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GARDNER-WEBB

VOL. 52, NO. 1, 2017

THE MAGAZINE



*Students Impact the World/ Athletic Hall of Fame Announced/
Distinguished Alumni Recognized/ Dr. Dee Hunt Retires after Nearly 40 Years/
Faculty & Staff Honored for Service*

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President
Dr. A. Frank Bonner

Managing Editor
Noel T. Manning II

Digital Magazine Editor
Matt Renfer

Associate Editor
Niki Bliss-Carroll

Design Editor/ Photo Editor
Ryan Gunter

Editorial Assistance
Jackie Bridges, Matthew Renfer,

Contributing Writers
Jackie Bridges, Mary Carlson, Niki Bliss-Carroll, Emily DeVries, Katie Furr, Noel T. Manning II, Marc Rabb, Matthew Tesnear

Contributing Photographers
Niki Bliss-Carroll, Bob Carey, Bulldog Club, Mark Houser, Ryan Gunter, Noel T. Manning II, Marc Rabb, GWU Sports, Brittany Randolph/Shelby Star, Sintesis Digital, GWU Photo Team

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Submissions and Feedback
By mail: The Gardner-Webb Magazine
Office of University Communications
P.O. Box 7315
Boiling Springs, NC 28017
Email: ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu

Address and Name Change Submissions
Contact: *Becky Robbins*
by phone: 704-406-4251
By email: robbins@gardner-webb.edu

- @ ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu
- twitter.com/gardnerwebb
- gardner-webb.edu/gwumagazine
- facebook.com/gardnerwebb
- gplus.to/gardnerwebb
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University Recognized for Top Online Programs in U.S.

Gardner-Webb University is being recognized for exceptional web-based learning opportunities and was recently honored as a 2016-2017 Best Online College by AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org for offering the best combinations of online program volume, breadth, and affordability available in today's marketplace. Gardner-Webb ranked 35th out of the top 50 institutions of higher education in the nation, ahead of notable programs such as Auburn University, Villanova University, and New York University, among others.

"We are delighted to see this ranking for GWU's online programs by AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org," said Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU Provost and Executive Vice President. "Controlling costs and tuition rates is indeed a priority for Gardner-Webb, because we recognize the critical importance of keeping higher education affordable and achievable for every income bracket. But our greatest priority is ensuring that the online educational experience is of the highest possible quality. At Gardner-Webb, we value affordability and emphasize an engaging online experience, flexible options, and above all, quality academic programs."

Students at Gardner-Webb can take online courses to earn credits toward a range of degrees, and some undergraduate programs are offered in online-only formats through the Degree Completion Program (DCP). In addition, master's degrees in accounting, business administration, English, international business administration, nursing, and sport pedagogy are also available in online formats at GWU.

Schools are ranked by Accredited Schools Online based on a scoring system that includes key qualitative and quantitative measures including cost/financial aid, number of program offerings, student-teacher ratios, graduation rates, placement and support services offered, academic/career counseling services, employment services, and other factors. For more information on the organization's methodology, visit AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org.



Members of GWU's Alpha Chi in no particular order: AJ Horner, Andrew Linzie, Sarah Grace Moxley, Mallory Moore, Mariah Case, Christopher Lile, Conner Bos, Josiah Parke, Matt Autrey, Shaquavia Chiles, Tyler Helms, Starr Tate, Christian Jessup, Hannah Ray, Dr. June Hobbs, and Dr. Lorene Pagcaliwagan

Students Take Top Awards at National Honors Convention

Members of Alpha Chi, a national collegiate honor society at Gardner-Webb University, earned top honors at the society's national convention in Louisville, Ky. Christian Jessup of Boiling Springs, N.C., won a Gaston Scholarship, and Hannah Ray of High Point, N.C., won a Nolle Scholarship.

The Gaston Scholarships, worth \$3,000 each, are presented to the two highest-rated submissions at the convention. "We have never won a Gaston Scholarship before," said Dr. June Hobbs, Professor of English, Director of Undergraduate Research and Alpha Chi sponsor. "Christian came in first of the 65 submissions with nearly perfect scores from all judges."



Christian Jessup

Jessup, a senior music composition major, presented a paper describing the original score he wrote for the 1977 blockbuster Star Wars, "New Music for a Galaxy Far, Far Away." In addition to the scholarship, he also won the best presentation prize in the Art/Music/Dance papers category. His research for the project was funded by the GWU Undergraduate Research Scholars program.

Ray, a senior English major, presented an analysis of Emily Dickinson's representation of death in her poetry. Her paper ranked fourth, and she received a \$2,000 Nolle Scholarship, which is awarded to 10 students for the senior year of undergraduate study. Bekah Rhea of Knoxville, Tenn., a senior theatre arts major, won the best paper prize in the World Religions category for her study of children's religious programming for Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu children.



Hannah Ray

"The executive director of national Alpha Chi approached me on the last day of the national conference to compliment our students for setting the gold standard for student presentations," Hobbs offered. "Several other sponsors said much the same thing to me. Our students were notably more prepared, more practiced, and more confident than students from most other schools. I could not possibly be prouder of them."



Gardner-Webb University students at the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump at the U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2017.

University Students Attend Presidential Inauguration

Gardner-Webb University sent a contingency of students to the U.S. Capitol to participate in the country's 58th inauguration ceremony, held Jan. 20, in Washington D.C.

University students have participated in presidential inauguration events for decades, regardless of political affiliation. Nate Allman, David Cole, Eli Hardin, Sydney Hardin, Bailey Hierholzer, A.J. Horner, Luke Kunkel, and Lauren Mahoney attended inaugural events surrounding the swearing-in process for President Donald Trump. Cole, of Clover, S.C., who also attended the second inauguration ceremony for President Barack Obama in 2012, believes opportunities like this help to further solidify his career aspirations.

"This was a special moment for me and my fellow students because we spent the entire fall semester analyzing and predicting the outcome of the election."

– David Cole

"As a political science major at Gardner-Webb, I've learned a lot about the U. S. government, the office of the Presidency, and the history and impact of political parties," he shared. "This was a special moment for me and my fellow students because we spent the entire fall semester analyzing and predicting the outcome of the election. I've written papers, attended lectures, taken part in discussions, and conducted intensive research. These opportunities offer me a chance to extend those studies—and the knowledge that I have gained—and take it into the real world. Nothing beats seeing politics in action."

Military Publication Honors Gardner-Webb for Commitment to Armed Forces Members

Gardner-Webb University is committed to helping members of the military and their dependents achieve their educational goals. Those efforts were recognized for the fourth consecutive year by Military Advanced Education & Transition (MAE&T) as the University was designated as a "Top School" in the 2017 MAE&T Guide to Colleges & Universities research study. The guide measures the best practices in military and veteran education.

The MAE&T Guide presents results of a questionnaire of the military-supportive policies enacted at more than 600 institutions including private, public, for-profit, not-for-profit, four-year, and two-year colleges. From community colleges to state universities, online universities and nationally known centers for higher education, MAE&T's 2017 Guide to Colleges & Universities offers information about institutions that go out of their way to give back to our men and women in uniform.

GWU Named to President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

For the ninth consecutive year, Gardner-Webb University has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the U.S. Department of Education.

Launched in 2006, the Honor Roll recognizes those institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. Gardner-Webb has continued as an Honor Roll mainstay because of students' commitment to a wide variety of service initiatives. Dr. Tom LeGrand, director of the GWU IMPACT Center for Christian Ethics and Social Responsibility, said the recognition is an affirmation of the University's overall mission.

Written into the University's curriculum through the Service Learning Program, community service is a top academic priority at Gardner-Webb. Classes often partner with local organizations and initiatives like the Red Cross, the Salvation Army or the Cleveland County Potato Project, enabling students to discover connections between their work in the classroom and in the community.

CNCS oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the U.S. departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact, and the American Council on Education.

National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Representatives Offer Simulation at GWU

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of State issued a Europe Travel Alert to warn Americans about the probability of a terror attack in France, Russia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Analyzing intelligence information to keep Americans safe is the job of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) in Washington, D.C. Students from Gardner-Webb and six other colleges met with NCTC analysts in GWU's Tucker Center to participate in an exercise where they learned firsthand how possible terrorist threats are discovered.



"The NCTC analysts explained the operation of the agency and additionally, provided detailed descriptions about the importance of their daily analytical work that impacts national security,"

offered Dr. Bobbie Cox, GWU Criminal Justice Coordinator. "The scenarios provided students with intelligence information that was determined during their analytical process. The students were charged with absorbing the information, determining the facts, eliminating possibilities and making a final report to the NCTC analysts regarding their findings and recommendations."

Also participating in the simulation exercise were students from Wingate University, Queens University, UNC-Charlotte, Davidson College, Belmont Abbey and Mars Hill. The participants were divided into two groups to work on determining the details of an imminent terror strike. After completing the simulation exercises, students met individually with a NCTC analyst, who critiqued their resumes.

The students also analyzed the magnitude of certain threats, said Joey Sparks of Conover, N.C., a senior double major in criminal justice and human services. "In the monitoring-type simulation, the group was given multiple scenarios with potential terrorist threats, and we had to gauge the threat level to the United States and react accordingly," he explained.

The partnership with NCTC was a first for Gardner-Webb, and the Department of Social Sciences would like to host the event annually. The simulation provides information students can't get from reading a textbook. "This was a great way for students to gain some practical experience with the counter-terrorism field," noted Dr. Casey Delehanty, GWU Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science. "The event gave students an opportunity to practice critical thinking and presentation skills, as well as gain information on how to enter counter-terrorism and federal law enforcement work."



Partnership with Local Elementary School Benefits GWU Students

Gardner-Webb University's School of Education worked with a local elementary school in Cleveland County, N.C., to provide meaningful learning opportunities for future teachers prior to their student-teaching experience.

Each week during the spring semester, three GWU classes traveled to Washington Elementary School near Waco, N.C., during their normal instructional time on Mondays and Tuesdays. Dr. Lane Wesson's Language Arts Methods class, Dr. Cindy McKinney's Fine Arts Integration class, and Dr. Jason Parker's Social Studies Methods class were each involved in the collaboration, which helped provide much-needed classroom exposure to pre-service teachers well in advance of their 16-week student-teaching experience.

As GWU School of Education Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, Parker believes the partnership proved to be tremendously valuable for teaching majors. "Clinical experiences are already built into every course in the education curriculum," Parker noted. "But this expanded partnership offered a comprehensive, up-close interaction between our majors and the students and teachers at a school prior to the student-teaching semester."

Gardner-Webb alum Dr. Chris Bennett served as principal at Washington, and he agreed that the partnership was mutually beneficial. "Our students have enjoyed working with the Gardner-Webb students," Bennett offered. "Our focus is on small-group work, and the School of Education students jumped in during their time here to help students grow and become more successful."

Parker agreed. "The GWU School of Education appreciates our partnership with Cleveland County Schools," he shared. "We are grateful for their willingness to provide valuable clinical experiences to our pre-service teachers as they work to acquire useful techniques and strategies for the classroom and develop stronger skills in communication and personal relationships."



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY

REFER A FUTURE BULLDOG

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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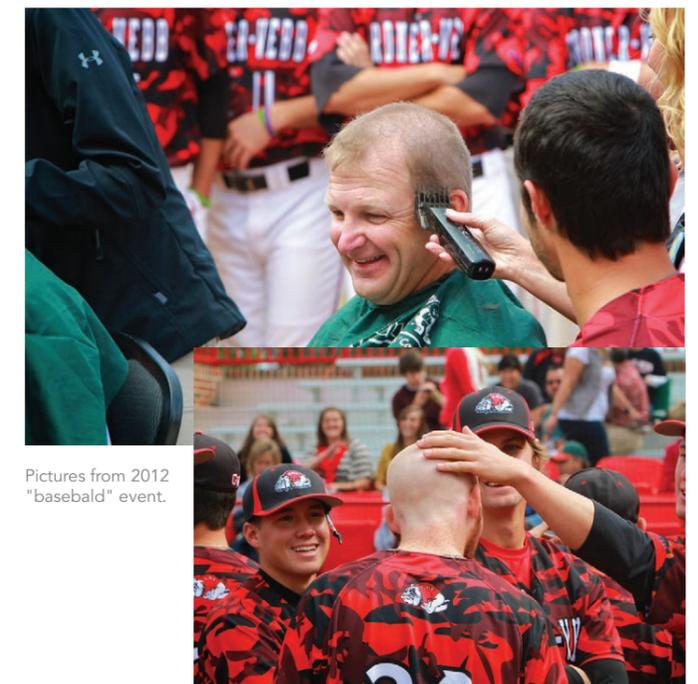
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GWU Baseball Funding Cancer Research

The Gardner-Webb University baseball program teamed up with a special charity for a "basebald" event to fund research for childhood cancer and offer support for Levine Children's Hospital (Charlotte, N.C.).

Members of the Runnin' Bulldogs 2016-17 team and coaching staff gathered at John Henry Moss Stadium to shave their heads in an effort to meet their fundraising goal of \$5,000 for Vs. Cancer Foundation, based in Raleigh, N.C.

"The Vs. Cancer Foundation has been a major force in the fight against childhood cancer and we are honored to partner with them in that battle," said GWU Head Coach Rusty Stroupe, who was among the group that surrendered their hair. "Half of the proceeds benefit childhood cancer research, while the other half benefit Levine Children's Hospital. Our hair will grow back, but for many children with cancer, they don't know if and when their hair will return. So it's the least we can do to show our support for these kids."



Pictures from 2012 "basebald" event.



Stacy Pearsall takes a selfie with a World War II veteran at Gardner-Webb University.

GWU Hosted Unique Opportunity for Veterans

Gardner-Webb hosted two-time Military Photographer of the Year Stacy Pearsall and the “Veterans Portrait Project” as part of the University’s Distinguished Artist Series.

Pearsall, who served in the Air Force as a combat photographer, is a decorated veteran who started the Veterans Portrait Project (VPP) while recovering from wounds she sustained in active duty. Pearsall also holds an honorary doctorate from The Citadel, where she has served the advisory board of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences since 2009.

Through the Project, veterans had their portraits taken free of charge. Pearsall provided each veteran with a high-resolution digital image or an actual print.

“They’re young and old, male and female. They come from all walks of life and have varied religious beliefs, levels of education and racial ethnicity,” Pearsall shared. “What unites them all is their service. It’s a bond that cannot be broken, and I’m proud to be one of them.”

Veterans throughout the region took advantage of this no-cost opportunity of recognition. In conjunction with the portrait sessions, GWU also hosted Pearsall’s art exhibit in the Tucker Gallery at Gardner-Webb’s main campus. The photo exhibit, “Shooter: Combat from Behind the Camera” featured photographs of combat in Iraq, illustrating a portrait of war. The images represent life at war, both in the middle of the action and at rest. Pearsall also provided a community lecture and presentation as part of the activities.

In recent years, Gardner-Webb has been consistently recognized as a Military-Friendly institution and was named as North Carolina’s first Purple Heart University. These accolades—in conjunction with the Veterans Portrait Project event—further affirm Gardner-Webb’s commitment to honoring and serving U.S. troops, veterans, and their families.

To learn more about Stacy Pearsall and her work, visit StacyPearsall.com.

VETERANS PORTRAIT PROJECT



Criminal Justice Degree Now Being Offered to Traditional Undergraduates

Gardner-Webb University will offer a new undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice Administration, beginning in fall 2017. The Bachelor of Science program will incorporate the University’s liberal arts interdisciplinary education with knowledge in social, political, domestic and global criminal justice issues.

Dr. Bobbie Cox, associate professor of criminal justice, devised the curriculum from her 30 years of experience in the criminal justice field and 25 years of teaching experience. “I wanted to develop a 21st century criminal justice program,” Cox affirmed. “Our program will provide students a unique opportunity to study cybercrime, homeland security, terrorism and intelligence that incorporate science and technology in investigative strategies. Our professors are accomplished academically in their disciplines and additionally, they have extensive professional experience in these areas to share with their students.”

The curriculum model will provide student-centered programs of study based on current law enforcement, societal and political demands of criminal justice officers to meet the growing local, national and global law enforcement and homeland security concerns of society. The Criminal Justice Administration major requires 36 hours, with an overall requirement of 128 hours to complete the Bachelor of Science degree. There is an opportunity for students to complete a minor in other related fields such as psychology, sociology, accounting, or science. Requirements include participation in field experiences or an internship in a criminal justice agency. Study abroad options will also be offered.

“The courses offered in the Criminal Justice Administration major will prepare our students with a level of higher education that includes increased critical-thinking, ethical decision-making, and multi-cultural communication skills,” Cox explained. “In addition, it will help provide a solid foundation of technical and professional skills for graduates to address the ever-changing needs of our evolving, complex society.”

New Graphic Design Programs Offered at GWU This Fall

Gardner-Webb University has finalized plans to offer new degree programs in the Department of Communication & New Media. Beginning in fall 2017, students can choose either an associate’s degree or bachelor’s degree in graphic design.

“Adding the associate’s degree is an innovative approach,” offered Dr. Bob Carey, Chair of the Department of Communication & New Media. “We are giving students not only the necessary tools for the workplace, but also a liberal arts background emphasizing critical thinking and creativity.”

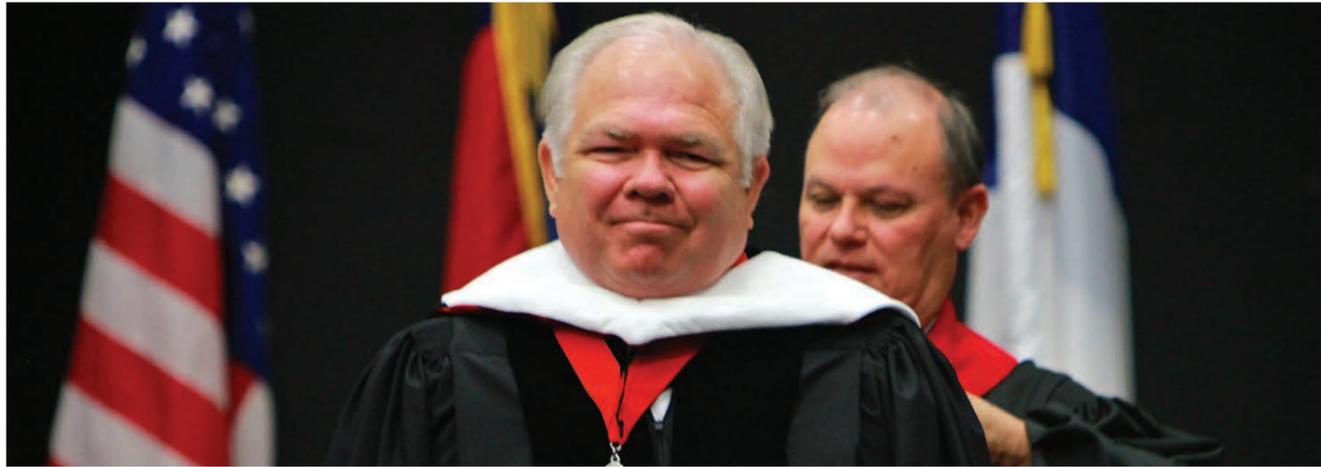
The two-year program includes 66 total hours with 36 hours of general education courses. All of the AA general education requirements will fulfill those for the bachelor’s degree. “The AA is intended to provide students with the technical skills needed to begin work in the field with the ability to either progress beyond the technician level—to move from being only an implementer to being a planner, decision maker and manager—or to return to GWU to complete a bachelor’s degree,” explained Dr. David Yelton, GWU Associate Provost for Arts & Sciences.

Previously, graphic design was offered as a concentration within the communication studies major. The bachelor’s degree expands the concentration and consists of 128 total hours with 54 in the major, which includes an internship experience plus required courses in art and marketing. “The addition of courses will give the students a broader scope of knowledge and skills, which will make them more competitive and attractive to potential employers,” observed Dr. Amanda Bridges, assistant professor of graphic design.

“Graphic design is a growing industry which is becoming increasingly competitive, so the transition and addition of these degrees will prepare our students to go out and secure these highly sought after positions,” Bridges noted. “These programs are a natural fit in the Department of Communication & New Media, because graphic design is a form of visual communication relying heavily on up-to-date software and technology.”



Brooke Smith Rozmus '15, a graphic designer for Raycom Media



Randy Marion receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Gardner-Webb in December 2012

GWU Trustee Randy Marion Honored with Baptist Heritage Award

A Mooresville, N.C., businessman has been recognized for his exemplary giving and service to Gardner-Webb University. Randall “Randy” L. Marion received the N.C. Baptist Heritage Award on April 25 in a ceremony sponsored by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and the N.C. Baptist Foundation.

Marion serves Gardner-Webb as a trustee and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Gardner-Webb in December 2012. A friend once described him as “a man of great vision, with the passion and drive to see those visions through to fruition. He embodies the type of entrepreneurial spirit and professional integrity that GWU aspires to instill in its students.” Marion is owner of Randy Marion Chevrolet Buick Cadillac, with dealerships in Mooresville, Huntersville, and Statesville. He was recognized by General Motors as the largest retail and fleet sales volume dealer in the Carolinas for more than six years, the largest in the Southeast in both 2010 and 2011, and the nation’s fifth largest in 2009. He was named North Carolina Dealer of the Year in 2003 by Time Magazine. In 2013, he was selected the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce’s Business Person of the Year.

“Yet, it is not Randy’s long list of business accomplishments that sets him apart,” observed Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU Provost and Executive Vice President. “Instead, it is his generosity and his passion for giving back to his community that inspires others to reach higher and achieve more. He is a blessing to those who know him.”

In his many years of civic and philanthropic leadership, Marion has served as Chairman of the Board for Lake Norman Regional Medical Center and has chaired and served on numerous other professional and civic boards in Mooresville. He was a member of the founding Board of Directors of the Mooresville Soup Kitchen, which today feeds up to 14,000 people each year. For these and other outstanding accomplishments, Marion was awarded “the Order of the Long Leaf Pine” in 2001 by the Governor of North Carolina.

Mischia A. Taylor Appointed Dean for the Godbold School of Business

Gardner-Webb University President Dr. Frank Bonner announced the appointment of Mischia A. Taylor to serve as Dean for the Godbold School of Business. She has served the University in various capacities, including as professor of marketing since 2012 and Director of Admissions for the Graduate School of Business. As dean, Taylor will report to Dr. Franki Burch, Associate Provost for Professional and Graduate Studies.



Mischia A. Taylor

“I am excited about Mischia’s new leadership role and believe she will bring enthusiasm and strong strategic focus to the Godbold School,” Bonner noted. “She has distinguished herself through her coordination of campus events designed to engage and promote undergraduate business majors. She is committed to providing students with real-world business opportunities that will complement their classroom learning. Her new position will tap her expertise in marketing and management education and dedication to serving students.”

Taylor is currently pursuing a doctorate of business administration degree from Saint Leo University (St. Leo, Fla). She holds two degrees and a certificate from Gardner-Webb—a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (2005), a Master of Arts degree in Business Administration (2010) and an MBA Plus Certificate in Marketing.

University Hires New Vice President for Marketing

Richard McDevitt has joined Gardner-Webb University as Vice President for Marketing. In this additional cabinet level position, he reports directly to President Dr. Frank Bonner, and he leads the Marketing Division. This includes all university communications staff in marketing, public relations, creative services, web design and digital communications and broadcasting.



Richard McDevitt

He comes to GWU from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he was Senior Director of Marketing for eight years. “My colleagues and I have been delighted to welcome Richard McDevitt to our team,” President Bonner affirmed. “We are fortunate to have attracted a professional like Richard. He has already demonstrated a wealth of expertise and experience and is advancing our marketing and communications operations dramatically.”

Originally from Chapel Hill, N.C., McDevitt received his Bachelor of Science in Communications from Appalachian State University and has more than 25 years of experience in the field. A marketing, communications and brand professional, McDevitt is an award-winning creative strategist and a leader with executive experience and perspective in both public and private enterprise.

“I’m delighted to be at Gardner-Webb,” McDevitt shared. “This is a university with a long and distinguished history as well as a vital role to play regionally and nationally right now. I am excited about the opportunity and look forward to telling the GWU story in new and powerful ways.”

GWU Announces New Vice President for Enrollment Management



Kristen Setzer

Officials at Gardner-Webb have announced the selection of a new member of senior staff to lead the University’s traditional undergraduate admissions operations.

President Dr. Frank Bonner announced this year that Kristen J. Setzer will serve the University as the new Vice President of Enrollment Management and will direct the offices of Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Aid, and Retention. Most recently, Setzer served as vice president for Higher Education Consulting at Clark Communications in Asheville, N.C.

“I am excited about Kristen’s new leadership role and believe she brings expertise, enthusiasm and strategic focus to GWU’s admissions efforts,” Bonner stated. “Kristen’s position will engage her extensive skills and management experience in higher education with an emphasis on student recruitment, leadership training and strategic planning. We are delighted to welcome her back to Gardner-Webb.”

Setzer holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Gardner-Webb (1996) and a Master of Business Administration from Gardner-Webb (1999). After several administrative positions at GWU, Setzer began work for Clark Communications in 2013, through which she developed recruitment strategies with dozens of colleges and universities and helped institutions extract maximum value from their enrollment resources.

“I strongly believe in Gardner-Webb’s commitment to deliver a Christ-centered, student-focused education and experience,” Setzer shared. “I am extremely honored to be selected for this role and feel confident that my experiences will help move admission, financial aid, and retention goals and strategies forward while establishing collaborative partnerships and strengthening relationships with the overall community.”

Setzer and her husband, Tony (GWU Head Men’s Soccer Coach) live in Shelby and have four daughters; Madison, 13, and 9-year-old triplets Sydney, Morgan, and Cadence.

Sarah A. Currie Named Vice President for Student Development



Sarah Currie

Gardner-Webb University President Frank Bonner has named Sarah A. Currie to Vice President for Student Development. Currie succeeds Dr. Dee Hunt, who retired from the University in May with 39 years of service.

“Dr. Hunt set the standard for caring for students and outstanding leadership of student development programs,” Bonner acknowledged. “As Sarah fulfills this vital leadership role, she brings vast experience, love for students and deep understanding of them, as well as dedication to the purpose and mission of Gardner-Webb University.”

Currie has previously served as Dean of Students, Director of Retention and Student Success, Bulldog Club Director, and Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UNC Charlotte, a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling from Gardner-Webb, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership.

She will report directly to the president, and her responsibilities will include: The Center for Personal and Professional Development, Student Activities, Campus Recreation and New Student Orientation, Counseling Center, Housing and Residence Education, Title IX Compliance and ADA Coordination and University Police.

GWU Announces New Vice President For Advancement



Woody Fish

President Dr. Frank Bonner has announced the selection of H. Woodrow “Woody” Fish to lead the Gardner-Webb University Office of Advancement. Prior to this appointment, Fish has served as Vice President for External Affairs and Special Assistant to the President.

“I am excited about Woody’s new leadership role and believe he will bring enthusiasm and focus to GWU’s fundraising efforts,” Bonner asserted. “He brings to his new position extensive fundraising experience and a strong sense of dedication to serving the University’s interests.”

In his new role as Vice President for University Advancement, Fish is managing alumni relations, major gifts, the Bulldog Club, and the annual fund.

“I believe in the work of Gardner-Webb and am delighted to take on this next endeavor to promote the University,” Fish affirmed. “I look forward to working with the staff to ignite relationships and advance Gardner-Webb’s commitment to Christian higher education.”

Fish holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from Gardner-Webb (1973) and a Master of Arts degree in Health Education from Gardner-Webb (1983). Following graduation, he worked in a variety of coaching and administrative roles at GWU—including 12 years as athletic director and head football coach. In 1999, he served as head coach at Pisgah High School in Canton, N.C. From 2001 through 2006, Fish worked as a coach and administrator for Duke University’s football program, and served as defensive assistant coach, linebackers’ coach, director of football operations, and director of high school relations for the Blue Devils. In 2006, he returned to Gardner-Webb as assistant vice president of development for athletics and has served as associate vice president of development and alumni relations.

Fish and his wife, Pam, live in Shelby and have two sons, Brandon and Patrick.



Fish with the football team



Every penny you donate to the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund goes to support students through scholarships and financial aid.

Make your gift today!



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Gardner-Webb Honors Faculty and Staff for Service and Excellence

Gardner-Webb University recognized outstanding faculty and staff members during the annual Apples and Accolades ceremony during the spring semester.



Robert Moore

The 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Robert N. Moore, Instructor in American Sign Language. Moore engages students in his class by utilizing hands-on techniques and animated communication skills. He often interrupts difficult lessons to share a funny story to illustrate his point. “Clearly, to the students and community members with whom he works, he is both a gracious guide and a gifted instructor,” GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner said as he presented the award. “He provides concise and comprehensive training and generally succeeds in educating hearts as well as heads. His proven talent, dedication, and vision in a variety of settings further validate this recognition.”

Staff Member of the Year Awards were presented to Gardner-Webb employees who go beyond the call of duty for the University and its students, and they are nominated by their colleagues. The Female Staff Member of the Year was presented to Heather Bridges Moore, director of Program Development. She received her MBA from Gardner-Webb in 2010. Moore works many long hours to provide exceptional service to University departments. “She is wholeheartedly committed to providing a product of the highest caliber to each of the University clients she serves—often working against the clock with her team to achieve the seemingly impossible,” Bonner described.



Heather Bridges Moore

University Police Captain Larry Thomas, was recognized as the Male Staff Member of the Year. Thomas has served Gardner-Webb for more than 38 years. “A graduate of Gardner-Webb, he never fails to convey a ‘people first’ heart of service to others,” Bonner said. “He makes a difference each day in the lives of those he encounters—and has done so consistently for nearly four decades.” Thomas received a Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 1974.



Larry Thomas

President’s Awards for Community Engagement recognize a staff and a faculty member who exemplify the meaning of the GWU motto, “Pro Deo et Humanitate,” through their commitment to community service. The staff award was presented to Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing Noel T. Manning II. Manning serves as a board member and volunteer for several community groups, including The Salvation Army, The Broad River Greenway in Boiling Springs and The Cleveland County (N.C.) Arts Council. Manning is a 1994 graduate of GWU with a degree in communication studies.

The faculty award was given to Hunt School of Nursing Assistant Professor Dr. Quanza Mooring. Mooring organized a supply drive for her hometown, which was devastated by a hurricane in fall 2016. She also works with a local organization to help children in poverty and is academic sponsor for the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA).

Gardner-Webb employees were also recognized for their tenures of service to the University, and retiring employees were honored with special presentations.

40 Years of Service

with 40-Year Faith, Service and Leadership Hall of Fame Award: **Vickie Morrison**, longest serving staff member in the University’s history

30 Years of Service

A. Frank Bonner
Sandra Earl

25 Years of Service

Carmen R. Butler
H. Woodrow Fish
Tracy C. Jessup
Lisa D. McFarland
Cindy McKinney
Kaye Schenk Grigg
Matt Whitfield

10 Years of Service

Brian Arnold	Belinda McDonald
Natalie Bishop	Cynthia Moore
Jennifer Buckner	Tabbatha Pearson
Scott Campbell	Carl Pritchard
Cecil Dodson	Warren Robertson
Cheryl Duffus	Sherrill Shepherd
Meredith Garrett	Stacie Smith
Shana Hartman	Lashea Stuart
Barbara Hildreth	Dianne Sykes
Greg Humphries	Michele Wallen
Susan Jenkins	Joseph Webb
Michael Jones	Jason Willis
Lisa Luedeman	Li Xiao
Sara McCall	

Retirement recognition:

Jerry Edwards, 11 years	Margaret Perkins, 21 years
Selvia Brown, 15 years	Sheryl D. Adams, 22 years
David Shellman, 15 years	Sonda Hamrick, 22 years
James Lawrence, 16 years	Ann W. Dellinger, 24 years
Laura Simmons, 18 years	Dee Hunt, 39 years
Macy Hickman, 19 years	Vickie Morrison, 41 years



ROLLING

WITH THE CHANGES

Pietro Policastro '17 Seizes Opportunity to Become a Small Business Owner

Written by Jackie Bridges

Photos by Brittany Randolph, The Star

Pietro Policastro didn't expect to become a business owner nearly a year before graduating from Gardner-Webb University with a degree in finance and economics. However, one opportunity led to another, and with input from the GWU faculty, he opened Boost Bike Shop in Shelby, N.C. "The entire Godbold School of Business has been a godsend," Policastro offered. "They have been extremely supportive and helpful and have saved me thousands with their experience and advice. I essentially have access to a team of business advisors, who have also become my friends."

At the same time, he's learned there's more to running a business than the financial side. "Business classes are obviously helpful, but classes like English and social sciences are also useful," Policastro asserted. "Running a business isn't about just numbers and profits. There is a human aspect to it, and the education at Gardner-Webb gives a good all-round base."

Although Policastro's father is Dr. Felice Policastro, GWU professor of International Business and Finance, the professors in the Godbold School of Business take an interest in all of their students. "The student-to-faculty ratio is wonderfully low, which means that forming relationships with professors happens naturally," Policastro affirmed. "The professors are passionate, educated, and above all, wonderful people. People tend to undervalue the worth of knowing and being close to educated people, but it has proven itself extremely useful with my entrepreneurial endeavors. Forming relationships with the people at GWU has been one of the best things that has happened in my life."

The chance to own a bike shop came through Policastro's connection to the former owner, the late John Schanewolf. Policastro worked at Schanewolf's Cycle Sports for about a year before Schanewolf passed away in 2016. In that time, he saw Schanewolf's passion for the sport and his support of young riders on the BMX team. Policastro began as a bicycle mechanic and took on more duties when Schanewolf's health started to decline. Policastro learned how to sell and repair bikes, communicate with retailers, take inventory and place orders.



When he officially took over the shop, he decided to make it his own. He chose a new name and designed a logo, built bike racks, work benches and created a new sign for the store. He learned how to craft the items by assisting GWU Technical Director Richard Horsely in the theatre department workshop. "He is extremely passionate about what he does," Policastro stated. "He inspired me to build a ton of stuff for the bike shop, giving it more character, as well as saving me thousands in initial costs."

He's not sure what the future holds but hopes to stay in the cycling industry and pass on his love for the sport to the next generation. "Life is an adventure, and while it is important to have a plan, it is also important to be flexible," Policastro advised. "I never imagined myself owning a bicycle shop a year ago, but one unique circumstance led to another, and now here I am. Keep your mind open and your goals ambitious."

Boost Bike Shop is located at 125 W. Marion St., Shelby, N.C. For more information, visit www.boostbikeshop.com.

BRACE FOR IMPACT

Gardner-Webb Students and Alumni Explore Opportunities of Meaning

Some of the most life-changing moments in a college student's education can occur during experiences outside the walls of a classroom. At Gardner-Webb University, students explore the world around them through field research, internships, study away, and community and global service.

With the one-on-one guidance of a faculty member, a student discovers a lifelong passion by conducting original research. Travel to other countries affords the study of fascinating cultures and academic disciplines. Internships and professional experiences offer vital training and networking to prepare for successful careers. Through service opportunities, students offer hope for humanity while forming friendships with others who desire the same positive change.

It is through focused, intentional adventures such as these that Gardner-Webb students develop life skills to grow as individuals and professionals, while also discovering numerous avenues to positively impact and ignite the lives of others.

STUDY AWAY

Cultural immersion allows for a different way of looking at life, other people, and places

- One-week, four-week, and semester programs available
- Gardner-Webb has agreements and affiliations with universities in several countries
- Students can work with faculty to design their own experience
- Academic credit available for select programs

Kathryn Manning '18

Double major, Spanish and Communication Studies, public relations concentration

Perched on the edge of a platform nearly 11 stories high, Kathryn Manning '18 had a choice to make. Should she jump and soar on a Tarzan swing through the valley of the Arenal Volcano in Costa Rica?

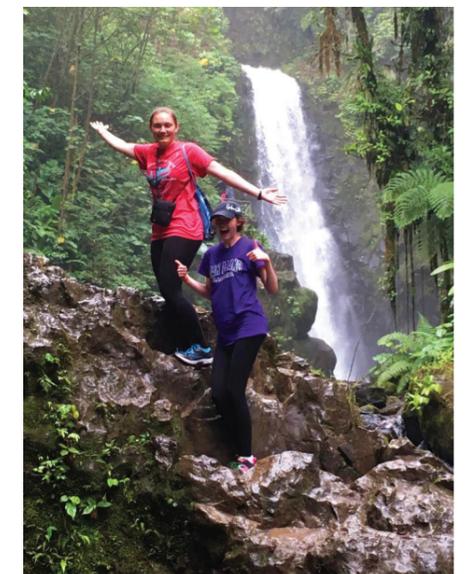
Manning's excursion was part of a one-month study away trip offered by the Gardner-Webb University Department of

World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. The students stay with host families, attend Spanish immersion and culture classes in the morning, and have the afternoons to explore the country. Living in a different country and with its people, students build confidence in their ability to communicate and reach beyond the simple routines of life. Much like leaping off the platform on the Tarzan swing, the Boiling Springs, N.C., native stepped out of her comfort zone to experience the Costa Rican way of life.

Manning also took advantage of another study away experience, exploring public policy, free market economics, and government relationships with the media in the nation's capitol. While in Washington, D.C., she worked with the homeless population through Thrive DC as a communications intern. She shared client success stories, volunteer profiles, details about transitional work opportunities for the homeless, and the services available for engaging this population in sustainable life change.



Kathryn Manning spent the summer developing and managing digital communications for Thrive DC. Pictured are Greg Rockwell (Community Relations Manager), Kathryn Manning (Communications Intern) & Spencer Baldacci (Volunteer Coordinator).



Kathryn Manning and Emily Hamilton in Costa Rica.

Luke Powell '18

*International Business major,
Intercultural Communications minor*

“The best part was seeing so much history, being in the heart of Berlin where the Cold War took place, and seeing castles, palaces, museums and remnants of the wall,” noted Luke Powell '18. He had grown up in North Carolina and was interested in exploring experiences beyond his home state and the classroom. Gardner-Webb offered that opportunity. His understanding of global issues and different cultures and engaging in the native language expanded during that Germanic adventure.

That experience only whet his appetite for more travel and, during his junior year, he studied for a semester at Linnaeus University in Vaxjo, Sweden. Powell notes that he was exposed to the variety of thoughts, ideas, opinions, and beliefs that served to expand his mind to the greater world while also strengthening his own identity and goals for the future.

“This experience has been so refreshing for me. Spending a semester in a foreign country with people who don't share that same thought process allows you to see that there is so much more beyond what you've grown up with. I look forward to a career where I can work with and build relationships with people from all around the world like I've done this semester.”



Left: Luke Powell in Berlin, Germany. Above: Luke with the Swedish flag.

Haley Doolittle Johnston '13

Art Major

One reason Haley Doolittle Johnston '13 chose to attend Gardner-Webb University was for the study away programs. Since she was 10 years old, she had told her family she wanted to study in another country. But she had no idea, that when given that opportunity, her future path would be changed.

The Charlotte, N.C., native always had a love for art, but through Gardner-Webb, the passion ignited. Her junior year, she spent a semester at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Immersed in the culture, she learned about the country and grew as an artist. After graduating from GWU, she was accepted into a graduate school in London,

England. She worked as the arts coordinator for the Active Education Group in Oxford, an organization that provides camps for children in 25 locations throughout England. She was responsible for writing lesson plans and training about 100 art instructors.

She now lives in Portsmouth, England and serves as a freelance designer, social media consultant and book illustrator. “The classes I took at GWU gave me the backbone of my career,” she affirmed. “I remember what my professors taught me and still refer to it while painting and designing these days.”



Haley Doolittle Johnston

MISSION AND SERVICE

- International and Domestic Mission Trips
- Humanitarian Projects in the Local Community
- Service-Learning in the General Education Curriculum
- Exemplifying Faith in Action
- University Service Nationally Recognized by the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Emily Hamilton '18

Double major, Spanish and Psychology

Already attending college thousands of miles from her hometown of Everson, Wash., Emily Hamilton '18 again stepped out into the unknown by participating in a Gardner-Webb mission trip to help victims of human trafficking. As part of an ongoing University initiative to reach and change lives devastated by captivity, Hamilton and her Gardner-Webb peers connected with the Atlanta Dream Center in Georgia to offer healing and hope to men, women, and children.

“I have now seen first-hand just how real this issue is in America,” Hamilton explains. “And I have been changed by all that I saw and learned.” In addition to gaining valuable life experience and feeling personal spiritual growth, Hamilton's journey has allowed her to connect with Gardner-Webb's network of service-minded students. “I have developed more relationships with others on campus who are eager to help make a difference and change the world for the better.”





Jeff Day

“Once you serve, you realize the impact you are having on other people, and it gives you a sense of satisfaction that nothing else can.” - Jeff Day

Jeff Day '17
Sociology Major

A Lancaster, Penn., native, Jeff Day '17 has worked with several elementary schools to cultivate the seeds of community service. He has enjoyed numerous community engagement opportunities while at GWU and has come to appreciate the internal changes that develop when giving to others. “Once you serve, you realize the impact you are having on other people, and it gives you a sense of satisfaction that nothing else can,” said Day.

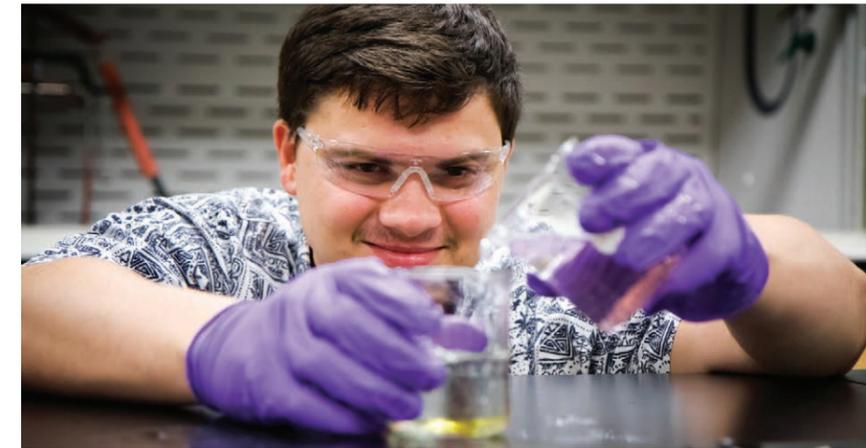
Day and others have worked to establish community produce gardens at several elementary schools. “The purpose is to educate kids about science, healthy eating habits, and the reward of hard work. Every garden produces vegetables that can be eaten by students and teachers,” added Day. “The students all feel a sense of accomplishment after planting the vegetables. “There’s an enthusiasm from them to work at something outside the classroom.”

He continued, “Gardner-Webb has definitely been invaluable in forming my sense of service. An atmosphere like the one at Gardner-Webb makes service addictive. Once you serve, it is difficult to not come back for more.”

RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS

Graduate-level prep research-for-credit experiences

- Personal faculty mentor guidance
- Experiential learning offers personal and professional growth opportunities
- Real-world possibilities for students preparing for career and graduate school
- Students explore networking, new skills, career work, and increase marketability to employers



Jacob Walley

Jacob Walley '17
Chemistry major

Stanley, N.C., native Jacob Walley '17 conducted research on the largest marine oil spill in history. Deepwater Horizon, an oilrig in the Gulf of Mexico, exploded on April 20, 2010, and scientists are still investigating the effects of the spill and cleanup efforts.

As a student, Walley explored the subject through in-depth and hands-on study and was invited to participate in a select research program at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Tallahassee, Fla. He worked closely with Gardner-Webb University chemistry alumnus, Dr. David Podgorski, a research scientist at the lab.

Walley examined the reaction between certain chemicals, crude oil, and sunlight. “The ultimate goal of this research is to create better solutions for future oil spill cleanup,” he offered. “There are a lot of holes in the existing research, and I am happy that I was able to help fill in some of those gaps.”

Cedric Starr '12, '17
Philosophy and Theology major; Classical Languages minor
Master of Divinity, pastoral studies

Cedric Starr '12, '17 connected lessons from the classroom to real life. Through a dual internship program sponsored by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the School of Divinity, Starr ministered to people in a variety of ways and also focused on a racial reconciliation project. Starr interned at Boiling Springs (N.C.) Baptist Church, which has a predominantly Caucasian congregation. He has been attending the church ever since he was an undergrad.

“The main purpose of this project was to create events and ministries that would allow for the development of relationships between two congregations of different ethnicity,” said Starr. The Boiling Springs Baptist partner was Green Bethel Church, which is predominantly African-American.

Starr worked with pastors at both churches to create opportunities for partnerships and engagement. Through pulpit swaps, Bible studies, and other

inter-church activities, Starr has learned the value of bonding with people. “Relationship building is the key to pastoral ministry, and it is the key to reconciliation ministry,” added Starr.

Starr also took a summer internship opportunity working with a vast multicultural population as an intern with Pole Lone Road Baptist in Davis. Calif.

ENGAGING IN THE OPPORTUNITY

Gardner-Webb has a rich history of preparing students to ignite their passion beyond textbook knowledge, and these examples provide testimony that the commitment to student-learning through vast and immersive experiences continues to thrive.



Cedric Starr

LEARNING FROM THE LEGEND

After 39 years at Gardner-Webb University, Dr. Delores “Dee” Hunt quietly retired on April 28. She agreed to sit down for an interview just a few weeks later to talk about her years at GWU, her thoughts about the next stage of life, and what she hopes her legacy will be.

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Q. In your time at Gardner-Webb, was there ever a time when you thought about leaving?

A. Yes, I did, but it was earlier—maybe 20 years ago. I had two offers at two institutions. One was bigger, much larger than GWU. The other one was similar and that’s what I thought I’d do because everyone kept saying, “If you don’t go now, you’ll never go.” Which was the truth!

It’s not that I thought I could do better somewhere else or make a better contribution, but I had to discern whether I was a better fit somewhere else for that season of my life. I wondered if I was giving what I was capable of giving. So yeah, I think everybody goes through that in different stages.

It became very clear to me that based on what my personal and professional needs were, GWU was the place for me to stay. I could further my faith. I could serve the kids. The thing I’ve always said about Gardner-Webb is that I was given the freedom to do what I do best and what I know.

Q. When you were asked to leave the classroom and begin to serve more administratively, was that a tough decision?

A. Yes, it was. Transitions happened even

prior to the student development role, such as being a dean and being a department chair. I started my career at East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, Tenn.), and I was a teacher. But they began to transition me—and I agreed—into administrative roles and that’s ultimately when I came to Gardner-Webb.

The teaching part and coming from the academic side made me a better administrator. I knew where the land mines were. I knew what we had to do and who we had to please. Anything learned is never wasted. The skills I learned teaching are the same skills—they’re not exact but they’re very applicable—needed on an administrative side.

I remember when Dr. Bonner asked me to consider the vice president role. I told him, “I don’t know jack squat about being a vice president.” [laughs] And he said, “It does not matter. You love the kids and that’s why I want you to consider doing it.” Of course, when he said that, he had me because that’s what I care about the most.

Q. You’ve really served others as a mentor and teacher. Did you have anyone who did that for you?

A. Most of my mentors came from my undergraduate experience. At Gardner-

Webb, Bob Blackburn hired me, so he is an inspiration to me. Frank Bonner has been very good to me. I credit him for taking a chance on me and supporting me. Most of my lessons, most of my habits, most of my professional movement is predicated on what I learned and what I did as an undergraduate and in grad school.

Q. What are a few of your favorite GWU memories?

A. This past year, I taught a 21-year-old student to ride a bike. She was a student worker in my division and we were having a conversation one day and she said she had never learned to ride a bike. I was floored. She lived in Murphy (N.C.) on top of a mountain and was afraid to get on a bike. I said, “Do you want to learn?” She said, “Yeah! I’ll do that!”

I had a bike in my office and the other student workers helped hold it and I was there coaching her on what to do. Within a month, she was riding all over campus. That sounds so simple, but she just got married and her mother sent me an email and told me that for a wedding gift, her husband gave her a bicycle. Isn’t that cool?

Another memory I’ll never forget is the opening of Tucker [Student Center]. In terms of 39 years, I don’t know if I’ve seen a more monumental, student life-





changing event that has happened. That center has made an unimaginable difference for the student body. The availability of the building and all the things we can do with it is amazing.

Then, we dedicated the building later, and Robert Tucker surprised me—surprised us all—with an additional half-million dollar gift. He didn't know he was going to do it. I'll never, ever forget that.

I'll never forget attending the funeral of a student that we lost. She died in class and she was the daughter of one of my students years ago. That was tough.

My favorite activity at GWU is Pancake Bingo. I've missed just one since 2010. There are many, many more wonderful memories, certainly too many to list.

Q. What will you NOT miss?

I will not miss the worry and the stress about the kids. I can already tell a difference in that. I still worry about them but not as obsessively. I still want them to be okay but I won't miss that stress.

I don't miss budget meetings. Anybody would tell you that!

Q. You are dealing with some significant health issues, namely cancer. What does the next chapter look like for you?

A. Right now, I'm just taking it one day at a time. There are some things I'd like to do. There are little road trips like that I would love to take.

Retirement is not as easy as I thought it was going to be. It's difficult. My first priority is to navigate cancer and get through that. My second priority is to make some adjustments and then decide how I can give back. What can I do? I've been asked to come back to GWU and work part-time, but I can't do that until next year. By that time, I may not want to. I am volunteering and if there is a project going on where somebody needs me, I'm there.

This has been traumatic for me—and this is going to sound horrible, but I've got to focus on 'me' right now. [tears up] It kills me to even say that, but it's just the reality.

I think if I can get through this early stage then I want to sit back and evaluate where I am again. Not to sound morbid, but I've got to get through this cancer. I've always been in control, always had a plan and options. And now I don't. That's probably one of the biggest adjustments I've had to make. With cancer, I'm not in control. I can be predictive, but I can't be precise, and that's been hard for me.



Dr. Hunt at the opening of the Tucker Student Center August 2012

Q. What's your advice for the existing leadership at GWU?

A. This has been a challenging time for Gardner-Webb—but we are still great. We were great, we are great, and we will continue to be great. We may have to evaluate what we're the greatest at, but the institution will always be great.

It sounds so simple, but if you always keep the students in your heart, it'll work out. If what we do is solely for the benefit of these students, we will be okay. If you keep the needs and expectations of the students in your heart and in your decisions, coupled with God's help, we will be okay.

Q. What student success story stands out to you?

A. Without a doubt, Lisa Tucker tops them all. The Tucker Student Center stands where it is today, because Lisa realized she needed to make some changes to survive and she was willing to make them. She's the epitome of a kid who was given the tools and then used them. She went kicking and screaming a lot of times, but she still did it.

Everybody says, "God won't give you more than you can handle." Well, actually, he is going to give you more because he handles it, I don't. So with the students, I always tried to give them more than they could handle and then be there to help them handle it. You don't have to do it on your own.

You've got to love the students. You've got to. You've got to kick their rear up between their ears but you continue to love them.

Q. What is the legacy you hope you have left at GWU?

A. That I made a difference. That every contact I've had with any kid—no matter how brief or how long or deep or shallow—made them better, made them a better person. We talk about the differences I've made and the lives I've touched, but there's another side to that and it's the kids that touched my life. I'm a better person. I'm a more sympathetic, empathetic, forgiving person because of the kids I've come into contact with. Sometimes we get lost in what our personal impact is—but the biggest deal is the difference they made in my life.

I am far better because of them than they are because of me. I know that. I *know* that.

SOUND ADVICE

Gardner-Webb Professor Tim Hudson Offers Students Unique Insights from Legendary Experiences

Written by Jackie Bridges

An Elvis Presley concert in 1976 introduced the trumpet to Tim Hudson, Gardner-Webb University Assistant Professor of Music. “The King” appeared on stage to a majestic trumpet fanfare. “That was the coolest thing I had ever heard,” Hudson recalled. “I was still interested in Elvis, but I wanted to hear more of the trumpets.”

A seventh-grader, he kept talking about the experience, so his mother suggested he sign up to play the trumpet in the band. Since picking up the instrument, Hudson has studied under talented horn players and traveled worldwide playing with orchestras, ensembles and artists Ray Charles, Tony Bennett, Josh Groban and others. A native of Reidsville, N.C., he lives in Greensboro, N.C., and teaches full time at Gardner-Webb while playing an average of 250 performances each year.



Tim Hudson



Hudson likes the variety his schedule offers, which includes touring with The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass and the group he founded 20 years ago, Carolina Brass. Marsalis is first cousin to jazz great, Wynton Marsalis, and the group tours worldwide. Carolina Brass performs a variety of music from contemporary to classical and also presents educational programs. Two other members of the group also teach at Gardner-Webb. Carolina Brass has made five recordings and was featured on PBS.

Gardner-Webb is the ninth college where Hudson has taught and his favorite. “I feel like this is where I am supposed to be,” Hudson observed. “I’m fortunate that I can go play and teach. I wouldn’t want to play without teaching and wouldn’t want to teach without playing. It is very important to me as a performing artist to pass on what I have been fortunate enough to learn and to understand. To be able to pass that knowledge on to my students is just equally rewarding as playing on the world’s greatest stages. To see my students go on and do well is just fantastic.”

During class, he shares details about recent performances. “I will be on tour for a few days and come home to Gardner-Webb, and I will say, ‘Well, I was just playing with Tony Bennett. This is the third time I’ve played with him and he is just the nicest guy.’” Hudson offered. “We will talk a little bit about how that worked out. I will give them some information about the artists I played with and who they are as people and the dynamics of the rehearsal versus the concert. I give them interesting information, and sometimes I go into great detail about certain conductors I’ve worked with in the past or that I’m working with now.”

He also speaks honestly with students about the downside of traveling. “Everyone thinks it’s glitz and glamour, but you are flying around, living out of a suitcase and dealing with cancellations and delays,” Hudson explained. “I always tell people that I get paid for the traveling, but I play and teach for free.”

Hear the full interview with Tim Hudson at gardner-webb.edu/tim-hudson



HAPPY TRAILS

Vickie Webb Morrison Retires from GWU After 40 Years of Service

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

When she walked away from her desk after more than 40 years of service at Gardner-Webb University, there is one thing that Vickie Webb Morrison promised she would not miss. Not one little bit.

"Technology!" Morrison resolutely declares, quickly adding that, she will miss the staff she worked with, the friendships she made, and the work itself. "I have been a full-time employee since I was 23 years old, and it will definitely be a change for me not to get up every morning and go to work. I will probably drive my husband crazy by cleaning everything in our house over and over."

Born and raised in Shelby, N.C., Morrison and her husband, Steve, live in Mooresboro just past the Broad River, in a home they built log-by-log. "Since we did most of the work ourselves, it took almost two years to complete," she shares. They now enjoy hosting their three grown children and four grandchildren at the property, where they raise or pasture a range of animals such as goats, sheep, chickens, donkeys, alpacas, llamas, and horses.

"I have been anticipating retirement for quite some time," she stated. "I plan to relax, go camping, and enjoy every minute of every day—whether it is working in my flower gardens or enjoying my grandchildren and family members."

With a deeply entrenched work ethic, Morrison certainly understands the value of hard work and perseverance. She graduated from Burns High School (Lawndale, N.C.) and then attended Cleveland Community College in Shelby where she earned an associate's degree. She worked from 1972 to 1974 first as a billing clerk for a dental office and later as a bookkeeper for an automotive dealership. In 1976, she accepted a role at Gardner-Webb in Boiling Springs.

"I have spent my entire 40 years at Gardner-Webb in the offices of student development, first as a secretary to the directors of men's & women's services, then, beginning in 1988, as administrative assistant to the vice president," she reflects. "I have worked in three buildings and for five different VPs, four presidents and two interim presidents. I have seen many changes over the years."

Dr. Dee Hunt, former GWU Vice President of Student Development, is a beneficiary of Morrison's significant professional attributes. "For 40 years, Vickie has performed her duties quietly, without seeking the limelight, with an amazing blend of professionalism, dignity, ethical behavior, and class," Hunt reflected. "She is a level-headed, authentic role model who



Vickie Webb Morrison

keeps her composure in the midst of crises, is willing to help out in any way she can, brings wisdom and insight to our entire department, and knows how to interface with people from all walks of life."

The bottom line for Morrison—just as it has always been—is about people. "I love working with students," she explains, "and I have tried very hard during my years at GWU to treat our students as I would want others to treat my own children and grandchildren—with kindness, love, understanding, patience, and encouragement."

When Morrison left Gardner-Webb on her last day of work in April, she left with the designation as the longest-serving staff member in the University's history.

WHY DID THE SPRINKLES JOIN THE BULLDOG CLUB AS LIFETIME MEMBERS?

"The Sprinkle family has a long relationship with Gardner-Webb University. My great-grandfather, William Jesse Sprinkle, Sr. (1915); grandfather, William Jesse Sprinkle, Jr. (1940); father, William Jesse Sprinkle III (1961); brother, Jamie Sprinkle (1997); and uncle, Rick Dizbon (1975) attended Gardner-Webb. Currently, my oldest son Will J. Sprinkle V (2020), and daughter Abbey Sprinkle (2021) are attending. Joining the Bulldog Club will allow our family to accomplish several things: 1) support Gardner-Webb University and its athletes, 2) become part of the University family and build relationships which will last a lifetime and beyond, and 3) have membership in the Bulldog Club which I can pass down to my children. Our family is honored to be connected with Gardner-Webb University, and now we are proud to be members of the Bulldog Club."



gardner-webb.edu/bulldogclub

704.406.4630





Connor Bos

GWU Athlete Awarded for Academic Excellence with Annual Big South Conference Honor

Gardner-Webb men's swimmer Connor Bos was honored by the Big South Conference with the prestigious George A. Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence.

Bos (Holland, Mich.) was one of a league-record eight student-athletes to be honored in 2017. The award is given to the male and female student-athletes who attain the highest cumulative GPA during their college careers. The honor is named for George A. Christenberry, the former President of Augusta College (now Georgia Regents University-Augusta) and one of the founders of the Big South Conference. A member of the Big South Hall of Fame, Christenberry served as the League's first President from 1983-86.

Bos, who graduated from Gardner-Webb in May, finished his academic career with a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average in economics/finance and was also named as the University's Most Outstanding Male Graduate.

Bos also received the 2017 CCSA (Coastal Collegiate Sports Association) Men's Swimming Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, capping an excellent season – and career – in the pool and in the classroom. He was also named to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-America team.

Bos swam to conference titles in the 100 back (47.61) individually and as a member of the 200 medley relay team (1:27.66) at the Conference Championships in Athens, Ga. Those titles added to a significant list for Bos, who ended his career with 14 different CCSA championships – eight individual and six relays.

In addition, Bos has earned All-CCSA honors 17 different times during his four-year career in Boiling Springs. In 2016, Bos earned a spot in the U.S. Olympic Trials, representing Gardner-Webb on the sport's biggest national stage in Omaha, Neb.

GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner Selected to Serve on NCAA Division I Board

Gardner-Webb University President Dr. Frank Bonner has been appointed to a four-year term on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. The 24-member board is comprised of representatives from the various conferences in Division I, the chair of the NCAA Division I Council, one faculty athletics representative, one senior woman administrator representative, and one student-athlete.

Bonner is honored to represent Gardner-Webb at this national, high level of NCAA governance for Division I. "The experience and knowledge I hope to gain will be beneficial as I work with our own athletic program," he added. "The most important challenge facing the leadership of intercollegiate athletics is to promote and advance the personal well-being of student athletes. We must ensure that participating in athletics is not detrimental to the academic, career, and personal success of the student-athlete. This is a complex and major challenge involving many factors, and I am convinced that the NCAA is fully committed to this worthy goal."

Bonner came to Gardner-Webb in 1987 as vice president for Academic Affairs and served as provost before being named president in 2005. Prior to GWU, he was a faculty member and associate dean for Special Programs at Anderson College in Anderson, S.C. A 1969 graduate of Furman University in Greenville, S.C., with a bachelor's degree in English, Bonner earned his master's degree from the University of Georgia in 1971, and his PhD from UNC Chapel Hill in 1977.

During his tenure as GWU President, Bonner has served on academic and athletic advisory boards. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), serving on more than 30 accreditation committees, many times as chair. Additionally, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU). He continues to serve on the Committee on Academics for NCAA. He is also a past president of the Big South Conference and was recently honored by the league for his four years of service. He is a past chair of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities.

"Being involved in discussions of academics in athletics and the effect on students should help me to be more effective on the Division I Board, but most important, that experience should make me better able to work for the academic success of our own student athletes," Bonner observed. "Experience in leadership of the Big South Conference will be invaluable to service on the board, because it has given me not only an understanding of challenges facing conferences but also an understanding of the issues and challenges facing the other institutions in the Big South and others like them."

2017 GWU WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

NORTH CAROLINA A&T
SEPT. 2, 6 P.M.

WYOMING
SEPT. 9

WESTERN CAROLINA
SEPT. 16, 6 P.M.

WOFFORD
SEPT. 23

SHORTER UNIVERSITY
OCT. 7, 1:30 P.M.

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
OCT. 14

KENNESAW STATE
OCT. 21

LIBERTY
OCT. 28, 1:30 P.M.

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
NOV. 4, 1:30 P.M.

MONMOUTH
NOV. 11

PRESBYTERIAN
NOV. 18, 6 P.M.

*EXHIBITION GAME
HOME GAME



VOLLEYBALL

WINGATE
AUG. 18, 7 P.M.

JAMES MADISON TOURNEY
AUG. 25-26

AMERICINNCCLASSIC
SEPT. 1-2

ELON
SEPT. 5, 7 P.M.

EAST CAROLINA TOURNEY
SEPT. 8-9

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
SEPT. 12, 6 P.M.

FURMAN
SEPT. 13, 7 P.M.

UNC-ASHEVILLE
SEPT. 19, 7 P.M.

RADFORD
SEPT. 22, 7 P.M.

UNC-ASHEVILLE
SEPT. 26, 7 P.M.

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
SEPT. 29, 7 P.M.

WINTHROP
SEPT. 30, 4 P.M.

NCA&T
OCT. 3, 6 P.M.

HIGHPOINT
OCT. 7, 5 P.M.

PRESBYTERIAN
OCT. 10, 7 P.M.

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
OCT. 13, 7 P.M.

HIGHPOINT
OCT. 17, 4 P.M.

CAMPBELL
OCT. 20, 7 P.M.

LIBERTY
OCT. 27, 7 P.M.

RADFORD
OCT. 28, 7 P.M.

CAMPBELL
NOV. 3, 7 P.M.

PRESBYTERIAN
NOV. 4, 6 P.M.

WINTHROP
NOV. 9, 7 P.M.

LIBERTY
NOV. 11, 4 P.M.

BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
NOV. 15-16



MEN'S SOCCER

UNC-WILMINGTON*
AUG. 15, 10:30 A.M.

LEES-MCRAE
AUG. 19, 7 P.M.

CINCINNATI
AUG. 25, 4 P.M.

WOFFORD
SEPT. 1, 4 P.M.

MERCER
SEPT. 3, 3 P.M.

JACKSONVILLE
SEPT. 8, 5 P.M.

HOUSTON BAPTIST
SEPT. 10, 12 P.M.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
SEPT. 16, 2 P.M.

FURMAN
SEPT. 23, 7 P.M.

LIBERTY
SEPT. 26, 6 P.M.

PRESBYTERIAN
SEPT. 30, 7 P.M.

UNC-ASHEVILLE
OCT. 4, 4 P.M.

CLEMSON
OCT. 10, 7 P.M.

RADFORD
OCT. 14, 6 P.M.

USC-UPSTATE
OCT. 17, 6 P.M.

HIGH POINT
OCT. 21, 4 P.M.

CAMPBELL
OCT. 25, 6 P.M.

LONGWOOD
OCT. 28, 3 P.M.

WINTHROP
NOV. 1, 6 P.M.

BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
NOV. 5-12

*EXHIBITION GAME
HOME GAME



WOMEN'S SOCCER

EAST TENNESSEE STATE*
AUG. 12, 7:00 P.M.

DAVIDSON
AUG. 18, 7:30 P.M.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN
AUG. 20, 1 P.M.

MARYLAND
AUG. 25, 7 P.M.

UNC-CHARLOTTE
SEPT. 1, 6 P.M.

MARSHALL
SEPT. 3, 1 P.M.

EASTERN KENTUCKY
SEPT. 8, 4 P.M.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
SEPT. 10, 6 P.M.

LOUISVILLE
SEPT. 14, 6 P.M.



USC-UPSTATE
SEPT. 18, 7 P.M.

LIBERTY
SEPT. 23, 4 P.M.

UNC-ASHEVILLE
SEPT. 27, 7 P.M.

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
SEPT. 30, 4 P.M.

WINTHROP
OCT. 4, 7 P.M.

RADFORD
OCT. 7, 4 P.M.

HIGH POINT
OCT. 11, 7 P.M.

CAMPBELL
OCT. 14, 4 P.M.

PRESBYTERIAN
OCT. 18, 7 P.M.

LONGWOOD
OCT. 21, 7 P.M.

BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
OCT. 28 - NOV. 5

DOUBLE DAWG SUCCESS

#DoubleDawgDay Scores Big for Student Scholarships

Written by Mary Carlson

“Record-breaking” is an apt term to describe Gardner-Webb University’s 2017 #DoubleDawgDay—a one-day effort dedicated to raising scholarship money. When the last gift rolled in, the University had raised \$87,000—a 25 percent increase over the 2016 total. In addition, the number of donors grew by 31 percent, with 217 individuals participating, the most ever involved in #DoubleDawgDay.

“Thanks to these donors, more students can have outstanding college experiences and pursue their goals,” said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner. “Ultimately, their generosity enables the University to carry out our mission to serve God and humanity.”

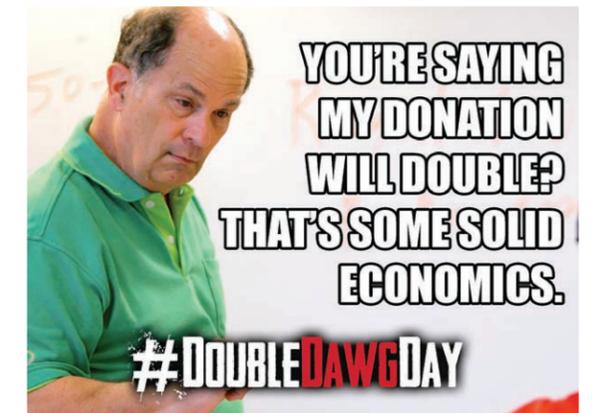
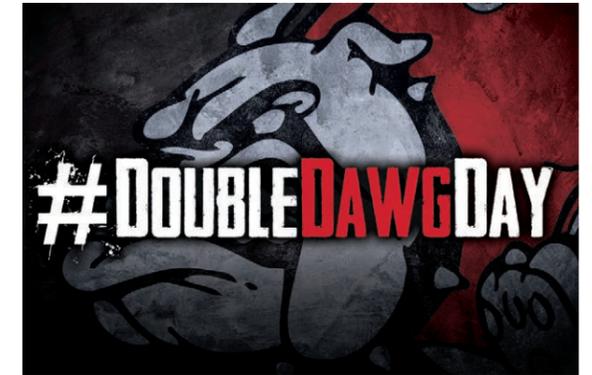
Who are those generous souls? Alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University. Even current students supported #DoubleDawgDay—a fact made even more meaningful given the reality that 97 percent of Gardner-Webb students receive some form of scholarship or financial aid, with the lion’s share coming through the Annual Fund.

“I couldn’t have graduated without the help of gracious donors who give to support scholarships through Gardner-Webb’s Annual Fund. I decided to give back in hopes of helping other students just like me. I am proud to be a yearly donor now to GWU’s Annual Fund.”

-Amanda Taylor (Class of 2015)

This year’s success stems in part from an unprecedented collaboration involving more than 30 employees in the Advancement, Marketing and Creative Services, Communications, Finance, Technology Services and Athletics groups. Thanks to a creative, engaging mix of 233 emails and social media posts, #DoubleDawgDay content received a total of 92,043 views across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Planning for next year’s #DoubleDawgDay has already begun. Stay tuned for more information about how you and others who love GWU can help support student scholarships.



COLD CALLS

Charlie Reynolds '86 Dedicated to Keeping Skiers Safe on the Slopes for Nearly Three Decades

Written by Jackie Bridges

Thousands of skiers travel to the majestic snow-covered mountains in Steamboat Springs, Colo., to experience a memorable day on the slopes. Beginners are focused on staying upright, but advanced skiers want to feel the rush of gliding down the trail. Charlie Reynolds '86, a Gardner-Webb University alumnus, is a member of a ski patrol team that keeps them all safe.

In over 25 years of helping to patrol over 2,000 acres at Steamboat Ski Resort, Reynolds has seen how quickly a person can get into trouble. He has experienced many rescues, ranging from dramatic life-saving events to simply giving a tired skier a ride down the slope. Once, a group of 11 were skiing on powder in the backcountry, outside of the ski area, and came to the edge of a cliff with no way down. His team used ropes to lower them to safety. "Every day is different," Reynolds observed. "With 15,000 people skiing, you never know what is going to happen. We use a team approach. You train for it and always have somebody backing you up."



Charlie Reynolds

"Courses in anatomy and physiology helped me with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. My physical education training also prepared me for the job, because they want a healthy, fit person who is able to perform at a high level in a difficult environment."

The son of missionaries, Reynolds went to high school in Belgium, and remembers he easily adjusted to new places, because his family moved around a lot. When he came to Gardner-Webb he made friends quickly, admired his professors and felt at home on the campus. Reynolds received a bachelor's degree in physical education from GWU in 1984. While completing his master's, he was a graduate assistant and coached the GWU men's tennis team from 1985-86.

After graduation, Reynolds taught and coached a winning tennis program at a small college in Eastern North Carolina. He was there four years and decided it was time to follow his dream of living in Colorado and working in a ski resort. His second year in Steamboat Springs, he was put on ski patrol and began specific training to learn about outdoor emergency care, lift evacuation, avalanche control work and technical rescue.

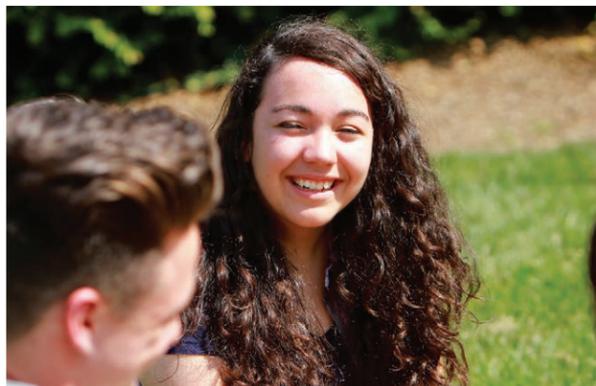


The most miraculous incident he's ever witnessed involved a skier who was immersed in six feet of snow. When Reynolds arrived to the scene with a defibrillator, another ski patroller and skier had just uncovered the man's face by digging him out with their hands. The man was blue from lack of oxygen. They cleared snow from his mouth and suddenly he took a breath. Within minutes color returned to the man's face, and everyone celebrated. "It was an incredible experience," Reynolds recalled. "When you are a part of a life-saving effort—that's a big day—that is winning."

A VOICE IN THE VOID

Mariana Mellado '16 Works for United Nations (UN) Women to Promote Gender Equality

Written by Jackie Bridges



Mariana Mellado

As social media consultant for United Nations (UN) Women in New York City, Mariana Mellado '16 is living her dream in a job where she can serve others in need and be a voice for the voiceless. "I've always believed and lived by the idea that we are here on this earth to lift each other up, and not tear each other down due to our differences," Mellado asserted. "I am grateful that I am able to serve people of every gender, socio-economic level, disability, sexual orientation, and religion."

UN Women is the global champion for gender equality, working to create an environment in which every woman and girl can exercise their human rights and live up to their full potential. Mellado develops and implements social media campaigns to promote international days such as International Women's Day or conferences like the Commission on the Status of Women. Some of her favorite projects include using Snapchat and Instagram to highlight the triumphs and challenges of women and girls.

"At 22, I never thought that I would be able to get a job at the UN following an internship there," Mellado observed. "I have always felt the odds were against me, but God has an interesting way of defying and surpassing our expectations for ourselves and overcoming obstacles so that we go where He wants to take us. That is, if you decide to leave your inhibitions behind and go forward in your journey."

She is grateful for the GWU professors who encouraged her to explore her beliefs and build her own views of life and the world. Her research adviser, Dr. Cheryl Duffus, showed her how important words are when studying history and different cultures and pushed her to excel on her Senior Honors Thesis. For the project, she received a travel grant from the GWU Undergraduate Research

Program to go to New York City and study the rhetoric of the first responders to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Her work on the thesis helped her secure the internship at the UN. "Who would have known that the people I learned about for a year would be based in the same city I would later move to?" Mellado speculated.

As she does her job, she relies on other lessons she learned from her English and psychology professors. Some are academic, like improving her writing or studying statistics, and others are interpersonal skills, such as being secure in her identity and having empathy for others. "The psychology and English departments are filled with the most encouraging professors and mentors," Mellado described. "Their character and how they truly live what they teach helped me decide to declare my double major (English professional writing and psychology). The quality time they dedicated and spent with me are the building blocks of the person I am today."



Mellado conducts interviews with a group of women from China for the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

BOOKMARKS

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



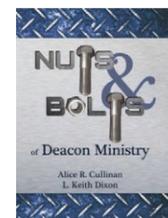
JEFFREY BEACH '01

has released "*Behold, I Make All Things New*," an account of God's plan of an eternal place free of sin and suffering for Christians. Dr. Beach is senior pastor of Cross Memorial Baptist Church in Morganton, N.C. Following a successful 21-year career in corporate accounting, Dr. Beach answered God's call into the ministry in 2006. He has developed and taught more than 40 biblical study series on several books of the Bible and various topics of interest. Published by Christian Faith Publishing, Dr. Beach's new book takes a journey into the future with the Apostle John to unravel the mystery of what God meant when He said, "Behold, I make all things new." Dr. Beach holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Pfeiffer University in Richfield, N.C., a Master of Religion from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., and a Doctor of Theology (ThD) from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Camilla, Ga. He received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Gardner-Webb University. The book is available in bookstores or online at Amazon.com, Apple iTunes store, Kobo or Barnes and Noble.



JEN GUBERMAN '18

has released "*Fortitude*," the second installment in the Eos Dawn trilogy. "*Fortitude*" takes place in the near future, and follows the adventures of Dawn and her friend Zane. Together, they discover the universal skeleton key that holds the power to unlocking the secrets to what is beyond the world they have always known. Guberman is studying public relations, film and French at Gardner-Webb. For more information on her books, visit eosdawnseries.com or follow @eosdawnseries on Twitter. Her books are also available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Blurb.



DR. ALICE CULLINAN AND REV. KEITH DIXON '76

have released the book, "*The Nuts and Bolts of Deacon Ministry*." Cullinan, GWU Professor Emerita of Religion and the Rev. Keith Dixon '76, pastor and former associational missionary for the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association in Shelby, N.C., wrote this book from their experience in working with deacons and leading deacon trainings. The book details the biblical foundation for deacon ministry and the mission of the church and offers evaluation tools and "how-to" helps to assist the newest to the most seasoned deacon. Topics include spirituality, listening to God, spiritual gifts, serving God, effective church ministry, following Jesus, administrative tasks and more. Available from Amazon. For more information, visit lamplighters-ministries.org.



ANNETTE PENDERGRAFT

has released the book, "*Wake the Dead*," under her pen name, Margaret Falcon. A mysterious mirror that causes the viewer to see what is on the inside, a girl in a lavender dress who haunts a bridge and a writer who goes to a reputed haunted house to finish her book and begins to experience the unexplainable. These and other stories comprise the collection of horror stories in "*Wake the Dead*." This is Pendergraft's second book, and she works as an administrative assistant at Gardner-Webb. She lives in Mooresboro with her husband, Marty. When she is not working or writing, she is involved in animal rescue. "*Wake the Dead*" is available on Amazon.com or CreateSpace.com. For more information, visit www.margaretfalcon.com.



DR. SHANNON WARDEN

(former assistant professor of psychology and counseling) has co-authored a new parenting book with Dr. Gary Chapman, New York Times bestselling author of "*Five Love Languages*." The book, "*Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Became Parents*," offers practical advice on everything from potty training to scheduling, apologizing to your child, and keeping your marriage strong. It is available online via Amazon.com and other major bookstores.



KRISTY YOUNG JOHNSON '92

published the textbook, "*Biological Weapons: Recognizing, Understanding and Responding to the Threat*," with her colleague, Dr. Paul Nolan at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. Johnson is an associate professor in the biology department at The Citadel. She graduated from Gardner-Webb with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with minors in biology and religious education. She received her PhD in 1998 from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She was teaching microbiology in 2001 when the anthrax attacks occurred after Sept. 11. She answered students' questions about the attacks, but students remained interested, so she created and sought approval to teach a bioterrorism course with a variety of reference books. The course remained popular, so Johnson and Nolan wrote the book, which gives readers a detailed understanding of how specific biological weapons work. It is available via Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

If you would like to submit your information to Bookmarks, please email Jackie Bridges at jbbridges@gardner-webb.edu or click on the Submit a Class Act link at gardner-webb.edu/magazine.

CLASSACTS

1950s



DAVID MCHAM '53

was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. McHam came from a working-class background and started working at newspapers in high school. Both parents

worked at Spindale (N.C.) Mills. Neither of his parents graduated from high school. "I don't mean to exaggerate, but Gardner-Webb changed my life," McHam said. "It was the right school at the right time for me. I met so many wonderful people during my time there. And the teachers were outstanding." After graduating, he spent three years in the Marine Corps. He completed his undergraduate work at Baylor University. After a year at New York University, he attended the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. After Columbia, McHam went to work at The Houston Post. In 1961 came the opportunity to teach at Baylor. He taught journalism in Texas colleges for 54 years – a record. He taught at Baylor, Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Houston. He retired in 2015, and was chosen the outstanding journalism teacher in the nation by the Society of Professional Journalists in 1994. He was named a legend of Dallas journalism by the Dallas Press Club in 2015 and was named one of the outstanding graduates at the Columbia journalism school in 2016.

1960s

TOM WATSON '63

was inducted into the Catawba County, (N.C.) Sports Hall of Fame. Watson played football, basketball and baseball at Maiden High School before attending Lenoir-Rhyne College, (Hickory, N.C.) where he was a member of the 1960-61 basketball conference champions. He transferred to Gardner-Webb where he was a part of the 1962-63 championship basketball program. Watson's involvement in sports continued after college graduation. He has been involved in various aspects of team leadership through the Hickory Metro Sports Commission as a board member, chairman and vice president. He has also coached basketball and football for several schools over the years, and has served as an athletic director and N.C. High School Athletic Association administrator. Watson was also a co-founder of the Catawba Valley Classic High School Basketball Tournament.



JOSEPH DEPRIEST '65

was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. DePriest enrolled in Gardner-Webb while also working after classes at the Cleveland Times newspaper, a semi-weekly published in

Shelby, N.C. He worked there as a "printer's devil," melting type into molten metal that formed bars for the linotype machine. While at the Times, DePriest did numerous other jobs, from running a hand-fed printing press, and setting type by hand, to delivering papers. Since DePriest wanted to be a journalist, the editor let him try his hand at writing stories occasionally. Two of his

earliest articles featured Gardner-Webb connections. After graduating from Gardner-Webb with an Associate of Arts degree in 1965, he entered journalism school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated in 1967. His talent for writing became evident, and he was employed as a reporter for The Shelby Star before joining the U.S. Army. While in service, he was a military reporter for the Fort Bragg Paraglide newspaper and the U.S. Military Command Vietnam's MACV Observer based in Saigon. Back in the civilian world, DePriest rejoined The Shelby Star and spent 20 years there covering community news. He joined the Charlotte Observer in 1990. Among the highlights of his 30 years with the Observer were interviews with Cleveland County natives and musicians Earl Scruggs and Don Gibson at their Nashville homes. In 1994, the Observer sent Joe back to Vietnam for special assignment writing which won DePriest second place in the North Carolina Press Association competition. Among the most remarkable people DePriest interviewed was the late Martha Mason of Lattimore, N.C., a GWU alumna and honorary doctorate recipient. Mason was a published author and polio victim who spent more than 60 years in an iron lung.

1970s

J.J. ABERNETHY '71

was honored by the GWU Athletic Hall of Fame with the 2016 Meritorious Service Award. Abernethy was an avid supporter and friend of the University and athletics program for more than four decades and was part of the school's first senior college graduating class in 1971. One of the pillars of Gardner-Webb's athletics program, Abernethy spent much of his life following and helping to build a legacy of success at his alma mater. Abernethy was actually the first person to cross the stage in 1971 to receive his diploma in historic Bost Gymnasium. His involvement with Gardner-Webb's Bulldog Club was invaluable over the years, serving for a time as that organization's president. His engaging personality proved to be a great asset as Gardner-Webb advanced from a member of the NAIA, NCAA Division II and eventually NCAA Division I. He was coach and sponsor of the Newton Flames AAU Junior Olympics Basketball Teams for 23 years, and his teams were always very competitive. Many of his former players went on to the college ranks and several played for the Runnin' Bulldogs. Abernethy served Gardner-Webb in a wide variety of roles, including on the Board of Trustees. He was also a longtime, and very influential, member of the Athletics Hall of Fame committee. He was named Gardner-Webb University Alumnus of the Year in 2000.



LARRY THOMAS '75

was named as Gardner-Webb University's Male Staff Member of the Year. Thomas is a Police Captain for Gardner-Webb University and has served the University for more

than 38 years in a variety of capacities. "A graduate of Gardner-Webb, he never fails to convey a 'people first' heart of service to others," GWU President Frank Bonner said at the annual awards ceremony. "He makes a difference each day in the lives of those he encounters—and has done so consistently for nearly four decades."

BILL ELLIS '75

was inducted into the Iredell County (N.C.) Sports Hall of Fame. Ellis was a basketball standout for South Iredell High School,

and he coached high school basketball championship teams at Statesville, McDowell and Crest High Schools. As a high school point guard, he averaged 31 points per game his senior year, and scored 51 points against East Rowan in 1971 (before the three-point line). Ellis went on to a stellar basketball career at Gardner-Webb and is also a member of the GW Bulldogs Hall of Fame.



The REV. DR. H. LAWTON NEELY '00 and DAWN NEELY '71

were named chaplains of the Martha Franks Retirement Community in Laurens, S.C. Dr. Neely earned a Master of Divinity from Gardner-Webb. He received his Doctor of Ministry from Erskine Theological Seminary. Mrs. Neely holds a Master of Counseling '71 and a Master of Supervision and Administration '91 from Gardner-Webb.

RANDALL ALEXANDER '76

was named the next Greensboro College (N.C.) men's and women's tennis coach. Alexander compiled a combined record of 654-202, while recording 26 conference championships, three state runner-up finishes, and a state championship during the past 33 years coaching high school teams. Alexander graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1976 with a bachelor's degree and obtained his master's degree from GWU in 1988.



RICK WEBB '77

and his wife, Phyllis, were honored with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from former Gov. Pat McCrory for their 40 years of ministry and service.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award is the highest award given to a civilian who has a proven record of extraordinary service to the state of North Carolina. He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University and was awarded Alumnus of the Year in 1998. The Webbs have ministered through music evangelism to nearly three million people worldwide, logging over two million miles. Beginning their musical journey in 1978 with Derric Johnson's Re'Generation, they have shared the platform with several noted leaders including - President Ronald Reagan, President George H. Bush, Dr. Zig Ziglar,

Dr. Billy Graham, Gov. Mike Huckabee, Gov. Chris Christie, Dr. Mac Brunson, Dr. Chuck Colson, Dr. David Jeremiah, Dr. Charles Stanley and Dr. Gary Chapman.

1980s



DARLENE PANVINI '84

was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. Panvini earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Gardner-Webb. As a first-generation college student,

she was nurtured and inspired by her science professors and went on to receive a PhD from Vanderbilt University (1991) in biology, with specialization in ecology, plant taxonomy, and plant physiology. Her passion for teaching led her to a career as the assistant director at the Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tenn.) from 1991-2003. In this role, Panvini developed and managed professional development programs for graduate teaching assistants and postdoctoral fellows interested in college-level teaching. Panvini joined the faculty of Belmont University (Nashville, Tenn.) in 2003, where she teaches biology and environmental science. Her favorite courses, like ecology and botany, are those where she can take students outdoors to study streams, forests, and local parks. She incorporates service-learning into her teaching so that students see a connection between science and real world needs. Panvini has also taught Maymester courses in Costa Rica in ethnobotany and conservation and sustainability. She has supervised over 40 undergraduate research projects on a variety of ecological topics. From 2009-2016, Panvini served as chair of the Department of Biology and Coordinator of the Environmental Science Program. She has been the co-recipient of several education grants and facilitated teacher-training workshops.

WILLIAM L. BROWN, SR. '85

is celebrating nearly a decade as pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Taylorsville, N.C. He also serves as the vice moderator of the Alexander Union Missionary Baptist Association. He graduated from Gardner-Webb with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

STAN LAW '85

was hired as the new president and chief executive of The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina in Winston-Salem, N.C. Law, a native of Charlotte, N.C., and graduate of Gardner-Webb University, is the first black person to serve as leader of the local YMCA. Law has served in the same roles since 2013 with the Greater Birmingham, chapter in Alabama. Law's YMCA background also includes leadership roles in Greater Cincinnati, Metropolitan Washington and Greater Charlotte chapters.

DEWEY LUSK '87

was named the new football coach at Bluefield (Va.) College. A Christiansburg, Va., native, Lusk was a backup quarterback and 1985 graduate of Emory & Henry College in Emory, Va., and completed his Master's from Gardner-Webb in 1987. He served as the offensive coordinator at Emory & Henry (1991-2005), and was the head baseball coach from '92 through '04. He was hired as offensive coordinator at the University of Virginia's College at Wise from 2005-10 and served as head coach from 2011-2015.

**STANLEY EASTERLING '89**

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. Easterling excelled with the Runnin' Bulldogs Men's Basketball Team from 1985-1989,

finishing his career ranked third in school history in both scoring and rebounding. Easterling finished his four seasons with 2,134 career points and 1,062 rebounds – one of only three men in Gardner-Webb's storied senior college basketball history to pour in more than 2,000 points and pull down at least 1,000 rebounds. Former NBA players George Adams and Eddie Lee Wilkins are the other names on that list. Easterling's paint production allowed the Runnin' Bulldogs to win 22 games and the NAIA District 26 Championship during his stellar junior year in 1987-88 under Hall of Fame head coach Jim Wiles. The 6-foot-8 Easterling averaged 18.9 points and 10.3 rebounds per game that season while shooting 58.5 percent from the floor. Two decades passed before another Gardner-Webb player averaged a double-

double for a full season. He was named NAIA District 26 Player of the Year and earned All-America honors for the first time in 1987-88. Easterling was also named NAIA District 26 Player of the Year in 1986-87, averaging 18.3 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. Easterling averaged a career-best 19.0 points per game as a senior to earn All-America honors for a second time. He was one of the team's top players as a freshman as well, averaging 15.2 points and 7.7 rebounds, setting the stage for what was to come. He played in 120 career games at Gardner-Webb to finish with career averages of 17.8 points and 8.9 rebounds per game. He went on to a very successful international professional career.

1990s**BERNARD GAY '90**

was named chief information officer for Delaware North, a global hospitality and food service provider with headquarters in Buffalo, N.Y. Gay leads all aspects of Delaware North's information technology (IT) department. Gay holds a bachelor's degree in management information systems and business administration from Gardner-Webb and a Master of Business Administration from Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology.

TRACEY HARRIS '92

was named assistant principal at Gamewell Elementary School in Lenoir, N.C. She received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Gardner-Webb.

KAREN G. STEELE '93

was included in Trademark Publishing's "Women of Distinction" 2017 Honors Edition, which is a registry that "highlights the professional accomplishments and stories of today's best and brightest women in business." Steele, a Gardner-Webb alumna who lives in Morganton, N.C., has more than 15 years of experience in counseling.

**NOEL T. MANNING II '94**

was presented with the President's Award for Community Engagement from Gardner-Webb University. The award recognizes recipients for commitment to community

service. Manning currently serves in a volunteer capacity on boards or committees

for the Salvation Army, The Broad River Greenway, The Cleveland County Arts Council, The Ruby C. Hunt YMCA, the Boiling Springs Tourism Development Authority, and the Long Leaf Film Festival.

DAVID MULLIS '95

retired as assistant chief of the Rockingham (N.C.) Fire Department after 37 years. He completed his degree in business administration from Gardner-Webb.

BRAD CRADDOCK '98

was named the 2016-17 Principal of the Year by Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (N.C.) Schools. Craddock has been principal at Glenn High School in Kernersville, N.C., since 2009. From 2005 to 2009, he was principal of the School of Computer Technology at Atkins Academic & Technology High School in Winston-Salem. He received his master's degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb and his education specialist degree from UNC Greensboro in 2013.

GRAHAM H. ATKINSON '98

was named by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to serve on the North Carolina Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission. Atkinson has served as Surry County (N.C.) Sheriff since 2006. He previously served as a deputy, detective, narcotics investigator, and chief of detectives. He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb.

JAMES C. FAW '98

has announced the opening of Faw & Associates, PLLC in Wilkesboro, N.C. The firm provides individual and business tax preparation and planning, bookkeeping and payroll services for businesses, business financial statement compilations and review, individual financial planning and Quickbooks consulting. He graduated from Gardner-Webb with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting.

BRYANT FOSTER '99

was named as the new cornerbacks coach at Charleston Southern in Charleston, S.C. Foster graduated from Gardner-Webb with a degree in management information systems. A native of Chesnee, S.C., he most recently served at Hampton (Va.) University and Campbell University (Buies Creek, N.C.). Early in his career, he was cornerbacks coach at Gardner-Webb.

DANNY RITCHIE '99

was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, an award given by the North Carolina governor to persons for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty, according to *longleafpinesociety.org*. Ritchie retired from Burke County Public Schools as a teacher, coach, athletic director and principal. He is a member of the Drexel Fair board, president of the Drexel Community Club and president of the Foothills Athletics Conference. He graduated from Drexel High School, Gardner-Webb University and Appalachian State University. He attends Drexel First Baptist Church and has served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and counselor.

LARRY PUTNAM '99

was recognized as the 2017 Northwest Regional Education Service Alliance (NWRESA) Superintendent of the Year. He has been superintendent of Burke County (N.C.) Public Schools since 2012. Putnam has been in education for more than 20 years, and received his doctorate in education leadership from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. He has a master's in school administration from Gardner-Webb, an educational specialist degree from Appalachian State University, and a bachelor's in business education and a business administration degree with a concentration in management from Appalachian State University.

**TRAVIS E. WRIGHT '99**

currently serves as assistant vice president for academic affairs and manages the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. He was appointed vice president

for academic and student support services at Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) in Harrogate, Tenn. In his new position, Dr. Wright will oversee the support areas that are vital to student success at LMU. Academic and student support services offers a myriad of resources designed to assist LMU students in pursuing their academic and personal aspirations. Wright joined the LMU administration in 2014 after a tenure as vice president for academic affairs at Louisiana College in Pineville, La. Wright holds a PhD in Christian education from New Orleans

Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, La.

2000s**JAMIE DURANT '01**

was named Rowan-Salisbury (N.C.) Schools 2017 Principal of the Year. Dr. Durant has been with Rowan-Salisbury Schools since 2002, holding positions of assistant principal and principal. He teaches classes at Gardner-Webb, where he also received his master's degree.

**VIRGINIA 'GINNY' MOOREFIELD '01**

was named Gardner-Webb Alumna of the year. Moorefield graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language (ASL). Moorefield's

commitment to ASL and the impact it has on society has been tremendous. After freelancing and teaching ASL for a few years, she discovered that there was a lack of support for ASL at the state level. She joined members of the Deaf community and other stakeholders representing several advocacy groups around North Carolina to write a bill that would recognize ASL as meeting graduation requirements for high school students entering college in the North Carolina University system. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Mike Easley in June 2007. While working with these groups to pass the ASL legislation, Moorefield earned a certification from the national American Sign Language Teacher's Association in 2009. Moorefield has served on several boards and committees to create standards for teachers and students to strengthen ASL classes across the state and to ensure that the language of the Deaf was taught with accuracy and integrity. In addition to teaching at East Wake Academy in Zebulon, N.C., since 2012, Moorefield has delivered and presented workshops through the North Carolina American Sign Language Teacher's Association to share knowledge with colleagues. She is currently working with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction on creating a series of workshops to help ASL teachers apply state World Language Instructional Standards to the K-12 ASL classroom.

**JACQUELINE BOWEN ST. CLAIR '01**

was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. A GWU psychology major minoring in Spanish and religious education, St. Clair was involved in

campus ministries and enjoyed serving on FOCUS teams that served regional churches through discipleship weekends. After completing her degree, she went to Baylor University (Waco, Texas) where she earned her Master of Social Work degree. Reflecting on her time at GWU and Baylor, Jacqueline emphasized how grateful she is to have experienced Christian Higher Education. Because of her positive experiences, she felt it was her responsibility to teach on the college level if she was ever given the opportunity. God made this possible for her. While working her first job as a social worker, she connected with a doctoral student at Liberty University who then introduced her to the Dean of Psychology at Liberty. The following semester, she started working as an adjunct professor. She served in this role for three years on campus and five years for the online program. After almost four years of living and working in Lynchburg, Va., her husband, Jack, wanted to pursue the dream of owning his own business. St. Clair agreed to join him as long as the new business would be helping people. They found a way to do this with a franchise of Home Instead Senior Care. They will celebrate 10 years of owning and operating this month. St. Clair said they have been blessed to work where their passion is which is helping senior adults age in place. They are providing care to over 300 CAREGivers on a monthly basis, who provide over 22,000 hours of care monthly. She estimated they have touched 5,000 families in their community.

KRISTIN BLANTON '02

was selected as the new Grants Coordinator for Cleveland Community College (CCC) in Shelby, N.C. She will research, write, submit and coordinate grants from state and federal government entities and private foundations. Blanton holds an associate degree from CCC and bachelor's and master's degrees from Gardner-Webb. She has worked for CCC since 2008, most recently as accounting instructor and discipline coordinator.

MARK BYRD '02

was named Superintendent of Wilkes County (N.C.) Schools, where he previously served as assistant superintendent. He had also previously served as Principal of Elkin High School and North Iredell High School. He earned his Master's in School Administration at Gardner-Webb.

**JIM MAXWELL '03**

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. From the time he arrived on campus as a slim quarterback, to his completion of two degrees at Gardner-Webb, former

Runnin' Bulldog Jim Maxwell set the bar for excellence on the field and in the classroom. Maxwell never played on the offensive side for the Runnin' Bulldogs, instead earning a starting role in the secondary before eventually starring as linebacker on two Big South Conference championship teams. Maxwell earned All-Big South Conference honors in both 2002 and 2003 and was an honorable mention Division I-AA All-America selection by the Football Gazette in 2002. That season he led the Runnin' Bulldogs to a 9-1 mark, the inaugural Big South football crown and final national ranking in the top-20 of both major I-AA polls. In 2003, Maxwell helped GWU to an 8-4 mark and was named CoSIDA Academic All-District III in addition to Big South Conference Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He played a key role in Gardner-Webb's move to Division I on the gridiron, which saw the Runnin' Bulldogs post a 30-13 overall record during his four years on the field. Maxwell finished those four seasons with 306 total tackles, 30 tackles for loss and 10 sacks. His 100-yard fumble return for a touchdown in 2001 vs. Morris Brown remains the longest in the school's record book. Maxwell went on to sign with the New York Giants and played with the Giants, 49ers, Dolphins and Bengals during a five-year NFL career. Maxwell was recognized by the NFL in 2005 for returning to Gardner-Webb to complete his MBA.

MATTHEW STOVER '03

was named superintendent of Catawba County Schools in Newton, N.C. Since 2013, he had served as associate superintendent of Lincoln County Schools. He was also selected to serve on the Catawba County (N.C.) United

Way's board of directors. He began his career in public education as a teacher and coach at Crest High School in Boiling Springs, N.C. He obtained a master's degree in school administration in 2003 and a doctorate in educational leadership in 2009 from Gardner-Webb.

TONI FLOYD '04

was named the new transportation director for Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools. Previously, she was transportation director for Craven County Schools (N.C.) for four years and served as transportation director for Watauga County Schools (N.C.) for 21 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Gardner-Webb.

**HAROLD WELLS '04**

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. Wells, a defensive lineman, spent a great deal of time in opposing backfields from 2001-2004. Wells, who

excelled at defensive end and nose guard, earned Division I-AA All-America honors in 2003 and 2004 and was a three-time All-Big South Conference choice from 2002-2004. Wells' best season came in 2004, when he was named NCAA Division I-AA Defensive Lineman of the Year by the Football Gazette and became the first consensus Division I-AA All-America in Big South Conference and Gardner-Webb history. Wells led the nation with 22.5 tackles for loss and finished 2004 with a career-high 86 total stops, three forced fumbles and 12 quarterback hurries. Wells was also named Big South Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 2004. Wells wasn't limited to defense, bruising his way to eight touchdowns on just 17 carries as the team's short-yardage fullback. He was a stalwart on each of Gardner-Webb's Big South Conference Championship teams, earning All-Big South honors in both 2002 and 2003 as GWU went 17-5 overall and established a 15-game home win streak in Ernest W. Spangler Stadium. He made 47 stops on defense and scored four touchdowns at fullback in 2003, earning first-team All-Big South Conference honors as GWU went 8-4. USA Today named Wells one of the top two-way players in college football midway through the 2003 campaign. Wells went on to a successful professional career, playing

in the Arena Football League (AFL) for the Columbus Destroyers. He finished his career as that franchise's leading rusher and was twice named to the AFL All-Ironman Team.

**MICHAEL MIKOTA '05**

has been chosen as the new Central Carolina Technical College (Sumter, S.C.) president. Mikota, previously served as the executive director for the Santee-Lynches Regional

Council of Governments. In his position with Santee-Lynches Regional Council, Mikota was in charge of an organization that spanned four counties, and he developed, implemented and governed the successful delivery of policy directives and consulting services by local, state, and federal governments with maximum accountability, efficiency and effectiveness. Mikota began his role as president for Central Carolina Technical College this summer.

AMY RHYNE '05

is principal at East Iredell Elementary School in Statesville, N.C., has been named the Southwest Region Principal of the Year in North Carolina. Rhyme has been the principal at East Elementary since July 2011. She was named the Iredell-Statesville Principal of the Year for 2016-17. Rhyme obtained her Master of Arts in school administration from Gardner-Webb.

**LEEANNA WOODWORTH BLALOCK '05**

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. One of the most decorated players in Gardner-Webb soccer

history, Blalock established a high bar during her career in Boiling Springs. A standout on the field and in the classroom, Blalock finished her four years with the Runnin' Bulldogs as the program's all-time leading scorer with 135 points – 20 points more than any other GWU performer. She scored 49 career goals, which is tied for the top mark in school history, and finished with a program-best 37 assists. A three-time All-Atlantic Sun Conference selection, Blalock was named the 2004 A-Sun Player of the Year after setting a GWU single-season mark with 59 points. She

led NCAA Division I in scoring that season, setting Gardner-Webb single-season marks for goals scored (22) and assists (15). Her efforts helped Gardner-Webb to 10 wins and the first A-Sun Tournament win in program history. Blalock was named to the A-Sun All-Tournament Team following that event, which saw her post a goal and two assists in a win over Stetson. In addition to her Atlantic Sun Conference honors in 2004, Blalock was named Gardner-Webb's Female Athlete of the Year for the 2004-2005 academic year and earned third-team All-Southeast Region honors from Soccer Buzz. Blalock finished her career following the 2005 season, earning third-team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors. She was an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District III selection as a junior and senior. Blalock scored at least 20 points in each of her four seasons with the Runnin' Bulldogs.

MONICA LILETON '05

was awarded the Town of Wake Forest's (N.C.) 2016 Jon Ray Employee of the Year. She serves as the town's Recreation Program Superintendent. A native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Lileton has worked for Wake Forest since 2014. A 2005 graduate of Gardner-Webb, Lileton is credited with enhancing the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department's special needs programming which has experienced a 78 percent increase in participation over the past two years.

STEVEN PREVATTE '05

joined the staff of The Community Church at Tellico Village in Loudon, Tenn., as associate pastor of congregational care. Prevatte, 49, earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Gardner-Webb University.

**MINDY W. ZIMMERMAN '05**

was appointed to the Eighth Judicial Circuit, Family Court Bench, in Newberry, S.C., by the South Carolina General Assembly. She received her MBA from

Gardner-Webb in 2005.

KIM ALDERMAN '06

was named to the role of regional director for the Central Region by Truliant Federal Credit Union. In this position, Alderman

will be responsible for the management of Member Financial Centers within Truliant's Central Region. She will be based in Winston-Salem, N.C. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Bluefield State College (W.V.) and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Gardner-Webb.

**BLAKE LALLI '06**

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. Lalli will go down as arguably the most complete hitter ever to suit up for the Runnin' Bulldogs Baseball Team. Lalli finished

his career as the all-time leader at GWU in hits, games played, starts, doubles and at bats – and ranked in the top-5 in career batting average, runs, RBI, home runs, total bases and walks. That included a solid .340 average with 290 hits, 155 runs scored, 70 doubles, 27 home runs and 153 RBI in four seasons. Lalli's versatility was unmatched, with starts at six different positions and on the mound. Lalli earned first-team All-Atlantic Sun Conference honors at third base in 2005, when he led NCAA Division I with a school-record 30 doubles and powered GWU to its first Atlantic Sun Tournament victory – earning 2005 A-Sun All-Tournament honors in the process. Lalli adjusted quickly to a new position in 2006, moving behind the plate as a redshirt senior. The move didn't hinder his offensive prowess, as he slammed a career-high 11 home runs and earned first-team All-Atlantic Sun Conference honors at his new spot following the season. Lalli went on to sign with the Chicago Cubs prior to the 2006 MLB Draft and eventually became the first Gardner-Webb product to play in a Major League game when he suited up against the White Sox on May 18, 2012. Lalli had a very successful minor league career with the Cubs before his call up, earning All-Southern League (AA) honors three times. He went on to play in the majors with the Brewers in 2013 and finished the 2016 season on the Atlanta Braves big league roster.

JAN KING '06

was named the new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the Henderson County (N.C.) Board of Public Education. She holds a Master of Arts in School Administration from Gardner-Webb.

KEVIN CLODFELTER '06

was promoted to the rank of captain at the Kernersville (N.C.) Police Department's Patrol Services Bureau. He will provide legal, ethical, and professional police services to the citizens and patrons of Kernersville. He graduated from Gardner-Webb with a degree in business administration.

KEVIN PRIME '06

joined the chiropractic team at Omni Wellness Center in Charlotte, N.C. Dr. Prime is a native of Trinidad and Tobago, a sports enthusiast, and received his doctorate from the Sherman College of Chiropractic. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and in Chemistry from Gardner-Webb. A member of the track and field team, he set records that are still unbroken. He is certified by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners and the North Carolina Board of Chiropractic Examiners and is a member of the North Carolina Chiropractic Association.

MOIRA BROOKSHIRE '06

was selected to receive one of only 10 national grants for the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart awarded by SHAPE (Society of Health and Physical Educators) America. She is a physical education teacher at Hudson Elementary School in Hudson, N.C. Over the years, her students have raised more than \$36,000 for the American Heart Association. She received a Master's Degree in administration from Gardner-Webb.

TRACEY TONSOR THURNES '06

was selected as a 2016-17 Leadership Faculty Scholar at Elon (N.C.) University. The six faculty members chosen for the program gather for workshops and seminars designed to focus on issues related to leadership pedagogy. Thurnes is an assistant professor and the assistant director of Clinical Education in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. She is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership Program at Gardner-Webb University, where she also earned her bachelor's degree in biology.

DARCY CRAVEN '07

was named president of DeGraff Memorial Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y., and Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital in Williamsville, N.Y. Craven had served as CEO of the Carolinas Hospital System in Florence, S.C. since 2012. Craven has a master's degree in business administration from Gardner-Webb.

CHAD HAWKINS '08

was named police chief at the Belmont (N.C.) Police Department. Hawkins has worked full time in law enforcement for 22 years, most recently as chief of the Cherryville (N.C.) Police Department. He has also worked for departments in Lowell, N.C., and Gastonia, N.C. He graduated from Gardner-Webb and has been an adjunct professor for GWU since 2013. He began teaching at Gaston College in 2016.

DONNA ATHERTON '08

received the Rising Star Award for 2016 from the Brunswick County (N.C.) Association of Realtors (BCAR). Atherton is with Margaret Rudd and Associates and has been a BCAR member since 2013. The NC Realtors Rising Star Award recognizes a Realtor in each association who has been a Realtor for five years or less, has provided exemplary service to the local association, and exhibits leadership potential. A native of metro Atlanta, she earned an MBA from Gardner-Webb.

GERALD HYDE '08

was named as the new Vice President for Accounting and Chief Financial Officer at Mitchell Community College in Statesville (N.C.). Hyde most recently served as the Vice President of Administrative Services at Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine, N.C. He holds an MBA from Gardner-Webb.

NICK CARLASCIO '08

was appointed the new principal of Kannapolis Middle School in Kannapolis, N.C. He was named Kannapolis City Schools' Principal of the Year in 2015. He earned his Master of School Administration from Gardner-Webb.

CANDICE AUSTIN '09

was named principal at Overton Elementary School in Salisbury, N.C. by the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education. She previously served as an assistant principal at Granite

Quarry Elementary and was a member of the district's 'Grow Your Own Leaders' professional development program. Austin received her master's degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb.

TAKAYO SIDDLE '09

was named assistant coach at N.C. State University in Raleigh, N.C. Previously, he was interim head football coach for the UNC Wilmington (N.C.) Seahawks, where he had been an assistant coach for three years. A native of Eden, N.C., Siddle played four seasons for the Runnin' Bulldogs from 2006-10 and was also an assistant coach at GWU. He completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from Gardner-Webb in 2009.

2010s**HEATHER BRIDGES MOORE '10**

was named the Female Staff Member of the Year of Gardner-Webb University. The Female Staff Member of the Year was presented to Heather Bridges Moore,

director of Program Development. She received her MBA from Gardner-Webb in 2010. Moore works many long hours to provide exceptional service to University departments. "She is wholeheartedly committed to providing a product of the highest caliber to each of the University clients she serves—often working against the clock with her team to achieve the seemingly impossible," Bonner described.

CHAD GRINDSTAFF '10

is the new youth leader at Blackwelder Park Baptist Church in Kannapolis, N.C., and is leading the rebuilding of the student/youth ministry. A native of Boiling Springs, N.C., Grindstaff graduated from Gardner-Webb in 2010 with a degree in Religious Studies with a concentration in Christian Missions. While at Gardner-Webb, he served as a Discipleship Coordinator. He is currently on the Christian Response Team for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Charlotte.

JAYSON PHILBECK '10

was promoted as Cleveland County (N.C.) Market President of the commercial lending team for Alliance Bank & Trust, a North Carolina community bank with branches

in Shelby, Gastonia, and Kings Mountain. Philbeck has more than 10 years of experience. Philbeck obtained his Bachelor of Science in Finance, magna cum laude, from Gardner-Webb.

KEVIN HUDSON '10

was appointed assistant principal of Central Davidson High School (CDHS) in Lexington, N.C. Hudson obtained his master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Gardner-Webb. He has also spent the last 21 years as a teacher and school improvement team member at CDHS.

STEVEN CAUDILL '11

was added to the Surry County Parks and Recreation Department Hall of Fame and Ring of Honor memorial at Dobson (N.C.) Square Park on Oct. 5, 2016. He earned seven individual state championships in men's swimming at Elkin High School from 2003 to 2007. Two years he was named the MVP at the state championships. Considered the most decorated athlete in the school's history, Caudill still holds eight records at Elkin High. He received a degree in business administration from Gardner-Webb, where he was a swim team captain and holds eight school records. After graduating from GWU, he worked as a graduate assistant swim coach at Florida State University from 2011 through 2013. In his time there, he coached 13 NCAA All-Americans and four ACC individual champions.

KELSEY GREER '12

was named principal at Denton (N.C.) Elementary School in the Davidson County (N.C.) School District. She received her doctorate from Gardner-Webb.

BRANDON MCCANN '12

passed the National Physical Therapy Exam to become a practicing physical therapist in North Carolina. He received a Master of Business Administration degree from Gardner-Webb. McCann lives in Greenville, N.C., where he practices in an outpatient orthopedic setting at Pivot Physical Therapy.

**IVANA HUGHES '13**

is the newest associate attorney at King Law in Rutherfordton, N.C. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political

Science and a minor in English from Gardner-Webb. She attended law school at the University of Alabama, where she graduated with pro bono honors.

JONATHAN FRASHER '13

was named assistant principal of East Surry High in Pilot Mountain, N.C. He graduated from North Surry in 1991, then received a Bachelor of Science in physical education and biology from Winston-Salem State University. He obtained a master's in executive leadership studies from Gardner-Webb. Frasher worked as a classroom teacher for Forsyth and Stokes Counties. He was the head football coach at South Stokes from 2010-15.

JOSHUA ROBERT VALENTINE '13

was granted membership into the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys. He majored in Accounting at Gardner-Webb, and he currently resides in Shelby, N.C.

JUSTIN HEATHERLY '13

was named head football coach for East Henderson High School in Hendersonville, N.C. Heatherly is joining the program with 11 years of coaching experience in Henderson County Public Schools, where he's served as a teacher, coach, and middle school athletic director. He served North Henderson High as assistant coach for the football and track teams in 2010, and since 2011, he's taught physical education and served as athletic director at Hendersonville Middle. During his coaching career at Hendersonville Middle, Heatherly has led the Bearcats to win two conference championships. Heatherly holds a Master of Arts in Executive Leadership Studies from Gardner-Webb.

**VERHONDA CLARESE CRAWFORD '12, '17**

was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, and her MBA from Gardner-Webb. At GWU she was the Senior Class president for the Class of 2012, a four year GWU Cheerleader, and second runner-up at the Miss Gardner-Webb Pageant. Crawford was one of the youngest elected government officials in the state of South Carolina and is serving as councilwoman in her hometown

of Chesnee, S.C. During her political career, she has served as Mayor Pro Tem, and she is also a graduate of the Municipal Association of South Carolina Elected Official Academy. Crawford helped develop an Economic Development and Growth Grant for South Carolina, which awards almost \$300,000. She has also developed a community interest group of local business owners and citizens. This group helped write a grant for the City of Chesnee to be awarded with city planning services. Crawford works for a national non-profit organization that mentors high school students. A former Miss South Carolina US International, she volunteers as the director of public relations for the Miss US International pageant. She is co-owner of Verhonica Ryan Clothing Boutique specializing in custom pageant attire and casual wear clothing for men and women. She also heads VPR Marketing firm, which provides marketing and public relations consulting. In her spare time, Crawford enjoys coaching cheerleading and pageant contestants, and she is the assistant Chesnee Middle School cheer coach and the tumbling instructor at Dreamweaves Dance Studio in Forest City, N.C.

JOHN HARRIS '13

was named assistant coach of the Asheboro (N.C.) Copperheads baseball team in the Coastal Plain League. Harris, a graduate of Gardner-Webb, played collegiately and was named All-Big South in 2012 and Best Defensive Catcher in the Big South in 2013. He started 26 games for the Copperheads in the summer of 2012. He later played professionally in the independent Frontier League.

PAM HELMS '13

was named principal of Jefferson Middle School in Winston-Salem, N.C. Previously, Helms had served as principal of Kernersville Middle School since 2013. She obtained her master's and doctoral degrees from Gardner-Webb University.

ASHLEE THOMAS '13

was accepted to participate in the N.C. Impact Ventures program. The N.C. Dept. of Digital Learning made it possible for Thomas to obtain a grant for a class set of Chromebooks. This program will allow her to have a 1:1 technology model in her classroom. She received her master's degree in elementary

education from GWU.

ADAM VELEZ '14

was promoted to Association Director for Member Engagement at the Cleveland County Family YMCA in Shelby, N.C. Velez will lead the work toward shaping the member experience. He will work with staff teams across the association to implement relationship training and technology. Since joining the Y in 2014, Velez has worked at the welcome center and with the chronic disease programs. He has both an undergraduate degree and a Masters of Divinity degree from Gardner-Webb.

BILLY WELLS '14

was named principal of the new Early College for Agriculture located on the campus of North Iredell High School in Olin, N.C. Wells began his career with Iredell-Statesville Schools in 2006 and has served as a teacher, career development coordinator and assistant principal. He received his School Administration Licensure from Gardner-Webb.

**KELLY BRAME '15**

was named year-round program/summer camp director of Camp Mundo Vista in Asheboro, N.C. He formerly served as assistant director of Student

Activities at Gardner-Webb, where he had responsibility for the outdoor education and recreation program, as well as teaching responsibilities. He also served as director for Community Engagement and Wellness at Gardner-Webb. Brame earned his undergraduate degree from UNC Greensboro and holds a Master of Arts degree from Gardner-Webb.

AUSTIN GLASSCOX '15

is the new groups coordinator for the Gastonia (N.C.) Grizzlies. He graduated from Gardner-Webb University with a Bachelor's Degree in Sports Management and a minor in communications.

JESSICA HEILIG '15

joined The City of Sheffield Hatters Women's Basketball club in Sheffield, England, a team in the Women's British Basketball League. Heilig, graduate of Gardner-Webb, averaged 11.8 points and 5.7 rebounds during her senior year. After graduation, she played for the Charlotte Invasion in the Women's Blue Chip Basketball League (WBCBL).

LISA DILLON '16

was named Director of School Nutrition for Stokes County Schools in Danbury, N.C. Dillon previously served as a family and consumer science teacher at West Stokes High School (King, N.C.) since 2001. She earned a master's in school administration from Gardner-Webb.

SHANNON MATTHEWS '16

was named Associate Dean of the College of Health Sciences at Methodist University in Fayetteville, N.C. She received her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Gardner-Webb University.

TOSHA BRILES '16

joined the staff of UNC Regional Physicians in High Point, N.C., as Nurse Practitioner. She received her Family Nurse Practitioner degree from Gardner-Webb.

IN MEMORIAM

1930s**VIOLET POWELL '39**

passed away Dec. 29, 2016, in Cowpens, S.C. She was a graduate of Cowpens High School, Wofford College and Gardner-Webb. She was a retired teacher and principal working at numerous schools, Butler Elementary, B. D. Lee Elementary and Macedonia Elementary, and was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Cowpens.

1940s**EUZELIA McSWAIN VOLLBRACHT '42**

passed away Sept. 26, 2016, in Kings Mountain, N.C. Mrs. Vollbracht was a graduate of Bethware High School in Kings Mountain and Gardner-Webb. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Home Economics from Greensboro (N.C.) Women's College (UNC Greensboro). She started her teaching career in Rutherford County, N.C., and retired after 40 years from Burns High School, Lawndale, N.C. She was a charter member of David Baptist Church in Kings Mountain where she served as Sunday School teacher of the Hardin Sunday School Class for 20 years and the Director of the Senior Citizens. She was active in her volunteer work with a special interest in speaking about surviving cancer with the Reach for Recovery Organization. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, crochet, traveling and spending time with her family.

MARY 'SUE' KEETER CROWELL '45

passed away Nov. 9, 2016, in Salisbury, N.C. A native of Cliffside, N.C., she was a 1943 graduate of Cliffside High School, a 1945 graduate of Gardner-Webb University and a 1947 graduate of Appalachian State University earning a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She retired after 30 years as an elementary school teacher. Crowell was member of Park Avenue United Methodist Church, where she was an active member of the United Methodist Women, serving as past president. She was also a member of the Christian Women's Club and Alpha Delta Kappa. She loved traveling, reading and shopping.

MARGARET LOUISE HARMON BUCHANAN '48

passed away Oct. 27, 2016, at age 97 in Poquoson, Va. "Weezie" was a charter member of Poquoson Baptist Church, an alumna of Gardner-Webb, and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), serving in the Army during World War II.

TYREE H. KISER JR. '49

passed away Dec. 22, 2016. He attended Gardner-Webb after serving in the U.S. Army as a member of the U.S. 40th Air Engineering Squadron in World War II. After graduating from Gardner-Webb, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Western Carolina University. He worked for 28 years at WCU as the first Admissions Director. In 1963, he received the Alumni Association's Outstanding Service Award and in 1978, he was the first recipient of the Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award. After retiring in 1985, he spent the next 31 years fishing, hunting, and traveling with his family. He was originally from Bessemer City, N.C.

DOROTHY 'DOT' ELLIOTT SINK '49

passed away January 14, 2017, in High Point, N.C. A native of Shelby, N.C., she was a graduate of Gardner-Webb University (GWU) and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). She taught school in both Georgia and North Carolina and served as an extension agent. She assisted in her husband's veterinary practice in High Point. She was president for both the National and State Veterinary Medical Association Auxiliaries. She was later honored with the Distinguished Service Award for the American Veterinary Medical Association Auxiliary and the Martin Litwack Service Award for the NCVMA. She and her husband were founding members of Emerywood Baptist Church where she led Sunday School and served as a deacon with her husband. She served the community as President of the High Point Junior Woman's Club, PTA President of Allen Jay High School, Guilford County PTA Council, Pride and Patience Garden Club and 4-H. Both of her alma maters noted her leadership, granting her the Distinguished Alumni Award (GWU) and naming her President of the Alumni Association of the School of Human and Environmental Sciences (UNCG).

1950s**CLARENCE EDWARD DODGENS '53**

passed away Nov. 25, 2016. A resident of Burgaw, N.C., Dodgens graduated from Lowell High School, completed undergraduate work at Gardner-Webb University and Limestone College, graduate work at Furman University and Wofford College, and received graduate degrees from N.C. State University. He was an educator having served as teacher, principal, superintendent and Director of Guidance Services, all in North Carolina. Serving in many administrative positions at Cape Fear Community College, he retired as Vice President in 1993. He was involved in accreditation procedures both in N.C. Community Colleges and in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He was a World War II veteran and was on active duty during the Korean Conflict. He was an ordained Baptist minister having served as a pastor, interim pastor, and supply pastor in several churches. He taught Sunday school for many years at Burgaw Baptist Church where he was a member. He was active in civic organizations and was past president of the Burgaw Rotary Club and past chairman of the Rotary Foundation for District 7730.

JAMES WHITWORTH '56

passed away Feb. 15, 2017, in Sunset Harbor, N.C. After serving as a U.S. Marine in WWII, he graduated from Gardner-Webb. For 50 years, he served as a Baptist minister throughout North Carolina and Virginia. He served as a pastor at Supply (N.C.) Baptist Church and served throughout the county at various churches until the age of 90. Along with being a minister, he was a master carpenter, beekeeper, gardener, and fisherman.

PAULINE MCINTOSH '58

passed away Jan. 3, 2017, in Denver, Colo. Formerly of Asheville, N.C., she graduated from Gardner-Webb. Upon graduation, she began working with Bell Telephone Company as an operator, which later became Bell South and ATT. She worked in Asheville, Denver and Columbia, S.C., where she retired as a communications specialist. She was an avid Carolina basketball fan. While in Asheville, she was an active member of Oakley United Methodist Church.

1960s**RUBY HUDSON '61**

passed away on March 28, 2017. She lived in Gastonia, N.C., and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Gardner-Webb. She taught elementary and middle school for 10 years in N.C., and then served for 25 years at Hephzibah Children's Home for at-risk children in Macon, Ga., until her retirement.

Gardner-Webb University Trustee and Community Supporter Passes Away

Alumnus Carl M. Spangler Jr. Served Four Terms on GWU Board of Trustees



Carl M. Spangler Jr.

A devoted supporter of Gardner-Webb University and several charities in Cleveland County, N.C., passed away June 16. Carl M. Spangler Jr., 84, was a 1952 GWU alumnus and currently serving his fourth term on the GWU Board of Trustees. In 2009, he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University for his contributions to the community.

"Carl Spangler was what a GWU trustee should be: a person with high morals and a love for God and his family," reflected Woody Fish, GWU Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement. "He gave generously with his time and financial resources."

Spangler served on several GWU boards and committees, including chairman of the C.O. and Eliza Greene Lecture Series. He was a 1951 graduate of Piedmont High School in Lawndale, N.C. He attended GWU, served in the Army for four years and then received a degree in chemistry from UNC Chapel Hill. Working at Fiber Industries and related companies from May 1960 through May 1990, he retired in 1990 as a human resources manager with Fiber. A lifelong member of Double Shoals Baptist Church in Shelby, Spangler has served as chair of the deacons, Sunday school director, Sunday school teacher and trustee.

Spangler received the Governor's award, Order of Long Leaf Pine, for his volunteer work with the boys club. He was past chairman of the United Way and the Board of Directors of Upper Cleveland Rescue; past president of the boys club, children's home and Life Enrichment Center; past chairman and current trustee of Lawndale Historical Society; current chairman of the Steering Committee Carolina Thread Trail of Cleveland County as well as serving as one of its governing board members; and current board chairman of Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina.

Spangler was married to Fay Sparks Spangler for 60 years and they had four children and 12 grandchildren.

Valerie M. Parry Exhibited Lifelong Love for Learning During 25-Year Career at GWU

Members of the Gardner-Webb community mourn the death of the University's former public services librarian, director of the Dover Memorial Library, and Dean Emerita of Libraries. Valerie M. Parry, 70, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Dec. 2, 2016.

Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for the Office of Christian Life and Service and senior minister to the University, praised Parry's commitment to GWU and her love for people. "Librarians are some of the most unsung heroes of higher education," he shared. "I certainly consider Valerie among the unsung heroes at Gardner-Webb University. She didn't like the spotlight, but she was deeply committed to her profession and to our community of faith and learning."

Parry grew up on the east end of Long Island, N.Y., where she discovered a love for libraries that led to a career of more than 40 years. Prior to coming to Gardner-Webb, she worked more than 16 years in the library at Southampton College in New York. In 1984, Parry started her career at Gardner-Webb as a public services librarian with duties that included circulation, reference, and periodical sections.

"One of my favorite things about librarianship is empowering people," she shared in a GWU interview. "You can tell somebody a fact or show them a fact. But if you can show them how they can find facts and gain knowledge, you see those light bulb moments. They say, 'I can do this,' and you say, 'of course you can.'"

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Parry reported her greatest joy was raising her daughter, Shannon Parry Pingitore, who lives in Fayetteville, N.C. Pingitore graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1998 and owns a small business. "Shannon turned out to be the greatest delight of my life," Parry offered. "My second greatest was my library work."

After retiring in 2008, Parry lived in Boiling Springs and enjoyed staying connected to Gardner-Webb. She hoped to be remembered as someone who cared about learning, "the joy of the written word," and what was best for the library and the University.

TROY THOMAS MCMAHON '62

passed away Feb. 21, 2017 in Matthews, N.C. He graduated from Gardner-Webb and was a Nationwide Insurance agent for 30 years until his retirement in 2000. He was a member of Idlewild Baptist Church for 38 years. He served in his community by working with the U-Meck Rescue Squad for 10 years and served on the council board at Indian Trail (N.C.) Elementary School.

JAMES CALDWELL 'DUKE' FISHER '64

passed away Oct. 4, 2016, in Greenville, S.C. Fisher was a graduate of Tryon (N.C.) High School and played basketball for UNC Chapel Hill as a freshman and was named "Freshman of the Year." Then, he graduated from Gardner-Webb and Mars Hill (N.C.) College. He went on to receive his master's in education from Clemson (S.C.) University. Fisher was an educator and coach in both North and South Carolina for over 30 years and retired from Mauldin High School where he spent most of his years and was recognized as Coach of the Year and North/South All-Star Coach.

DARRELL KEITH STEWART '65

passed away Nov. 6, 2016, in Clinton, S.C. A Clinton native, he was a graduate and football player for the Clinton High School Red Devils, and played football for Gardner-Webb and graduated with an Associates of Arts Degree in 1965. Stewart also obtained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Presbyterian College, and a Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina. He was a proud veteran of the Vietnam War. He served in the United States Air Force where he achieved the rank of sergeant, serving with the U2 Spy Plane Unit.

RONALD FRANKLIN WILSON '67

passed away Sept. 20, 2016, at home. He was a 1965 graduate of Crest High School in Boiling Springs, N.C., and received an A.A. degree from Gardner-Webb College. He graduated in 1969 from Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, N.C., where he received an associate's degree in chemistry. He also received an M.A.Ed. in 1975 from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. He began his teaching career at Central Cleveland School in Cleveland County, N.C., as a science teacher from 1969-1975. He served as assistant principal at Burns High School in Lawndale from 1975-1978, served as principal at Lattimore (N.C.) Elementary School from 1978-1983, served as principal at Crest Middle School in Boiling Springs, N.C., from 1983-1993. He finished up his career in education at Burns High School in Lawndale, where he served as principal from 1993-2005. He retired from Cleveland County Schools after serving 36 years. He was also a farmer, gardener and beekeeper. He was a member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Shelby, where he participated in the Transformer Sunday School Class and the Men's Ministry, which included a men's prayer group and Bible study group. He was a Connect group leader and the chef for the Truth & Tea Time Ministry for four years. He also served the Lord as a Gideon.

1970s

KENNETH GERALD WEBB '72

passed away Oct. 4, 2016, at Tucker Hospice House in Kannapolis, N.C. Mr. Webb was an Army veteran and attended Appalachian State University and Gardner-Webb University. He enjoyed weaving and demonstrating his looms. He was also an active historian.

JOHN F. PETTUS '72

passed away Nov. 15, 2016, in Kings Mountain, N.C. He retired after 35 years as a teacher with Kings Mountain District Schools, having taught at Central School and Kings Mountain Middle School. He was a longtime member of First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, where he was a former deacon and Sunday school teacher. He was a former member of the Lion's Club and former member and past president of North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE). He enjoyed volunteering with the Kings Mountain Hospital Auxiliary. He graduated from Gardner-Webb and was a member of the GWU Alumni Association. He was a former Community Organization for Drug Abuse Prevention (CODAP) Volunteer of the year.

"SIMMIE" YONCE '72

passed away on March 14, 2017. Dorsey Samuel "Simmie" Yonce graduated from Gardner-Webb and owned and operated Yonce Motor and Tire in Rock Hill, S.C. In his retirement, he moved to Oak Island, N.C., where he worked at Oak Island Sporting Goods and Elite Cabinets.

JENNY LINEBERGER BUCHANAN '73

passed away on March 17, 2017, in Gastonia, N.C. She was a graduate of Gardner-Webb and worked as a Customer Service Representative at RCB Centura Bank.

RANDY MEMORY CARTER '73

passed away Dec. 15, 2016, in Greenville, S.C. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Gardner-Webb and was Owner-Operator of D.B Carter Lot #3, Inc. in Greenville.

EDDIE LEDFORD '73

passed away March 13, 2017 in Shelby, N.C. He graduated Fallston High School and earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology from Gardner-Webb. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Conflict and worked as a salesman for Western Southern Insurance for over 20 years. He was a member of the Shelby VFW and served as treasurer.

CAROLYN ROBINSON DELLA MEA '73

passed away in Winston-Salem, N.C., November 4, 2016. She was a native of Spindale, N.C., and a graduate of R-S Central High School and Isothermal Community College. She held a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Gardner-Webb, a Master of Arts degree in rehabilitation psychology from Appalachian State University, a Master of Science degree in recreation administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a doctorate in educational research and evaluation from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. She retired in 2006 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she was director of data management.

1980s

BERNICE SNUGGS '83

passed away on March 3, 2017. She was a cum laude graduate of Gardner-Webb, and was an educator in Gaston County (N.C.) Schools for over 29 years. She retired in 1995 as the guidance counselor at Arlington Elementary School, where she started the school's "Just Say No" program, peer mediation, and antiviolence program.

GWU Mourns Loss of Community Volunteer and Longtime Supporter

Ruby C. Hunt Remembered for Contributions to Hunt School of Nursing



Ruby C. Hunt

The Gardner-Webb University community mourns the loss of one of its longtime supporters. Ruby Crowder Hunt, wife of GWU Trustee Dr. Jack Hunt, passed away May 27 at her home in Lattimore, N.C.

In 2014, the Hunts gave a generous gift to establish the Hunt School of Nursing. A portion of the gift provided program enhancements, renovated nursing facilities, and supplied educational technology. In addition, the donation created the Hunt Sisters Nursing Scholars Fund to offer scholarship opportunities for students in the Hunt School of Nursing. "We've always had a passion for helping nurses and have a deep, deep appreciation for their call and their purpose," Jack Hunt shared at the time.

"Ruby Hunt fully embodied the caring and compassion for people that inspired her, along with husband Jack, to support nursing and many other worthy causes and to make so many people's lives better," said Gardner-Webb President Frank Bonner.

Gardner-Webb University Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement Woody Fish echoed those sentiments. "The Hunt School of Nursing at Gardner-Webb University and the Ruby Hunt YMCA are great examples of their love for young people."

Ruby Hunt was known in the Lattimore community for her cooking and volunteer work. She and Jack were married 71 years and have five daughters, 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. When her husband served as a representative in the North Carolina General Assembly, Ruby accompanied him on trips to Raleigh and made a home away from home for them there. She served as Chaplain of the Sir Walter Cabinet where she researched and presented inspiring devotionals on living a meaningful life.

Memorials may be made to GWU Hunt School of Nursing Scholarship, P.O. Box 997, Boiling Springs, NC 28017 or Ruby C. Hunt YMCA, P. O. Box 2272, Shelby, NC 28151 or to the charity of donor's choice.

GWU Business Professor Remembered for His 'Exuberant Personality'

Dr. Tom Meaders Shared NASA Experiences with his Students



Dr. Tom Meaders

Members of the Gardner-Webb University community mourned the loss of Dr. Tom Meaders, Professor of Management Information Systems and Operations. Remembered by his colleagues for his enthusiasm and dedication to the University, Meaders passed away Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016, at his home in Cary, N.C.

"Tom Meaders was a bright spot on the faculty of the Godbold School of Business," affirmed Dr. Van Graham, the former Associate Dean of the Godbold School of Business. "He was always positive, encouraging, committed and an articulate advocate of his faith. Whatever needed done, no matter how hard, the answer was always yes. His infectious laugh and his exuberant personality will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues."

Meaders joined the GWU faculty in 2002 after working more than 33 years as an industrial engineer for IBM. For 22 of those years, he served in IBM's space program. He and his team programmed the software for the Saturn V rocket's navigation system. The rocket served as the vehicle of choice for nearly all of NASA's Apollo moon missions, including the nearly-disastrous Apollo 13 lunar landing mission that launched on April 11, 1970, and involved three crew members: astronauts Jim Lovell, Jack Swigert, and Fred Haise.

Apollo 13's lunar landing was aborted after an oxygen tank exploded and several unique and life-threatening events ensued. Meaders and a team of IBM software professionals were tasked with writing a computer program to bring the astronauts home. In a day and a half, the team developed a program that normally took a minimum of six months to test for accuracy. After approval by four other teams, the program was transmitted to the lunar module. The astronauts arrived safely back to earth on April 17, 1970, after six days in space.

In his information systems courses at Gardner-Webb, Meaders shared his knowledge about the space program with students. He believed students benefited from having instructors who were able to connect business principles with real-world experiences. "I think it's a wonderful thing for people who have been successful in business to transition to higher education and teach what they know," Meaders observed in a 2015 interview. "And the Godbold School of Business is full of people like that. It's the best second career a person could have."

Meaders received his Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and his bachelor's and master's degrees from New Mexico State University. Meaders is survived by his wife, Janet, and daughter, Meredith.

TERESA DALE COCHRAN '83

passed away Dec. 12, 2016 in Forest City, N.C. A retired educator, she taught fifth grade for many years at Harris Elementary in Forest City and before that was a teacher's assistant at Proctor Elementary in Forest City. She graduated from Chase High School, received a bachelor's degree from Converse College, and a master's degree from Gardner-Webb. She enjoyed attending services and contributing to projects at Calvary Baptist Church, where she was a lifelong member.

CINDY ALFORD VESTAL '86

passed away Nov. 14, 2016 in Wake Forest, N.C. She played softball at Francis Marion University in Florence, S.C., where she led the school in three of her four years to the College World Series and is in the FMU Sports Hall of Fame. She received her Master of Divinity from Gardner-Webb. She worked in various ministries in South Carolina and Georgia, where she and other student ministers started the Kingdom Builders ministry. She served at First Baptist Church in Boone, N.C., and Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.

DEBORAH ANN KOVALYCSIK '87

passed away Jan. 10, 2017, in Asheville, N.C. She joined the U.S. Army immediately after high school. After her military service, she began working while completing her college education at Gardner-Webb. She worked for Neuse Center in New Bern, N.C. and retired as Lead Investigator for the Division of Mental Health Accountability Team in Morganton, N.C. After retirement, she served as the chairperson for the following Human Rights Councils: J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center in Morganton, Black Mountain (N.C.) Center and Carolina Residential in Lenoir, N.C.

1990s

BRENDA DODSON HODGE '90

passed away Nov. 15, 2016, in Forest City, N.C. Formerly of Ellenboro, N.C., Hodge was a resident of Union Mills, N.C. She served for 23 years as a registered nurse with Hospice of Rutherford County, N.C. She graduated from Gardner-Webb and was a member of Second Baptist Church of Rutherfordton, N.C.

JOYCE G. 'JP' PEARSON '91

passed away Nov. 17, 2016, in Catawba N.C. She was a 1960 graduate of Andrew Lewis High School in Salem, Va. She was very proficient in business class and was an administrative assistant to the senior partner of a large architectural and engineering firm in Roanoke, Va., and later to the President of Roanoke College. JP was the first runner up in the Miss Roanoke County Pageant in 1960 and modeled part time for local department stores, a national catalog, and TV commercials. In 1981, she married and moved to Hickory, N.C., and worked as

an administrative assistant to the owner and president of Hickory Printing Group. She attended Catawba Community College where she graduated with honors with an associate degree in business administration. She graduated from Gardner-Webb Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She then obtained her N.C. real estate broker's license and worked as a real estate broker for over 20 years until she retired.

MARY ANN FULLER VEROSTEK '99

passed away Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016, in Rock Hill, S.C. She received her diploma in nurse's training from St. Vincent's Hospital in Erie, Pa. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Gardner-Webb University. Although Verostek worked in a variety of settings as a nurse, she found her vocation as a diabetes educator and led a diabetes support group. She retired from Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill in June 2014. She loved picking blueberries, making strawberry jam, traveling to see her children, and watching her grandchildren run cross country races, play tennis, perform in the school band, and dance in recitals. Verostek regularly walked at Cherry Park and the River Walk in Rock Hill and in the Stuy Town Oval in New York City. She annually ran the Cooper River Bridge Run, Turkey Trot, and Reindeer Romp. In 2011 and 2012, she ran the Disney Half-Marathon.

NATHANAEL LEE HOFFMAN '99

passed away Feb. 17, 2017, in Morganton, N.C. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees from Gardner-Webb. He worked as a mental health counselor for A Caring Alternative, LLC in Morganton.

2000s

VERA FERN HOCKADAY '04

passed away Sept. 11, 2016. She grew up on a farm where she helped her family tend tobacco. She attended Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Lumberton, N.C. She was a graduate of Peace College in Raleigh, N.C., and Gardner-Webb, where she majored in education. She was an elementary school teacher in Lumberton, N.C.

PAUL 'ASHLEY' TEETER '04

passed away Oct. 7, 2016, in Mooresville, N.C. Teeter was a graduate of Mooresville High School and Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. He earned his Master's Degree at Gardner-Webb University. He was a purchasing agent for Carolinas Medical Center. Mr. Teeter was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville.

ARLENE DRAPER BENFIELD '05

passed away Dec. 10, 2016, in Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. A resident of Drexel, N.C., Benfield was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister and daughter who loved her family dearly. She loved to travel and especially enjoyed visiting the beach and the mountains. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Gardner-Webb and master's degree from Western Carolina University. She had a giving spirit and went out of her way to help others.

2010s

MARY 'LOUISA' HARWELL LITTLE '15

passed away Dec. 26, 2016, in Mooresville, N.C. She was a graduate of Mooresville High School and received her bachelor's degree from UNC Charlotte. She completed her R.N. at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, N.C. and her BSN at Gardner-Webb. She worked at Iredell Memorial Hospital in Statesville and Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

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