I wanted these men to know they were not wasting their time with me. Thank you for my lifelong love of history. Still working at it.

Other faculty members say they are committed to continuing the heritage of excellence established by Blackburn, Eastman, and Hambright. “When I was offered the chance to be at Gardner-Webb after Dr. Eastman announced his retirement, someone said he would give his final lecture to a packed house of students and alumni,” shared Dr. Joseph Moore, assistant professor of history and chair of the department. “I drove down from Greensboro just to see it and I remember thinking, ‘Now that is a legacy.’ It is my great privilege to know Dr. Eastman and to work inside of the legacy he and Drs. Hambright and Blackburn built over their long careers.”

These social sciences professors and their students represent the best that Gardner-Webb has to offer. “Though their offices and classrooms were hidden under a chapel for most of their careers, these three men reshaped Gardner-Webb as an institution and put thousands of students on the path to more enlightened lives,” Polk offered. “For their dedication to students and the University, these men have earned the right to be recognized and remembered. There is no better way to honor them than with a scholarship fund.”

*University officials are encouraging donations to the BEH Humanities Scholarship so future students can experience the legacy these three professors established. For more information on how to give, contact Steven Bessert at 704-406-2320 or visit [gardner-webb.edu/BEH-scholarship](http://gardner-webb.edu/BEH-scholarship).*



Listen to Dr. Vanderburg and Dr. Joseph Moore discuss the lasting legacy of these men at [gardner-webb.edu/trio](http://gardner-webb.edu/trio)

# BOOKMARKS

\*In each issue of the Gardner-Webb Magazine we will publish notes focusing on books written by Gardner-Webb authors in this section.



**JOSH ARMSTRONG '10** published "Picture of Grace," a book about a six-year-old who aspires to be an artist like her beloved grandfather, Walt. When tragedy strikes, Grace takes it upon herself to honor her grandfather in a special way and, in doing so, she uncovers a secret about Walt's final, unfinished masterpiece. Armstrong earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services at Gardner-Webb. He now works for Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care in Mount Airy, N.C. He wrote "Picture of Grace" to help children with grief. The book is available via Amazon.com.



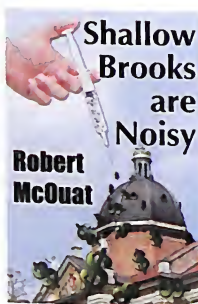
**DREW BRIDGES '67** published "The Family in the Mirror," a psychological mystery about hidden identity and survival. It is Bridges' fourth book and draws from his 40-year career as a psychiatrist. The book is available via online book-sellers such as Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and bookstore.iuniverse.com, as well as edrewbridges.com.



**DR. DOUG EURY** (professor and dean, School of Education), **Dr. John Balls** (former School of Education faculty member) and **Dr. Jane King** (retired School of Education faculty member) published the third edition of their textbook, "Rethink, Rebuild, Rebound... The Three R's of Education: A Framework for Shared Responsibility and Accountability in Education," and an accompanying workbook in June 2016. Walter Dalton, former lieutenant governor of North Carolina, wrote the forward for the book. It is available via Amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble.



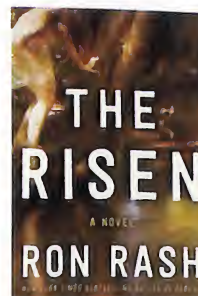
**JEN GUBERMAN '18** self-published her first novel, "Eos," which takes place in a society where criminals are sent to live in four different towns based on the crimes they commit. The book is available on her website, EosDawn.DoodleKit.com. Guberman is a student in Gardner-Webb's Department of Communication & New Media.



**ROBERT MCQUAT** (adjunct professor in the educational leadership program at Gardner-Webb) published "Shallow Brooks are Noisy," a dark satire about modern academia that borrows elements from Greek mythology to concoct a funny rumination on the roles of gods and men. The book is available via Amazon.com.



**MATTHEW '97** and **MICHELLE '96 NORMAN** co-authored a resource for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). "Pivot: Turning Teams Toward God's Mission Near and Far" is geared toward those seeking deeper meaning in short-term mission experiences. The publication considers and offers guidance on the impact of the local community, as well as teams of the short-term trips. "Pivot" seeks to train individuals and congregations, including clergy and laity, to think critically about cross-cultural mission engagement. Matthew and Michelle are CBF field personnel serving in Barcelona, Spain.



**RON RASH '76** published his seventh novel, "The Risen," the tale of two brothers whose lives are altered irrevocably by the events of one long-ago summer and the secrets that could destroy their lives. The book is available via Harper Collins Publishers, at Amazon.com, or via booksellers including Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million.



The Gardner-Webb Division of University Marketing published the third edition of the "GWU Faculty Emeriti Book," which includes individual biographies that chronicle the lives and works of more than 40 outstanding faculty members who have received the emeriti distinction. The book also includes a brief history of the University, as well as biographies of the institution's individual presidents. The book is available in digital format at [gardner-webb.edu/facultyemeriti](http://gardner-webb.edu/facultyemeriti) and in print by request through the John R. Dover Memorial Library. Requests may be emailed to [libraryav@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:libraryav@gardner-webb.edu) and must include name, contact information, number of copies to print and payment information. Print copies are \$15.75 each.

If you would like to submit your information to Bookmarks, please email Jackie Bridges at [jbridges9@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:jbridges9@gardner-webb.edu) or click on the Submit a Class Act link at [gardner-webb.edu/magazine](http://gardner-webb.edu/magazine).

# Class Acts

## The 1970s

**JEAN SPARKS BLANKENSHIP '76** recently retired after a 40-year career in nursing. After receiving her associate's degree in nursing from Gardner-Webb, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing at the University of Virginia and worked for 15 years at Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville, Va. She held roles as clinical educator, manager of community outreach services and responsibilities for the hospital's recognition as a Magnet organization by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). She was appointed by the ANCC as a Magnet appraiser from 2007-15, evaluating nursing practice in hospitals across the country. She is also published in a number of peer-reviewed journals.

**RANDY JETTON '77** received his Doctor of Theology degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary (Camilla, Ga.). He is teaching online undergraduate courses at the Washington Institute of Theological Studies. Randy is a pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Richfield, N.C.

**JEFF CARTER '78** was inducted into the Newton-Conover High School (Newton, N.C.) Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015. He lettered in football, basketball and track at NCHS. He excelled in football, where he was all-conference, team MVP and an NCHS Athlete of the Year. At Gardner-Webb, Carter was a two-time NAIA All-American. He was inducted into the GWU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994. He now serves as vice president of sales for Southern Glove in Newton.

## The 1980s

**JIMMY ANDERSON '89** joined the S.C. Strength Coaches Hall of Fame in recognition of his efforts to help student-athletes develop their strength and conditioning for athletic competition. A presentation was made by the S.C. Football Coaches Association on Feb. 19, 2016, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He has been a strength coach since finishing his college football career at Gardner-Webb in 1989. He became interested in strength and conditioning while a student at Gardner-Webb and spent the first three years of his career as a strength coach at the school.

## The 1990s

**PAUL CREWS '90** graduated in April 2016 from Southern Evangelical Seminary in Matthews, N.C., with a Doctorate of Ministry in Apologetics degree. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Education at Gardner-Webb.



**BRIAN MILLER '92** received his Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in May 2016. His Doctor of Ministry Project was a qualitative research study entitled: "Exploring Moral Injury in Combat Veterans." He is a board-certified and Alliance of Baptists-endorsed chaplain at the Mountain Home Veteran Affairs Healthcare System in Johnson City, Tenn. He works in pastoral and relational counseling, inpatient psychiatry and outpatient mental health. He graduated from Gardner-Webb with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies.

**LORI NANNEY '92** received the 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award at Cleveland Community College (CCC). The honor was presented in May 2016 by the CCC Foundation. Nanney, who has taught at CCC since 2006, serves as education instructor and education department chair. She earned her bachelor's, master's and Doctor of Education degrees at Gardner-Webb.



**KEVIN QUALLS '93** has recently taken on the role of President of Christian Adoption Services in Matthews, N.C. He previously served as associate pastor at FBC Charlotte following churches in Indian Trail, N.C., and Florence and Spartanburg, S.C., for the past 20-plus years. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Gardner-Webb.

**JEANNIE BRITAIN '95** was named 2015-16 Washington Elementary School (Shelby, N.C.) Teacher of the Year. A third-grade teacher, she earned a Bachelor of Science at Gardner-Webb, has served at Washington Elementary for 16 years and has worked in education for 20 years total.

**KIMBERLY HOUSER JENKINS '96** was inducted into the Lincoln County (N.C.) Sports Hall of Fame in 2016. She was a standout athlete at West Lincoln High School, where she earned 12 varsity athletics letters. She averaged double figures in scoring all four years on the basketball court and continues to be the school's leading career scorer with more than 1,700 points. At Gardner-Webb, she was a four-year starter, a co-captain and team MVP her senior year. In 2011, she was named GWU Women's Basketball Alumnus of the Year.

**KATHY FOSTER '98** was recently named chairperson for the Human Services Technology Program at Carteret Community College in Morehead City, N.C.





# CONQUERED CRISIS

*Japanese Family Comes to Gardner-Webb, Finds Ministry in America*

*By Jackie Bridges*

A friend and mentor convinced Akihiko “Aki” and Yoko Shigemi to leave their home in Yamaguchi, Japan, 20 years ago and come to America. With support from the Gardner-Webb University family, Aki earned his Master of Divinity in 1998. When his wife decided to attend divinity school in 2012 and their son, Isaac, started looking at colleges, Aki’s first and only recommendation was Gardner-Webb.

“I love Gardner-Webb and I love Boiling Springs (N.C.) and Shelby (N.C.),” Aki affirmed.

The Shigemis came to America after experiencing a series of life-changing events in 1993. Married for more than a decade, they celebrated the birth of their son in February. But in March, Aki’s father was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in October. During his father’s illness, his mother became further debilitated from rheumatoid arthritis.

While dealing with the changes at home, the church that Aki pastored more than doubled in membership. Overwhelmed

responsibilities to his family and the congregation, Aki was hospitalized with depression. Yoko felt alone as she cared for a 7-month-old baby, her husband, mother-in-law and the church. “At that time, I cried out, ‘God, what should I do?’” Yoko recalled.

She sensed the answer was to call Jean Teague Cabaniss, a Gardner-Webb alumna who had served as a missionary in Japan. Cabaniss taught English at Seinan Gakuin University and led a Bible study at the church where Yoko worked as secretary. The Shigemis became good friends with Cabaniss and visited her in America before Isaac was born. After leaving the mission field, Cabaniss was working as GWU Director of International Student Programs.

Hearing Yoko and Aki’s despair, Cabaniss advised the couple to come to America, so they could be surrounded by friends, and Aki could enroll in the GWU School of Divinity. The Shigemis started making plans and in 1996, arrived with two suitcases, a few other belongings and 3-year-old Isaac.



Jean Cabaniss



Aki Shigemi leading a group at his church

“Gardner-Webb family and friends helped us to settle down,” Yoko shared. “Dr. Sheri Adams (Professor of Theology and Church History) was concerned for our situation, especially for my son who did not bring books and toys with him. She shared her daughter’s toys. When my husband was stressed out at the divinity school, Dr. Adams and her husband, Dr. Bob, welcomed me and listened to my story kindly, and provided care like God’s care—like under the wings of the hen (Psalm 91:4).”

Although he was only 3 years old, Isaac remembers how the GWU family helped his parents for two years while his father was a student in the School of Divinity. “The Christian background and caring for one another was one of the main reasons why we were able to survive,” Isaac shared. “One of the churches gave us a place to stay, and gave us some food sometimes and

helped us grow so that we could live in the United States.”

When Aki graduated with his Master of Divinity in 1998, Dr. Bob Lamb, the founding dean of the School of Divinity, suggested he send resumes to the state Baptist conventions in North and South Carolina. Aki was hired by the South Carolina Baptist State Convention as a Japanese minister and started a congregation in Greenville, S.C. His ministry has expanded to include groups in Anderson, S.C., Greer, S.C., and Columbia, S.C.

While helping her husband with his ministry, Yoko studied psychology at a local college and chaplaincy at the area hospital. “I realized that I needed more theology and spiritual formation,” she assessed. “I decided to come to Gardner-Webb.”

She graduated in May with a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care and Counseling



Isaac Shigemi

and is working part time as a chaplain. Isaac graduated from GWU in July with degrees in violin performance and music business. He is pursuing a

Master of Arts in Music Performance at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C.

As they look back on their lives, Aki and Yoko are thankful for the ways God has provided for their family and allowed them to minister to others. “Every time we got into a crisis, God led ahead,” Aki explained. “Everything is just like a miracle.”



Yoko Shigemi during GWU's Divinity School hooding

## SARAH KILGO '98

was named the 2016 Outstanding Alumnus at Isothermal Community College (ICC) in Spindale, N.C. Now a business sciences instructor at Isothermal, she earned a bachelor's degree at Gardner-Webb. She taught at Cleveland and Rutherford county schools before joining ICC full time in 2008.

## RALPH KITLEY '98

received the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's (NCHSAA) Bob Deaton Principal of the Year award. The NCHSAA annually presents the award in seven categories, all based on those "who have done the most for high school athletics," rather than a single accomplishment or a win-loss record. Kitley has served as principal of Northwest Guilford High School in Greensboro, N.C., since 2009. He earned a master's degree from Gardner-Webb.

## JOHN ENAMAIT '99

was named president of Stanly Community College, based in Albemarle, N.C. His professional experience in the education field includes roles as vice president of instruction at Edgecombe Community College in Tarboro, N.C., and dean of the School of Business, Industry and Technology at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, N.C. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and his Master of Business Administration degree at Gardner-Webb. He earned his Ph.D. in technology management with a digital communication specialization from Indiana State University in 2012.

## CINDY STONE '99

was named principal of Cooleemee Elementary School in Davie County, N.C. Previously, she taught for 18 years at Courtney and Harmony elementary schools before becoming the assistant principal at Cooleemee Elementary. She received her master's degree in elementary education from Gardner-Webb.

# The 2000s

## MATTHEW SORRELLS '00

was appointed as branch manager of United Federal Credit Union (UFCU) branch in Asheville, N.C., where he will be responsible for providing operational leadership to branch staff, including staff development and retention, and growth of branch sales performance. He has more than 15 years of experience in the financial industry, including duties with Wells Fargo, National City Bank, T. Rowe Price Company and Bank of America. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Marketing at Gardner-Webb.

## CHRISTY LAND '02

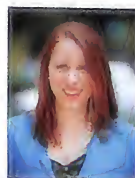
was appointed to the North Carolina Association of Young CPAs (Certified Public Accountants) Cabinet for a three-year term. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting at Gardner-Webb and serves as director of the accounting program at Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC).

## MARCHE PITTMAN '02

was inducted into the Rotary Club of Tryon (N.C.) earlier this year. A Polk County (N.C.) native, he is the county manager and resides in Columbus.

## BRANDON GENTRY '03

was named head football coach at Northwest Cabarrus High School near Concord, N.C. He previously served as defensive coordinator for two seasons at T.L. Hanna High School in Anderson, S.C., following coaching stints at Crest High School in Boiling Springs, N.C., West Charlotte High in Charlotte, N.C., and Byrnes High in Duncan, S.C. Gentry played football for three seasons at Gardner-Webb. He is also a graduate of nearby Crest High School.



## ERIN ODOM '03

signed a two-book deal with Zondervan Publishers, an imprint of HarperCollins. Her first book, "More Than Just Making It," is expected to be released in 2017, and her second book, "Staying at Home with Your Kids When

You Can Barely Afford It," is expected to be released in 2018. She has also created *TheHumbledHomemaker.com*, a website that garners millions of readers each year.

## TABITHA BROADWAY '04

was appointed as director of secondary education for Davidson County (N.C.) Schools. She received her master's degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb. She began teaching in 1995 and has served in administrative positions since 2005.



## JILL (BUSICK) CHAPPELL '05

was appointed branch manager of Carter Bank & Trust's Virginia offices in Ararat and Woolwine. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at Gardner-Webb. She has worked more than 10 years in banking and now lives in Mt. Airy, N.C., where she is also an EMT-Advanced with the Cana (Va.) Volunteer Rescue Squad.

## CARRIE BRINKLEY JONES '06

was inducted into the Kings Mountain (N.C.) Hall of Fame in May 2016. She was a three-sport athlete at Kings Mountain High School and standout volleyball player at Gardner-Webb. Still a record-holder at both schools, she was inducted into the Hall of Fame by her sister, Kristie Brinkley Williams, a 2004 Gardner-Webb graduate.

## DR. LORY MORROW '06

was named 2016 Regional Superintendent of the Year by the Piedmont Triad Education Consortium in North Carolina. She has served as superintendent of Davidson County (N.C.) Schools since 2014 and is the district's first female superintendent. During the past 25 years, Morrow has worked in four school districts across North Carolina as an elementary school teacher, literacy facilitator, assistant principal, principal, executive director and deputy superintendent. She earned her Ed.D. in educational leadership and a M.Ed. in school administration from Gardner-Webb. She was a member of the first doctoral cohort at Gardner-Webb and the first from that group to be named superintendent.

**MATTHEW DIMICK '07**

became the staff chaplain for pediatrics at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City as part of the interdisciplinary team of the Sala Institute for Child and Family Centered Care. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in religious studies and English from Gardner-Webb and his Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work from Boston University.

**AL VANEGAS '07**

was appointed national loss prevention manager with Charlotte-based Compass Group, a leading food service management and support services company. He previously served as director of loss prevention for the Southeast division of Dollar General, and he has also held leadership roles with Lowe's and Neiman Marcus. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Gardner-Webb.

**JOANNA HELTON WOODRUM '07**

has been named as an academic advisor and admissions counselor at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, N.C.



**NATALIE PIPPIN BRITT '08** graduated from Mercer University School of Medicine with an M.D. At her graduation, she was honored with several awards, including

the T.A. Sappinton award for outstanding performance in family medicine from the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians, the most outstanding student in emergency medicine, the most outstanding student in family medicine, Distinction in Service to the Community and the Gold Humanism Society Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. She will complete a family medicine residency at Memorial Health in Savannah, Ga. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, with a minor in chemistry, at Gardner-Webb.

**NICOLE FREDERICK '08**

was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a Pinnacle Professional in the field of Telecommunications. She serves as a compensation analyst with CommScope, a national telecommunications company

that specializes in the creation of contemporary technology, quality engineering and energy-efficient network designs. The National Association of Professional Women recognized Frederick as the VIP Woman of The Year. She earned her bachelor's degree in business administration at Gardner-Webb.

**LATOYA CARTER JONES '08**

became head women's basketball coach at Chowan University on June 1, 2016. She previously served three seasons as an assistant coach before becoming the director of basketball operations for the 2015-16 season at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She also served as an assistant coach for two years at Gardner-Webb.

**MATT WALTERS '08**

has been named Vice President, Director of Account Services at VisionPoint Marketing in Raleigh, N.C.

**LANCE WARE '08**

was honored by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association with the 2015-16 Harvey Reid Male Coach of the Year honor, in conjunction with the N.C. Coaches Association. The award covers male coaches in all sports sanctioned by the NCHSAA. As head football coach at Shelby (N.C.) High School, his alma mater in his native hometown, his teams won three straight state football championships from 2013-2015. Ware received a master's degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb.

**SAM WOODRUM '08**

recently completed a Master of Education in School Counseling Degree at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (August 2016) and started working as a school counselor at A. B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary in Raleigh, N.C.

**TAYLOR HUTCHINS '09**

lives in Salisbury, N.C., and is serving as media director at St. Johns Lutheran Church. He has also created and owns a collaborative office space in Salisbury called 10thread, which also offers classes for topics such as Apple product training, grant writing and entrepreneurship.

Hutchins earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies at Gardner-Webb.

## The 2010s

**GLENN COOK '10**

was named 2016 Gaston County (N.C.) Schools Assistant Principal of the Year. Cook currently serves as an administrator at Stuart Cramer High School in Cramerton, N.C. He earned a master's degree in school administration at Gardner-Webb.

**JERRY HENDERSON '10**

was named principal of H.E. McCracken Middle School in Bluffton, S.C. He previously served as director of the Beaufort-Jasper Academy of Career Excellence in South Carolina. Before that, he was an assistant principal for four years at Beaufort (S.C.) Middle School, and he served nine years as an industrial technology teacher in Fort Mill, S.C. He earned a master's degree in school administration at Gardner-Webb.

**CRAIG SMITH '10**

was named principal of Lake Norman Charter High School in Huntersville, N.C. He previously served as interim principal of the school. Prior to joining Lake Norman Charter, he worked for four years as assistant principal at Ashbrook High School in Gastonia, N.C. He also has experience as a teacher, coach and dean of students at Hopewell High School in Huntersville.

**JONATHAN BRYANT '11**

was named chief administrator at Lincoln Charter School, which operates campuses in Denver and Lincolnton, N.C. He has previously served as assistant chief administrator at the school, which is the state's largest charter school. He has worked at Lincoln Charter for eight years. He has a master's degree in educational leadership from Gardner-Webb.

# 'MIRACLE' MANEUVERS

*"Sully" Film Release Prompts Reflection for Ben Bostic '01, Survivor of Hudson River Plane Crash*

*By Matthew Tessnear*



Ben Bostic

Out the window of his airplane, Gardner-Webb University alumnus Ben Bostic stared straight down at the Hudson River near New York City. Just seconds earlier, he had heard a booming noise, felt a jarring motion, sensed a burning smell and noticed one of the aircraft's engines was in flames. Then he heard a voice on the cabin speaker: "This is your captain. Brace for impact."

“My heart just fell out of my chest,” Bostic remembers. “But what was really surprising to me was it only took a couple of seconds and I had this feeling of calmness wash over me. I lamented the fact there may have been some things in my life I hadn’t done yet. Did I hug a loved one the last time I saw them? Then a sense of calm, and I had no control over it. I assumed the position and was pretty sure I was going to die.”

Bostic, who earned his Bachelor of Science in Information Systems through GWU’s Degree Completion Program in 2001, occupied seat 20A on U.S. Airways Flight 1549 on that day, Jan. 15, 2009. He had only been in New York for about 24 hours on a business trip for his job with a tech company in the Charlotte region. But just moments after departing

from LaGuardia Airport in New York on a return flight to Charlotte, N.C., his plane struck a flock of geese, causing both engines to lose power. The captain, Chesley Sullenberger, led a series of quick maneuvers to land the craft in the river below.

After crashing into the water, metal from the plane crumpled around Bostic and the other nearly 150 passengers and crew on board. Cold water quickly flowed into the vessel. But despite a number of injuries, everyone on board escaped and survived. The events that day have now widely become known as the “Miracle on the Hudson.”



Workers secure US Flight 1549 out of the Hudson River

## “This is your captain. Brace for impact.”

“I remember looking at my fingers and my feet and being in shock I was in one piece,” Bostic recalls. “I followed a lady up the left side of the seats and ended up going out the front right side of the plane and into a raft. That’s the moment when I felt like, ‘OK, we’re going to get out of this.’”

After the rescue and global media coverage, Bostic and many of the other passengers and crew members suffered from varying forms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Both the trials and honors of the captain, who became renowned simply as “Sully,” have been widely chronicled.

A film, based on Sully’s autobiography and bearing his name, was released this fall, bringing with it memories of the “Miracle” for Bostic and other passengers and crew of Flight 1549. Bostic says it was a gradual process getting through stages of his own PTSD. In the first days after the experience, he struggled to sleep and eat.

“It’s difficult for me to say when I got past it. It disrupts your whole world view and belief system up to that point,” he shares. “But it taught me to be true to myself, not try to make everyone happy, live a more inspiring life, be more positive and optimistic than I was, especially when it comes to challenges in life.

“I wake up every day now and one of the first things I do is look out the window and smile up at the sun, just to see it again for another day.”



Hear the full interview with Ben at [gardner-webb.edu/miracle](http://gardner-webb.edu/miracle)

# Tragedy Ignites Call to Service

*Terrorist Attacks 15 Years Ago Ignited Kacey Hawley Whisler's '03 Desire to Serve Country*

By Matthew Tessnear

Like many Americans, Kacey Hawley Whisler's life path changed on Sept. 11, 2001, a day thousands died in terrorist attacks in several U.S. locations. At that time, Whisler was a nursing student at Gardner-Webb University, and she vividly remembers grieving with her fellow students on campus.

"That day changed each of us," she recalls. "I felt a calling to serve our great country and be part of something bigger than myself."

Spurred by 9/11 events, Whisler met with a U.S. Air Force recruiter at the Snack Shop restaurant across from campus in Boiling Springs to learn about military opportunities.

"I was hooked," she recalls of the conversation that offered clarity for her career and life as she committed to three years of service in the military. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Gardner-Webb in 2003, she was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

Whisler was stationed in Idaho before being promoted to first lieutenant, selected as a flight nurse and transferred to Okinawa, Japan. There she was part of the 18th Aeromedical Squadron that transported patients in critical condition from the Pacific and Hawaii back to the U.S. mainland for treatment. While in Okinawa, she was deployed in support of several missions, including Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Flying out of the country of Qatar, she assisted with medical evacuation missions out of Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa, caring for injured service personnel and helping them return to their families. In total, she flew 165 combat hours in 62 missions.

"Working as a flight nurse put me in the position to directly affect the mission, and that was the highlight of my nursing career," she assesses. "During my Qatar deployment, I was able to evacuate over 200 wounded warriors out of battle from Iraq and Afghanistan. The survival rate for injuries was 98 percent because of the coordinated efforts of a robust joint service medical transport system.



Kacey Whisler (left)

"Playing a role in getting wounded troops the healthcare services they need in order to get them home and healthy will have a lasting impact," she continues. "To me, that means Christmases, birthday parties, graduations, weddings—more time with family."

After being honorably discharged from the Air Force with a rank of captain, Whisler continued with the Air Force Reserve and with the Veterans Health Administration in Utah. Following several ensuing opportunities, she and her husband moved to Arizona, where she now serves as senior nurse manager for emergency and trauma services at Banner Boswell Medical Center in Phoenix. She provides 24-hour support to patients and staff, overseeing leadership of clinical, financial and personnel management of several areas.

Looking back on 9/11's impact 15 years ago, she credits the Gardner-Webb Hunt School of Nursing with providing a firm professional foundation and the support to pursue her call to serve her country.

"Gardner-Webb taught me how to focus on the bigger meaning of servanthood," she explains, "by emphasizing the importance of ethics, morals and faith."



Kacey Whisler

**TODD WHALEN '11**

was named principal of the Waynesville Alternative School and community resource coordinator for the Waynesville R-VI School District in Missouri. He was previously a social studies teacher and dean of students at Hopewell High School in Charlotte, N.C., the assistant principal at East Rowan High School in Salisbury, N.C., and the assistant principal at Waynesville Middle School in Missouri. He received his master's degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb.

**DANIEL FIELDER '12**

was named the assistant principal at India Hook Elementary School. He previously served as a fourth-grade teacher at the school since 2013, and he was India Hook's teacher of the year in 2015. He received his master's degree in executive leadership studies from Gardner-Webb.

**BRITTANY WILSON '12**

was promoted to fundraising and recruitment director for "24 Hours of Booty," a Charlotte, N.C.-area charity cycling event dedicated to cancer navigation and survivorship. She graduated from Gardner-Webb with a bachelor's degree in communication studies and public relations, with a minor in business administration.

**APRIL DOCKERY '13**

was named the new principal at Asheville Middle School in Asheville, N.C. During her 15 years with Asheville City Schools, she has worked at the high school as a math teacher, as district math instructional coach and as assistant principal. In 2012, she joined the central office, working as executive director of K-12 Teaching and Learning. She received her master's degree from Gardner-Webb.

**MARK POLSGROVE '13**

was named men's basketball director of player development at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. He will oversee player development for the program. He previously spent three seasons working with the men's basketball program at Gardner-Webb. He earned his Bachelor of Science in sport management from Gardner-Webb. He completed a master's

degree in business administration, with a focus in leading and managing human resources, at Appalachian State in 2016.

**LANCE EDMONDS '14**

was accepted into Liberty University's School of Law in Lynchburg, Va. For the past six years, he has worked full time at a criminal defense law firm.

**BROOK GRAVES '14**

was sworn in as community corrections officer in Surry County, N.C., working out of the Dobson office. She graduated from basic law enforcement training in February 2016 and during that time shadowed veteran probation officers, assisting with case management. She studied human services at Gardner-Webb, where she earned her bachelor's degree.

**W. JEFFREY BOOKER '15**

was named the North Carolina Southwest Region School Superintendent of the Year for 2016-17. Presented by the Southwest Education Alliance, he was selected for the honor by other superintendents in the Southwest Region, from among 10 other public school district superintendents in nine counties across the greater Charlotte region. His recognition qualified him for the North Carolina Superintendent of the Year honor. He has served as superintendent at Gaston County Schools (N.C.) since January 2014, where he previously served as the deputy superintendent of operations. He received his master's degree in education from Gardner-Webb.

**AJ FRANCIONI '15**

accepted a position in UNC Chapel Hill's Doctorate of Physical Therapy program. She plans to pursue a specialty in neurological disorders upon graduating.

**JESSICA MAYS '15**

was named the new principal of Claremont Elementary School in Claremont, N.C. Previously, she was a classroom teacher for both Caldwell and Wilkes county school systems in North Carolina, an assistant principal at both Ellendale and Wittenburg elementary schools in Taylorsville, N.C.,

and the principal of both Ellendale and Taylorsville elementary schools. She received her doctorate in educational leadership from Gardner-Webb.

**ZACHARY SMITH '15**

has worked since graduation at Duke University Hospital in Durham, N.C. He has served in nurse recruitment and was promoted to recruiting EMTs.

**ANNA BURGESS '16**

began work at Forest City Family Care, a physician practice of the Rutherford Regional Health System (RRHS) in North Carolina. She has worked as a registered nurse in the emergency department and as a clinical supervisor at Carolinas HealthCare System Cleveland. She earned Master of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Associate of Arts in Nursing degrees at Gardner-Webb, where she is a graduate of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program.

**CARL TAYLOR '16**

was named principal of East Henderson High School in East Flat Rock, N.C. Previously, Carl taught mathematics at East Henderson for 15 years before becoming the school's assistant principal for two years. He received his School Administration Licensure from Gardner-Webb.

**SAVANNA YOUNT '16**

began work at Rutherford Children's Care, a physician practice of the Rutherford Regional Health System (RRHS) in North Carolina. She has completed clinical rotations in pediatrics, mental health, family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, dermatology, emergency medicine and OB/GYN. She earned a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree at Gardner-Webb and also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish.





# SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

**ERIN M. GRACE '02 WORKS WITH MILLIONS OF SPECIES AT CALIFORNIA SCIENCE MUSEUM**

**BY JACKIE BRIDGES**

A typical work day for Erin McDonald Grace might include doing a physical on a shark, assisting with a surgery on a waxy monkey tree frog or communing with the penguins. The 2002 graduate of Gardner-Webb University is a registrar and senior animal health biologist at the Steinhart Aquarium at the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) in San Francisco, Calif.

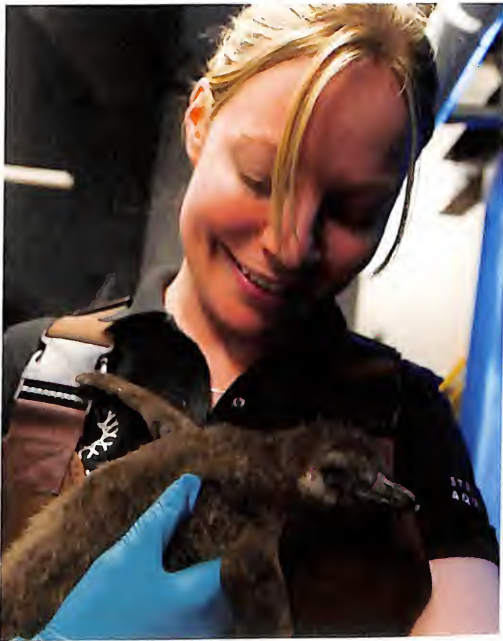
Based in Golden Gate Park, CAS houses an aquarium, planetarium, and natural history museum, as well as innovative programs in scientific research and education. The Academy has nearly 46 million scientific specimens—one of the largest and most varied in the world.



“While working with our diverse collection at the Academy, I’m constantly amazed with the subtle differences amongst species,” Grace shared.

Her favorite animals are the manatees and penguins, and she’s never been afraid of any creature—even tarantulas and snakes. “I’ve always fancied every animal no matter the taxonomy,” Grace confided. “Coming to CAS was the first time I had ever worked with reptiles. It was this experience that taught me they have very distinct personalities, and I was captivated by their charm.”

She has no qualms about getting in a shallow pool to coax a shark into a vinyl stretcher and then helping take its body measurements and draw blood. The shark’s weight is measured by attaching the stretcher to a crane that briefly lifts the fish out of the water.



Erin with a baby penguin

Grace, who grew up in Marietta, Ga., developed a love for animals and a desire to preserve nature from an early age. “I started volunteering at the Cobb County (Ga.) Humane Society when I was 10 years old and knew I would pursue a career in the animal field,” she reflected.

With her intense and longtime interest in animals, Grace’s major in American Sign Language (ASL) doesn’t seem to fit her career. But an experience she had in high school gave her a desire to learn ASL and work with the deaf community. Gardner-Webb’s reputable sign language and interpreting program was recommended to her by an advisor at another college.

She enjoyed all of her ASL classes and was immersed in the deaf culture. “I was fortunate to have a deaf professor, a deaf roommate my junior year and was surrounded by an awesome welcoming deaf community,” she explained. “As anyone will attest, the best way to learn a foreign language is to be fully immersed in the language and the culture.”

Despite her exceptional experience as an ASL major, Grace couldn’t abandon her love for animals. “My professor supported me when I shifted my minor from interpreting to biology. That enabled me to open the door to working with animals while still staying involved in the deaf community,” she related. “It was my minor in biology that enabled me to get hired in my first animal husbandry position at the Georgia Aquarium. And my education has been very valuable when we have deaf guests visit the Academy, and I get to share some of the highlights with them.”



Her duties also include taking care of the animals in quarantine. “All of the animals we acquire, whether from another facility, independent breeder, or government confiscation, must go through a 30-day quarantine period to make sure there are no pathogens or parasites transferred to our current collection,” she explained.

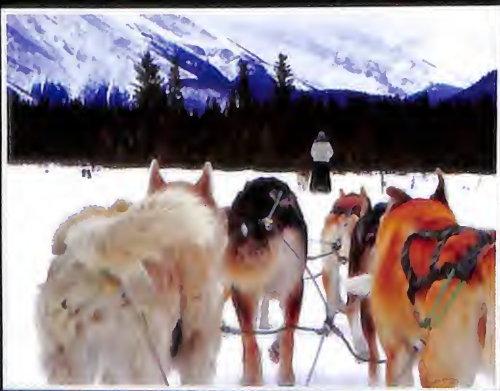
After her work with the animals, she puts on her “registrar hat,” which includes contacting other organizations about receiving animals. She calls airlines to book flights for the animals, renews any permits that need attention, and updates records for the in-house collection. “It’s truly gratifying to coordinate the whole transaction of the animals, pick them up from the airport, transfer them into terrestrial quarantine, maintain their care and treatment, then deliver healthy animals onto exhibit, watch them exhibit natural behaviors and successfully reproduce,” Grace elaborated.

Her goal and the goal of CAS is to help prevent the extinction of endangered species through education, research, and preservation of their natural habitats. She keeps this mission in mind as she interacts with visitors. “I want them to understand that their daily actions—using plastic bags, releasing balloons in the air and littering on the beach—affect the natural world around them,” Grace affirmed. “They have the power to change and make a positive difference.”

# Northern Knight

*Dr. Taylor Ferrier '08 Provides Medical Care in Diverse Settings*

*By Matthew Tessnear*



In the remote northern reaches of Canada's Ontario province, miles from the nearest service roads, Gardner-Webb University alumnus Dr. Taylor Ferrier has provided

medical care to a traditionally underserved, rural population. The residents in communities such as Moose Factory, Attawapiskat and Polar Bear Provincial Park are closer to the brilliant light shows of the aurora borealis than the comforts of a modern medical facility. But Ferrier has flown in to meet their health needs with the skills he has developed in his own life journey.

"It is here you are delivering care with everything you bring with you and your previous training," Ferrier reveals about his work with Aboriginal communities near the Arctic Circle. "You need to

be smart, safe and know how to help those who can be treated, triage others who need to be on an airplane right away and corral entire communities to work together to stay safe. This type of care became much more exciting than being in a major center with all the best tools at your disposal. What you take away with you during these experiences is not the medicine but the people. How extraordinary these people are who live in such remote distances and have such beautiful traditions, stories to tell and seemingly impossible obstacles to overcome."

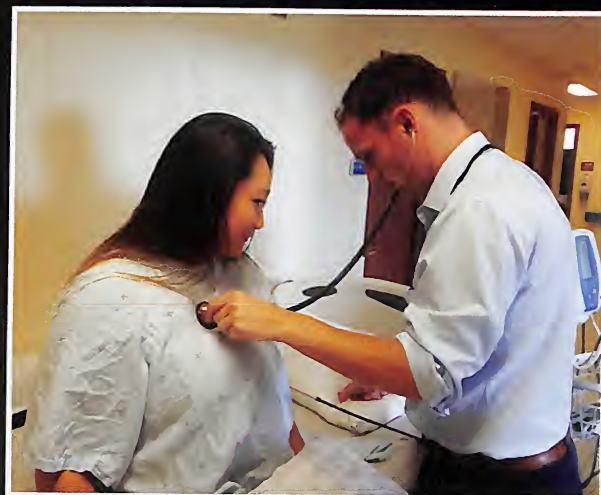
For Ferrier, his path through medical education and into a health career has been about helping people, a theme he also experienced during his undergraduate degree studies in biology and chemistry at Gardner-Webb. Originally from Stratford, Prince Edward Island, Canada, Ferrier came to GWU to play for the tennis team. He discovered an athletics program and coach who invested in his life, well beyond sports.

"(Coach) Mike Griffith not only made playing NCAA Division I tennis a dream come true, but he made certain that academic success was a primary goal, something that sets him apart," Ferrier

asserts. "He taught me how to be a professional, prepared, organized, on time and put your best foot forward, even in the most challenging and grueling times. These simple life lessons are those that many physicians struggle with, and it often makes their professional careers all the more demanding."

Ferrier also felt incredible support from mentors in his science programs and across the entire campus. "Gardner-Webb's greatest asset is that it is replete with a group of professors and staff who are invested in their students, want to see them excel and go to great lengths to see it happen," Ferrier shares. "A program, course or even project is only as successful as the student and professor who mutually embark upon success together. What made my particular Gardner-Webb experience successful were the professors in the science department who fostered my eagerness, demonstrated willingness and supported a platform for my interests and career goals. It was not the lessons taught in the classrooms, albeit important, but the discussions that flowed from them."

After GWU, Ferrier followed the course of his science experiences into work with Dr. Richard Hawkins, an orthopedic surgeon known worldwide for his advancements in surgical approaches to human shoulders. During that time he prepared for graduate school



Dr. Taylor Ferrier with a patient



and eventually chose Memorial University of Newfoundland back in Canada. He earned a Master of Science in Medicine there, with a focus in Clinical Epidemiology, a branch of medicine that deals with emerging diseases and health care systems. During that time his research and work earned multiple fellowships, scholarships and honors, "making instrumental

changes in the healthcare system that today improves the availability of cancer diagnoses to physicians and patients."

Ferrier then entered medical school at the University of Ottawa in Canada's capital and earned his Doctorate in Medicine. "It was there I studied endless nights, continued clinical research and worked in the most remote places nationally and internationally," Ferrier said.

Now in a post-graduate Family Medicine residency program with a focus on Emergency Medicine at the University of Toronto in Ontario, he wants to continue to develop his background and training to better serve people in semi-urban hospital and clinical settings, as well as global and rural communities with limited resources. "It would be a dream of mine to work out a connection for students interested in medicine at Gardner-Webb to join our team for a period of time, learn what it is like to practice medicine, meet patients and make a difference in people's lives," Ferrier offered. "For me, I had multiple mentors, teachers and friends at GWU who offered support and pushed me to have the courage both personally and professionally. GWU taught me some simple things I would tell anyone looking to learn and find their career that is right for them: find your passion, get a mentor and work hard."

# A Courageous Spirit

*Amber Smith '16 Achieved her Educational Goals with Support of GWU Noel Center for Disability Resources*

*By Jackie Bridges*

When Amber Smith '16 of Shelby, N.C., arrived at Gardner-Webb as a freshman in August 2012, it was less than six months after a car accident that almost took her life. In the wreck, she broke her right ankle, both legs, left hip, pelvis, and left arm. She endured a total of six surgeries to repair the fractures.

Despite all the time she spent in the hospital, she graduated with her high school class in June 2012, and her parents, the Rev. Gary and Patty Smith, didn't let her postpone her dream of going to college. "My parents continued to say, 'You are going to school no matter what, and you will be fine,'" Smith shared. "I am so grateful for their encouragement in keeping me motivated, because I was able to gain my independence and trust in myself."

Regaining full use of her legs took three years of physical therapy, so Smith navigated the GWU campus in a motorized wheelchair. "The challenges were the little things like opening doors, getting through doors, and finding bathrooms," Smith recalled. "I received a lot of help from the Noel Center (services for students with disabilities). The Center helped by adding wheelchair ramps to the older buildings and making entrances more accessible. They were truly supportive and really made a difference in my life, which helped me regain confidence in myself. I finally realized that I was going to be okay."

While Smith credits the Noel Center for helping her reach her goals, Cheryl Potter, associate dean of the Noel Center for Disabilities Resources, was impressed with the young woman's courageous spirit. "When I first met Amber I was immediately aware of two positive traits," Potter observed.

"First, I could tell she had a sweet personality and a good heart. Secondly, I noticed her determination to meet her challenges head-on and overcome them. Amber has been remarkable to work with, and I am proud of all her hard work in the classroom and the hard work she put into walking again. She is amazing, and I know she will be successful in her future endeavors."

Smith had decided to attend Gardner-Webb even before the accident. She appreciated the University's Christian community, and her mother is an alumna. Another source of inspiration was her involvement in several campus groups: the E. Jerome Scott Gospel Choir, Campus Civitan Club, Noel Student Advisory Board, Noel Mentors and Delta Alpha Pi Honors Society, which recognizes exceptional students with disabilities who have overcome adversities in the university setting. "I just love the energy and motivation I received from the different activities I was involved in on campus and in the community," Smith noted. "When I got discouraged, the gospel choir kept me going, and it helped to talk with my friends from the choir."

Smith chose to major in business because her goal is to own her own company. After taking some time off from school, she plans to return to Gardner-Webb in 2017 and earn her Master of Business Administration (MBA).

"In business you will always be able to do something or create something with meaning to help others," she offered. "My classes have been challenging, but I am prepared. In each class the expectation is for the student to learn the subject, but mostly to connect the lesson with life, so it can be beneficial for a lifetime."



Amber Smith



# In Memoriam

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## *The 1940s*

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### **RUTH KING '45**

passed away March 4, 2016. She retired from Southern Bell after 30 years of service. She was a volunteer with Kings Mountain(N.C.) Hospital and a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America and Order of the Eastern Star for 50 years.

### **CARL "COTTON" BOLICK '48**

passed away April 25, 2015. He attended Gardner-Webb after serving in the Army Air Corps in World War II. During the war, he was shot down over Germany and spent 18 months in a German prisoner of war camp. He received a Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Medal and additional honors for his service. After college, he served as a high school baseball coach and athletics administrator, including 25 years at West Mecklenburg High School (Charlotte, N.C.), where he is a member of the Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Charlotte Baseball Hall of Fame and North Carolina Athletic Directors Hall of Fame and was awarded the Southeastern Baseball Coach of the Year honor.

### **HALEY DEDMOND '49**

passed away March 26, 2016. He served in the U.S. Navy as a member of the 67th Construction Battalion, the Seabees, in the Pacific Theater in World War II. His and other battalions built runways on which the Enola Gay flew the first atomic bomb to Hiroshima. He later worked for 22 years as dean of learning resources at Cleveland Technical Institute (community college) in Shelby, N.C.

## *The 1950s*

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### **T. ROBERT MULLINAX '51**

passed away Feb. 26, 2016. He served as minister in several First Baptist Churches in North Carolina, as an administrator of higher education for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and as an assistant to the president of Meredith College in Raleigh.

### **KENNETH GRAYSON '52**

passed away July 6, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a founding member of Westwood Heights Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C. He played baseball and football at Gardner-Webb and then earned his master's degree in education administration from Appalachian State University (Boone, N.C.). He taught in the Cleveland County (N.C.) school system for 32 years, including more than 26 years at Shelby High School. For 35 years, he also worked part time at Cleveland Community College.

### **COLUMBUS B. HOPPER '52**

passed away Oct. 4, 2015. After graduating from Gardner-Webb, he earned a degree at Furman (Greenville, S.C.) and a Ph.D. in criminology and sociology from Florida State University. He taught at the University of Mississippi for 37 years before retiring in 1994.

### **BETTY GRAY LINDSAY BRADY '53**

passed away March 3, 2016 in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She was originally from Lexington, N.C.

### **WILLARD HOWARD UPCHURCH '57**

passed away on July 8, 2016. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict before attending Gardner-Webb. He joined R.J. Reynolds in 1959, working for 33 years in various management roles in the manufacturing and purchasing areas. After

retiring in 1992, he spent the next 10 years embarking on a second career as a sales and marketing consultant.

## *The 1960s*

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### **DRUSILLA MORGAN '65**

passed away April 11, 2016. She received an associate's degree in data processing at Gardner-Webb. She worked as a data entry specialist for a number of companies, including Southern Bell, BellSouth and AT&T.

## *The 1970s*

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### **ROGER WILEY CASH SR. '70**

passed away on May 27, 2016. He worked for Revco Drug/CVS Pharmacy for 38 years and then moved to Oak Island, N.C. There, he actively served with Generations Church, Southport Baptist Church, a small group Bible study and a prayer group.

### **JULIUS W. ABERNETHY III '71**

passed away July 5, 2016. He served in the North Carolina National Guard for six years, and he was co-owner and retired vice president and sales manager of Carolina Glove Company. He also served on the board of directors of Carolina Mills and Alexander Railroad. In addition to earning his degree at Gardner-Webb, he was a past president of the GWU Bulldog Club and a former University trustee. Also received the meritorious service award from the GWU Athletics Hall of Fame. He served for 23 years as a coach and sponsor of the Newton (N.C.) Flames AAU Junior Olympics basketball teams, helping many of his players obtain college scholarships. He also sponsored hundreds of local boys' attendance at the Elks Boys Camp in Hendersonville, N.C.

**HAROLD WAYNE GALLMAN '72**  
passed away on May 27, 2016. He worked for Adidas and was a member of First Baptist Church in Gaffney, S.C.

**CARROL FRANKLIN GARRETT '72**  
passed away on Dec. 22, 2015. He was a longtime employee of Quality Foods in Greer, S.C.

**PATRICIA ARCHER '75**  
passed away May 24, 2016. She earned a degree in psychology at Gardner-Webb and became an accomplished decorator in Shelby, N.C. She was also an active member of the Junior Charity League and the Shelby Presbyterian Church.

**LIDA M. STARNES '76**  
passed away July 18, 2016. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English at Gardner-Webb. She was an active member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville, N.C., and was also active in the Jr. Vetust Study Club, Town and Country Garden Club and past member of the Children's Welfare League.

**JIM GUILD '77**  
passed away in June 2016. He had served as administrator and human resources manager at Salmon Youth Centre in London, England, since 1990. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Education at Gardner-Webb.

**DR. JAMES MOORE JR. '79**  
passed away July 18, 2016. He served for the past 23 years as pastor at First Baptist Church of Washington, N.C. He previously served churches in South Carolina and Mississippi. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Gardner-Webb, followed by a Master of Divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Columbia Theological Seminary.

## *The 1980s*

**SAUNDRA ROGERS '83**  
passed away on June 25, 2016. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Gardner-Webb and, prior to her retirement, she returned to GWU to serve as a reference librarian.

# Gardner-Webb Trustee, Alumnus and Honorary Doctorate Recipient Passes Away

*Dr. Emmett Harvey Rogers Jr. Remembered for Leadership, Compassion for People, Love of God*

*By Matthew Tessnear*

Gardner-Webb University trustee, alumnus and honorary doctorate recipient Dr. Emmett Harvey Rogers Jr. passed away in July at the age of 72. The longtime pastor, education and business leader, and member of the GWU family is remembered for his extensive leadership, care and compassion for people and his love of God.

"I speak for the entire Gardner-Webb University community in expressing our deep sadness in the passing of Dr. E. Harvey Rogers," shared GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner. "Dr. Rogers was a genuinely devout Christian who had a profoundly positive impact on so many people in so many areas of life, too many to list."

Rogers first felt a call to pastoral ministry in the 1970s while working as an automobile salesman and as a store manager for Sears and Roebuck. Answering that calling, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Gardner-Webb in 1978 and then completed his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He went on to serve as pastor of three churches during 30 years in ministry, including Forestville Baptist in Wake Forest, N.C., Fallston Baptist in Fallston, N.C., and First Baptist Church of Mooresville, N.C.

In 2012, Rogers was presented with the Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at Gardner-Webb, in recognition of his service to the University and the community. In addition to his work as a trustee, Rogers served Gardner-Webb as a member of the Board of Ministers and as an adjunct professor. "Gardner-Webb bestowed upon him the honorary doctorate because he embodied in such a wonderful way the very purpose of our University—to advance the Kingdom of God," Bonner explained.

Earlier this year, Rogers was recognized as Gardner-Webb's honoree for the 2016 North Carolina Baptist Heritage Award in an event cosponsored by the N.C. Baptist Foundation and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, an organization in which Rogers held several leadership positions. He also served on a variety of directing boards for organizations including North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Lake Norman Regional Medical Center and the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce.



E. Harvey Rogers Jr.



### DAVID HAYNIE II '84

passed away July 13, 2016. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration at Gardner-Webb, and he owned and operated Absolute Auto Insurance.

### TIMOTHY DAVIS '86

passed away March 12, 2016.

## The 1990s

### CARMEN LAMM '92

passed away May 3, 2016. She worked in accounting and purchasing for several businesses in the Hickory, N.C. area and had most recently owned and operated Tax Services Plus, a tax-preparation business.

## The 2000s



### JASON FULBRIGHT '00

passed away May 29, 2016. He earned his bachelor's degree at Gardner-Webb in 2000 and went on to earn a Master of Business Administration in 2002. He played golf for Gardner-Webb from 1996-2000 and served as an assistant coach under head coach Tee Burton from 2000-2002. As an assistant, he was part of a staff that helped Gardner-Webb to the 2001 National Christian Colleges Athletic Association (NCCAA) championship.

### SHAWN PENDERGRASS '05

passed away May 31, 2016. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Gardner-Webb, with studies in Spanish and public relations. Formerly of Connelly Springs, N.C., he most recently lived in San Francisco, Calif., and he was a marketing manager for an advertising company, Regroup Mass Notification. In addition to other prior positions in marketing, he lived in Costa Rica for several years, serving in a variety of communications roles. He loved the outdoors, was an avid runner and cyclist, and he enjoyed rock climbing and surfing.

## The 2010s

### ZEKE BLANTON '13

passed away May 29, 2016. He played on two state championship baseball teams at East Rutherford High School in Rutherford County, N.C., and he was later inducted into the East Rutherford High School Sports Hall of Fame. He also played baseball at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at Gardner-Webb. After earning his bachelor's degree at Gardner-Webb, he continued studies in pursuit of an engineering degree.

# Alumna Remembered for Gardner-Webb Family Legacy

By Matthew Tessnear

For Sonja Jones, Gardner-Webb University and family were synonymous.

The 1959 Gardner-Webb alumna and lifetime Cleveland County, N.C. resident, who passed away in August at the age of 77, was among nearly 40 of her relatives who attended the school as students or served it as employees.

Jones' grandfather, J.D. Huggins, was the first principal of Boiling Springs High School, the foundation of what would later become Gardner-Webb, and the first dean once the school became a junior college. Jones spent much of her childhood in her grandfather's home, which stood where Dover Memorial Library stands today. Her parents met while students at Gardner-Webb, and all five of her siblings and both of her children attended the School.

"There is a love of Gardner-Webb in my family, and it has been such a huge part of our lives," Jones shared in a 2009 edition of Gardner-Webb The Magazine. "I never considered going anywhere else other than Gardner-Webb."

After earning her Associate of Arts degree at Gardner-Webb, she went on to Appalachian State, where she completed a bachelor's degree in early childhood development. She spent the following 30-plus years as an elementary school teacher in Cleveland County, before retiring in 1994.

"I absolutely love working with children," she once asserted. "There is no greater reward than watching a child open a book and read for the first time."

In her retirement, Jones volunteered much of her time at the local hospital and for a variety of other community organizations. For that outstanding service to others through her teaching and volunteerism, she was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Graduates in 2009.

"Gardner-Webb University is like a big family," she reflected. "The professors care about the students, and it has a loving, positive Christian atmosphere, which I believe makes it a great university."



Sonja Jones

# GW-YOU

*"I was ready to change careers, had just finished a two-year degree and was looking for a place to finish up my bachelor's. GWU was the best option with the most flexible program. It was certainly one of the best investments I've made in my lifetime."*

**BEN BOSTIC '01**

Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems  
GWU Degree Completion Program

Software Engineer (Charlotte, N.C.)

For Ben's story see page 34



Where  
are they  
Now?

# History Comes Together

*Gardner-Webb's Emeriti Faculty Gather to Celebrate Each Other, Completion of Updated University History Book*

*By Matthew Tessnear*

Decades of Gardner-Webb history returned to campus this year.

After many outstanding years of service to the institution and many collective years enjoying retirement, 21 of GWU's most distinguished faculty reunited for a celebration of their commitment to and lasting impact on the University.

The members of Gardner-Webb's faculty emeriti greeted longtime friends and shared lasting memories during a luncheon in the Tucker Student Center on campus.

"I enjoyed all of the hugs and the catching up on one another's lives and appreciate Gardner-Webb giving us this opportunity," Dr. Darlene Gravett, GWU Associate Provost Emerita, explained.

The event was inspired by the completion of the third edition of the "Gardner-Webb University Faculty Emeriti Book," which celebrates the lives and higher education professional achievements of GWU's emeriti faculty.

"These faculty members have made a profound contribution to the shape and fiber of Gardner-Webb University," assessed Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU Provost and Executive Vice President. "Their presence at Gardner-Webb has been sacrificial in that any of them could easily have found greater financial reward elsewhere. But they believe in our ideal of Christian higher education, and have chosen to leave their mark here. And believe me, in each and every case, they have."

More than 40 total faculty members have received the emeriti honor in Gardner-Webb's history. The recognition results from appointment by the University's Board of Trustees following retirement from full-time teaching at GWU with at least 15 years of service, as well as recommendation by their academic department, the Administrative Advisory Committee and administration.



GWU faculty emeriti pictured include, front row from left, Dr. Frieda Brown, Valerie Parry, Thirlen Osborne, Dr. Shirley Toney, Dr. Alice Cullinan, Pat Harrelson, Carolyn Billings, and Dr. George Cribb, and back row from left, Drs. Joyce and Les Brown, Dr. Darlene Gravett, Dr. Sherman Parrish, Dr. Roger Gaddis, Dr. Paul Jolley, Dr. Bob Blackburn, Dr. Bob Lamb, Dr. Bob Morgan, Dr. Oland Summers, Dr. Terry Fern, Dr. Ron Williams, and Dr. Tony Eastman.



Access the "Gardner-Webb University Faculty Emeriti Book" online at [gardner-webb.edu/facultyemeriti](http://gardner-webb.edu/facultyemeriti).



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI

# Serve Together in Charleston

Gardner-Webb Alumni Mission Trip  
to Charleston, SC  
April 22-April 30, 2017

STAY THE WHOLE WEEK OR  
PARTICIPATE IN A FOUR-DAY EXPERIENCE

Service opportunities include:

- Home Makeover
- Free Community Health Clinic
- Work in the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet

Evening excursions to see the city!

Gardner-Webb alumni Heath Forbes and Jill Mayo  
Forbes to lead this opportunity

To contact Heath and Jill, please email  
[gwualumnimissions@gmail.com](mailto:gwualumnimissions@gmail.com).

## Join the Team

Hundreds of Gardner-Webb student-athletes compete for championships each year in 22 NCAA Division I sports. Their success starts with scholarships, and that's where you can be an important member of the team.

When you join the Bulldog Club, your gifts transform GWU student-athletes into champions on and off the field, through academic, athletic and spiritual growth. You can even designate your gift to your favorite sport through the "My Team" program.

In addition to impactful benefits for student-athletes, Bulldog Club and My Team memberships offer you exclusive perks like hospitality access, season ticket packages, priority seating and memorabilia discounts.

So join the team! Everyone wins when you support the Bulldog Club.



[gardner-webb.edu/bulldogclub](http://gardner-webb.edu/bulldogclub)  
704.406.4630



ANNA PASHKOVA ('16)

Jones City, Iowa  
Volleyball



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Boiling Springs, NC 28017

Natalie Paige Edwards Bishop  
Box 7325

# YOUR GIFT, HER FUTURE

Sthefany Flores ('18) works hard to prepare for her future career. She majors in journalism and minors in political science and theatre, while also participating in the Honors Program and serving the theatre department's technical crew as a master electrician. All of that work is possible thanks to your gift to the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund, which helps the University provide more affordable educational opportunities to students like Sthefany.

**PUT YOUR GIFT TO WORK TODAY!**

Donate at [gardner-webb.edu/donate](http://gardner-webb.edu/donate)



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