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Noel T. Manning II
Gardner-Webb University

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GARDNER-WEBB

VOL. 49, NO. 2, 2014

THE MAGAZINE



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NEW HOME FOR COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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Volume 49, Number 2, 2014

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UP FRONT

GARDNER-WEBB IS AN EXPERIENCE

At Gardner-Webb University, providing a student-centered, comprehensive Christian higher education experience is a top priority. We strive to prepare graduates for professional and personal success, instill in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equip them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact.

In this issue of Gardner-Webb-The Magazine, we have highlighted our commitment to pragmatic student learning, including internships, social entrepreneurship endeavors, and experiential education through domestic and international adventures. Each of these stories are connected by the visual symbol of a directional compass (depicted below), to offer the reader a signifier of the unique, beyond-the-classroom opportunities Gardner-Webb University offers our students—opportunities that often lead them directly into the next phase of their life's journey.

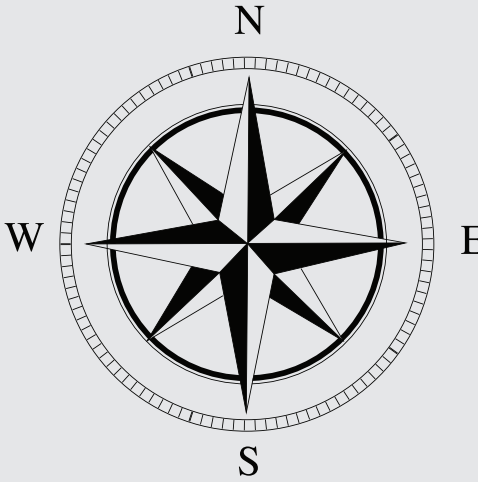
I understand the importance of these experiences all too well. When I was a student at Gardner-Webb, I engaged in five separate internships, gaining job offers from three. I also participated in travel abroad, Christian outreach, and community service during my time as a student. Those combined experiences, along with the strong academic offerings and spiritual development at Gardner-Webb, prepared me well for career, family and life.

But living life is not always easy, and in this issue you will also find stories about people who have triumphed in spite of unique—and often frightening—physical challenges. From football player Kenny Cook, who was diagnosed with lymphoma in high school, to recent graduate Ashley Harris, who was born with cerebral palsy and now serves people with special needs, you'll find inspiration and motivation to never give up.

As always, this edition is filled with exciting information about new programs, projects and, of course, the people who make our institution great. We hope you enjoy these stories that we believe chronicle both individual and collective journeys at Gardner-Webb University.

Noel T. Manning II

Managing Editor
Gardner-Webb-The Magazine



GROWTH IN THE MIDST OF CHALLENGING TIMES

The cover story in “The Atlantic” for September 2014 is entitled “Is College Doomed?” “The Economist” for June 28th-July 4th carried the article, “Creative destruction: Reinventing the university.” Recently Moody’s Investor Services published its “negative” financial outlook for higher education.

Concerns about the outlook for higher education in America are justified. I share those concerns, and I stress that we at Gardner-Webb are vigilant in our dedication to the quality and strength of the University, to strategic planning, and to carefully eyeing developments in American higher education. While the media seem almost to bask in negative indicators, I am pleased to report that the State of the University is quite strong. We finished the fiscal year 2014 in excellent shape. Enrollment and retention across the board at the start of this semester have surpassed most projections. We began the semester with a housing crunch on campus, and we are currently investigating the prospect of building new residential housing that will be needed on campus if the current momentum in enrollment and retention continues, as we are confident it will.

There are several factors involved in this fall’s strong enrollment and retention, including outstanding work in enrollment management and marketing. The primary factor, I believe, is that we are now more clearly identifying Gardner-Webb University to prospective students and are drawing students who understand Gardner-Webb, like what they see, and believe that they fit and that this is the place where their goals can be achieved.

Progress and quality enhancement continue throughout the University. In the area of academic programs, the College of Health Sciences is making great progress and is flourishing in its new home. Within the College of Health Sciences, the School of Nursing has been named for Dr. Jack Hunt in recognition of his outstanding support of the nursing profession while serving in the

North Carolina legislature and his generous contributions to nursing education at Gardner-Webb. The new Physician Assistant Studies program is doing extremely well with excellent students and a first class faculty. Joining these programs in the College of Health Sciences is the School of Preventative and Rehabilitative Health Sciences.

The program formerly known as GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) is now the Degree Completion Program (DCP). The DCP is moving more and more into an online format, and enrollment is growing.

In the graduate programs area, the School of Education has launched the new Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership. Also underway is an especially exciting new program jointly housed in the School of Divinity and the Department of Religion, the Five Year Pastoral Degree program supported by the Kern Foundation.

In the area of student life, the Center for Christian Ethics and

Social Responsibility, working with the Office of Christian Life and Service, supports Gardner-Webb’s ultimate purpose—“to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education”—by engendering in students and in the campus environment a strong sense of social responsibility and commitment. The Office of Career Development provides comprehensive preparation for careers, while student development is enhanced by the programs in Student Leadership Development and Community Engagement.

Campus development continues at a rapid pace. State-of-the-art artificial turf has been installed in Spangler Stadium and will benefit women’s lacrosse as well as football, adding to our stadium’s ranking as one of the most appealing venues in the region. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall on Brinkley Stadium for our softball program.

“PROGRESS
AND QUALITY
ENHANCEMENT
CONTINUE
THROUGHOUT THE
UNIVERSITY.”



Recently the University purchased the building that formerly housed Crawley Hospital, along with more than 26 acres essentially contiguous to campus, providing prime land for future construction. Major renovation and expansion are now underway, and when completed will provide magnificent facilities for the College of Health Sciences.

A focused campaign is getting underway for a new Center for Performing Arts, and we anticipate at this time that O. Max Gardner Hall may be renovated to house the visual arts part of the School of Performing and Visual Arts. This will be an ambitious campaign, and we will move aggressively. We will keep alumni, supporters, and friends posted on progress.

For many years now, the University’s most pressing facility needs have been clear—new science facilities, student center, new space for academics and the Noel Program, new athletic facilities, more student housing, and significant enhancements to campus. Now that those needs have been largely met, when the Fine Arts campaign is accomplished we will encounter the very pleasant task of determining what should be next.

I conclude this letter as it began. Challenges to higher education in America are real, and we take them seriously. With the continued dedication of faculty and staff, and the support of alumni, trustees, and friends, Gardner-Webb will continue to prosper and to fulfill its mission of preparing students for success and for service “For God and humanity.”

A. Frank Bonner

Dr. Frank Bonner
President, Gardner-Webb University

GWU, CCC to Ease Degree Completion Process

Written by Matthew Tessnear

Gardner-Webb University and Cleveland Community College announced a partnership that will further ease the transfer process for students who complete certain degrees with coursework at both institutions.



GWU and CCC officials sign the Pathways agreements

Officials for both schools signed agreements to create a seamless degree track for accounting, business administration, entrepreneurship, industrial management, and nursing students who begin their studies at Cleveland Community College and finish them in the University's Degree Completion Program. The agreements, called Pathways to reference the structured paths of study between the two schools, formalize a partnership that already exists between GWU and CCC, according to officials.

"Pathways agreements make it easier for a student to transfer all or most of the credits earned at the community college," said GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Ben Leslie. "The student knows early in the process what will transfer and what he or she needs to take in order to maximize time at Gardner-Webb."

Students will save time and money thanks to the partnership, which aligns Pathways-associated major courses at GWU and CCC to reduce instances of course repetition and loss. A streamlined major program allows students to enter the workforce sooner and with less financial debt from college costs, according to officials. "While we have been accepting CCC students into our Degree Completion Program for many years, these agreements will formalize transition pathways that enable them to seamlessly

transfer from the community college to Gardner-Webb," said Dr. Bobbie Cox, GWU Associate Provost of the College of Adult and Distance Education.

Additionally, Pathways allows students entering major programs to begin planning their educational path during their high school years, with academic advising assistance from both CCC and GWU.

More Cleveland Community College students transfer to Gardner-Webb than to any other university, according to Dr. Shannon Kennedy, CCC Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Development. "A formal agreement that very clearly directs a student in which courses to take is extremely beneficial," Kennedy offered. "Knowing which CCC courses Gardner-Webb

"Pathways agreements make it easier for a student to transfer all or most of the credits earned at the community college."

will accept ahead of time helps a student stay directed and keeps them from taking unnecessary courses. Having clear guidelines will help our faculty as they advise students who are planning to transfer to Gardner-Webb."

Gardner-Webb officials are currently examining additional opportunities to formalize similar transfer agreements with other community colleges in North Carolina. The University maintains an active relationship with many community colleges, including Degree Completion Program sites on a half-dozen campuses.

GWU Honor Society Students Excel at National Convention

Gardner-Webb University students have long prided themselves on their academic fitness. Members of the Alpha Chi Honor Society flexed those muscles at the Alpha Chi 2014 National Convention held in St. Louis, Mo. For the first time in Alpha Chi's 92-year history, the organization offered a \$5,000 prize for the best collaborative, interdisciplinary project on the assigned topic of "The Future of Water." The Gardner-Webb team took first place.



(Left to right) Carson Shoupe, Brooke Rampy, Josh Johnson, Kristina Grayson, and Kevin Mills

The five-member GWU team featured individuals each focusing on different disciplines. Team members prepared a scholarly paper, poster and presentation titled, "Water, Economics, Ethics and Fracking: A Cost/Benefit Analysis of Hydraulic Fracturing." Josh Johnson (environmental chemistry), Brooke Rampy (biology), Kristina Grayson (chemistry), Kevin Mills (economics) and Carson Shoupe (philosophy) all concentrated on their specific fields and worked together for five months on the project.

Professors from the Godbold School of Business, Department of Natural Sciences and Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy all helped the students as mentors in their specific fields. Dr. June Hobbs, a GWU professor of English and Alpha Chi sponsor, served as the advisor for the group and helped in editing the final paper and overall project.

The group addressed the impacts of hydraulic fracturing, a way to extract natural gas from water sources. Looking at the issue as a cost/benefit analysis, the students decided to see if the potential economic benefit was greater than the damage done to water sources.

"This is currently a hot topic in the U.S. due to the large reservoirs of natural gas trapped in shale formations," said Johnson, who served as the team leader. "Currently, hydraulic fracturing is

the most efficient way to extract these gas deposits. Naturally, we thought this would be a great topic to investigate."

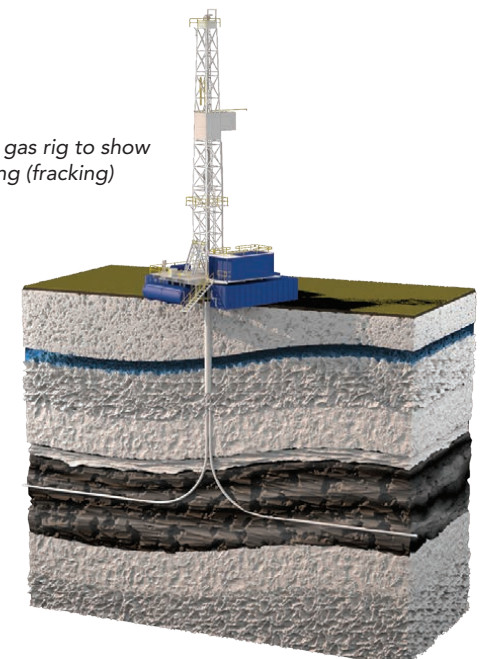
Although most GWU members were initially hesitant to participate in a collaborative group project, the team bonded and overcame the stigma of just one person doing all the work.

"This project was different because of the quality of each of the students involved. Every one of us did our part, which created a constructive and productive atmosphere within the group," said Johnson. "We all really trusted and cared for each other by the end. Our teamwork culminated in a great product, new friends, and a good prize to boot."

Group members are still coming to terms with the impact they left at the convention. "The experience was a little surreal. I had to convince myself that I deserved to be there, but I quickly found out that GWU has prepared us to be critical thinkers," said Grayson. "At the conference, if questions were asked after presentations, it was usually our group. I felt like we competed very well and were the most prepared group as a whole."

Alpha Chi, which was founded in 1922, is a national college honor society that admits students from all academic disciplines. Membership is limited to the top 10 percent of an institution's juniors, seniors and graduate students. Invitation to membership comes only through an institutional chapter. Some 300 chapters, located in almost every state and in Puerto Rico, induct more than 12,000 members annually.

3D model of a natural gas rig to show how hydraulic fracturing (fracking) works.



GWU School of Education Hosted Annual “Keeping Learning Alive” Conference

The Gardner-Webb University School of Education conducted its annual conference, Keeping Learning Alive, with keynote speaker Karyn Dickerson, North Carolina Teacher of the Year. The purpose of the event was to facilitate discourse between administrators, practicing teachers, and pre-service teachers, and to provide them support in continued professional growth, while sharing practices for a broad spectrum of educators.

“We planned a variety of presentations,” said Dr. Jason Parker, assistant professor in the GWU School of Education and an organizer of the event. “Some presentations were targeted to specific populations, while others were crafted for general audiences.”

Topics included implementing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curriculum for K-5, middle grades practices for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), motivating students, universal design for learning (UDL), using action research in the classroom, and tips for dissertations. Attendees were awarded continuing education credit.



Watch the conference recap at:
gardner-webb.edu/keeping-learning-alive

GWU Magazine Featured in National Publication



The recent redesign of the Gardner-Webb University alumni magazine gained national attention following a front-page feature story in the March 2014 issue of the “Non-Profit Communications Report.”

Titled “Redesign Efforts Help Publications Stay Fresh, Relevant,” the feature (written by Sarah Ammerman) focuses on the recent decision by the GWU Office of

University Communications to change the design and format of both the print and digital magazines. Noel Manning, chief communications officer for Gardner-Webb, and Ryan Gunter, design editor for the magazine, discussed the redesign and the positive feedback they received from constituents.

“We were thrilled to receive wonderful comments from our audiences about the changes, and to have those efforts recognized by experts in the non-profit communications field is yet another stamp of approval,” Manning said. “We hope our example of being proactive with a fresh layout concept will encourage other organizations to challenge themselves creatively and make necessary changes within their publications as well.”

Offering monthly communications ideas for non-profit agencies and institutions, the “Non-Profit Communications Report” is a monthly newsletter with a national audience. Delivered to thousands of professionals across the country, the goal of the newsletter is to provide concisely written articles offering practical tips and techniques that will strengthen an organization’s communications, community relations and media relations efforts. For more information about the report, visit nonprofitcommunicationsreport.com.



gardner-webb.edu/magazine

Connecting on the Court

GWU Staff Member Finds Success, Fellowship in Racquetball

Written by Matthew Tessnear

Thwacks echo through the white-walled room. Chips and cracks dot the paint on the wall.

A blue rubber ball ricochets like a pinball, and Stephen Dolan angles his body to strike a return with his racket. Dolan dives to connect racket with ball and win the point against Kent Blevins.

Dolan is familiar with winning points in racquetball, a sport in which he earned an under-35 state championship title earlier this year. But for Dolan, Gardner-Webb University’s Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, his investment in racquetball is more about fellowship than conquest. He enjoys meeting new people during tournaments and sharing time with others in the GWU community during regular racquetball games each week in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

“It’s a great way to exercise, but to also get to know each other,” he shared. “I was just playing Dr. Blevins, and if he hits a great shot, I’m excited for him, I applaud him, and he does the same for me. Dr. Blevins is a faculty member in a department that has little to do with athletics, but because of racquetball, we’ve become close friends.”

Dolan’s work at Gardner-Webb crosses athletics with both academics and rules enforcement.

“My job is to make sure our department is operating within NCAA rules and institutional rules,” he said. “We’re doing grades, drug testing, we’re monitoring recruitment, we’re making sure athletes aren’t practicing too much and have a day off. We’re teaching coaches, student-athletes, financial aid, professors, to make sure the rules are being enforced and make sure our staff understands the rules as they relate to athletics across campus.”

As his job links him to different parts of campus, racquetball has also connected Dolan, 30 and a resident of Gastonia, N.C., with a variety of people at the University. Common playing partners during Tuesday and Thursday play include Blevins, a professor of religious studies, and Brad Vaughn, assistant director of Alumni Affairs.

The sport started as a hobby for Dolan, who was first introduced to racquetball as a student at N.C. State University. When he joined Gardner-Webb’s NCAA compliance office in 2008, he started playing with more competitive former coaches and student-athletes.

Now, for five or six hours most weeks, Dolan plays racquetball, often with others like Blevins and Vaughn on campus.

“The sport’s basically like playing tennis in a closet. It’s real chaotic tennis,” he shared. “You want to hit the ball where your opponent isn’t. You want the ball to bounce two times before your opponent can hit it back. It’s a fast-paced game, so you want to conserve your energy. Sometimes, it’s hitting a soft shot. Sometimes, it’s angling it.”

Dolan’s now played in numerous North Carolina Racquetball Association-sanctioned tournaments in the past few years, including his under-35 title earlier this year.

He said he hopes to see how he can improve on his state age group ranking in the top 100 range. Despite his success, his main goal is to use the sport to continue to make meaningful relationships with other players on campus and beyond.

“Playing with Dr. Blevins, he’s really lifted my game up. We’ve really connected on the court,” Dolan said. “The fellowship in this game is the best part.”



Stephen Dolan



Watch Stephen play at:
gardner-webb.edu/stephen-dolan

Gardner-Webb University Graduates *#ReachHigher*

Gardner-Webb University hosted Spring Commencement on Monday, May 12 and Summer Commencement was held on Monday, Aug. 4. In total, more than 900 graduates were honored during the ceremonies.

Watch the 2014 Spring/Summer graduation recap at:
gardner-webb.edu/grad-2014

Spring Commencement

The Spring Commencement ceremonies featured the conferring of over 700 degrees from the University's undergraduate and graduate programs. Several graduates were honored for outstanding leadership, citizenship, and academic excellence. The Most Outstanding Male Graduate medal was presented to biology major Cody Lee Meyers of Mobile, Ala., while Kate Frances Oliphant, a music major from Chantilly, Va., was awarded the Most Outstanding Female Graduate medal.

Mary Jeanine Hellstrom (Boiling Springs, N.C.), a biblical studies major, was recognized for academic achievement with the Senior Scholastic Award. The Degree Completion Program Scholastic Award was presented to Ivy Faith Oates (Nebo, N.C.), who majored in accounting.



Kimberly Denise Moore of Gastonia, N.C., who earned a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministries, offered one of the commencement speeches. She experienced many emotions at the conclusion of her time at GWU, but said most of all, she feels grateful. “I’m thankful that my time here has not been all about the academia,” she shared. “It has been a life-enriching experience that has been more impactful than I ever thought possible. I am thankful that in the midst of all of the theology, I was reminded to always practice ‘knee-ology’ and always find time to pray and spend quality time with God.”

Keon Williams, Jr. also shared a speech with his fellow graduates. An economics/finance major from Charlotte, N.C., he encouraged his classmates to focus on God’s will for them both in the future and in the present. “This will be our tool of personal guidance through this place of unfamiliarity we are about to enter,” Williams reflected. “It does us no good to invest in speculation in the future, because it will drain our passion for the now. In the process, let’s not allow our dreams to die in the wilderness of change and transition. Claim victory over all obstacles and challenges, while believing and receiving the truth that all things work for the good of those who love the Lord.”

Summer Commencement

Summer Commencement featured the conferring of degrees on nearly 200 graduates, who were honored for a range of achievements during the ceremony.

Many graduates participated in the ceremony through prayer, scripture reading, and commencement speeches, and awards were given to stellar graduates. T. Faith Lambeth (Statesville, N.C.) received the Degree Completion Program Academic Award; Jonas C. Nader (Mt. Gilead, N.C.) was given the Senior Scholastic Achievement Award; and the 2014 Darlene J. Gravett Citizen Scholar Award was presented to Karen Cochran (Candler, N.C.), who earned a Master of Science in Nursing in May.

Commencement speakers were Amber N. Parsons (Mount Holly, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting through the Degree Completion Program;

Vahisha Steadman (Charlotte, N.C.), who earned a dual Master of Divinity/Master of Arts/Education Specialist in Mental Health Counseling; and Rick S. Thompson (Moore, S.C.), who received a Master of Accountancy.

Parsons began her academic journey at Gardner-Webb more than 12 years ago. Although at times she admits she was intimidated and overwhelmed, she is grateful she persevered. “I’m not just walking away from this accomplishment with my degree. I’m also walking away with a level of confidence and enthusiasm I’ve never experienced before,” she told graduates. “There were many times I considered giving up, but knew I couldn’t. I couldn’t give up on myself. I had a goal of getting my bachelor’s degree, and I was determined to reach that goal!”

Gardner-Webb’s support of the national “Reach Higher” campaign was also evidenced during recent graduation ceremonies. The University encouraged students, graduates, and attendees to use the hashtag #ReachHigher when posting photos and updates to social media outlets. The campaign was initiated by First Lady Michelle Obama in early May, and is designed to inspire every American student to complete an education beyond a high school diploma. A 2014 U.S. Department of Labor survey of American workers shows both employment and earnings increase as an individual completes levels of higher education programs beyond high school.

The new White House initiative seeks to motivate students by highlighting others’ success, and to prepare them to complete their education through:

- Exposure to college and career opportunities;
- Information about financial aid that can make college affordable;
- Resources for academic planning and summer learning programs; and
- Support from high school counselors who can guide more students to colleges.

“Gardner-Webb University fully supports the Reach Higher campaign at the national level,” said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner. “We admire the effort to encourage students to pursue and complete a college degree. At Gardner-Webb, we want to do all we can to enable our students in their goals to graduate and move on to successful experiences in their lives.”



GWU Trumpet Ensemble Featured at National Trumpet Competition

The Gardner-Webb University Trumpet Ensemble was selected as a semi-finalist for the 2014 National Trumpet Competition (NTC), held in March at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pa. The ensemble was one of just over 20 groups from colleges and universities across the nation—and the only one in the Carolinas—to receive this prestigious honor. Other participants included Baylor University (Waco, Texas), University of Connecticut (Storrs, Conn.), Florida State University (Tallahassee, Fla.), and University of Georgia (Athens, Ga.).

Each year, the NTC features both solo and ensemble divisions. Video submissions were required to enter the event. The GWU Trumpet Ensemble video featured their performance of “Dreams Lost in Dry Sand,” a number written by Dr. Jeff Richmond, the former band director for Gardner-Webb. The video was shot under the direction of Mark Houser, media convergence specialist for the GWU Office of Communications. The audition was reviewed and semi-finalist selections were made by a group of judges consisting of orchestral artists and faculty members from across the nation.

GWU’s Trumpet Ensemble members included: Melody Bubar of Raleigh, N.C.; Kevin Clary of upstate S.C.; Ben Dawkins of Greensboro, N.C.; Jon McClay of Forest City, N.C.; Brandon Taylor of Hickory, N.C.; and Adam White of Asheboro, N.C.

Trumpet player Ty Sheets earned third-place national recognition in jazz trumpet.

Tim Hudson, assistant professor of music, directed the group. “It was a great honor to compete, especially considering the GWU Trumpets were up against master’s and doctoral students across the country,” Hudson said. “We plan to compete each year, and hope to make the final four and eventually win the national title, after getting past schools like Eastman, Indiana and Juilliard.”



Watch the audition at:
gardner-webb.edu/trumpet-ensemble

The Ethical Standard: GWU Team Excels at State Competition



A team of students from Gardner-Webb University finished second during this year’s North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) Ethics Bowl. The event was held at Campbell Law

School in Raleigh, N.C., and featured 20 colleges and universities, including Campbell (Buies Creek), North Carolina Wesleyan (Rocky Mount), Wingate, and this year’s champion, Wake Forest (Winston-Salem).

This was the third year for the relatively new event, and GWU has participated each year. Making their accomplishment even

more significant was the fact that not a single participating student had prior competition experience.

“I had to recruit an entirely new team,” said Dr. Kent Blevins, professor of religious studies at Gardner-Webb and campus coordinator for the ethics team. The new members were A.J. Francioni (Hendersonville, N.C.), Jeremiah Hamby (Lenoir, N.C.), Jessica Saltijeral (Oswego, Ill.), Austin Story (Huntersville, N.C.), and Dylan Tate (Forest City, N.C.).

“The final round with Wake Forest was held in a large auditorium in front of all the other teams, plus other personnel including judges, moderators, and NCICU representatives. I’m very proud of our students and how they represented our school. Wake finished second last year. Next year, we’re going to bring home the first-place trophy,” Blevins predicted. “All of our students are committed to returning to the team, and they seem hungry for the championship.”

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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STUDY ABROAD

TUITION

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

SCHOLARSHIPS

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

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School of Education Announces New Doctoral Program

The Gardner-Webb University Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies has unveiled a new doctorate within the education department, which officials believe will offer substantial leadership training to individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds.



Dr. John Balls

The Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership (DEOL) initiated its first cohort in the fall semester of 2014. University officials are excited about the addition and believe the changes will help Gardner-Webb provide quality leadership education that will address the needs of a wide range of modern professionals.

“This addition to our Ed.D. offerings is a logical extension of the School of Education’s commitment to cultivating transformational leaders in communities, schools, law enforcement, and businesses through its Center for Innovative Leadership Development,” said Dr. Jeff Rogers, dean of the Gardner-Webb University Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies. “The degree program is new, but the vision behind it and the expertise it harnesses have been years in the making.”

Dr. Douglas Eury, dean of the School of Education agreed wholeheartedly. “Gardner-Webb University is in the forefront of leadership development,” declared Eury. “This doctorate embodies the scholar-practitioner model of professional training and prepares students to seek out leadership roles in a variety of settings.”

Like the existing doctoral programs within the School of Education, the organizational leadership doctorate is designed to provide practical leadership skills with a strong theoretical

foundation. Structured with the working adult in mind and utilizing a cohort model, candidates will contribute to their organization throughout the course of study. Dr. John Balls serves as assistant professor within the Graduate School of Education and is the director of the GWU Center for Innovative Leadership Development (CILD). He envisions a collaborative environment within the classroom.

“The degree program is new, but the vision behind it and the expertise it harnesses have been years in the making.”

“One of the major benefits of the cohort model is not only do you learn and appreciate the skills of your fellow classmates, but you’re able to build on their experiences as well,” Balls offered.

“This program will absolutely blend theory and practical application.”

Core course modules within the program will address concepts such as cultural development in organizations, change management, ethics, conflict resolution, and more. Specialized course modules will include policy development, business law, and self and collective efficacy, among others. Classes will be taught at the main campus in Boiling Springs as well as at the Charlotte (N.C.) campus.

“The timing is right to do this,” Balls said. “We’re really excited about it and we know from the early returns that the community at large is excited about it as well.”



Hear more about the new leadership program at: gardner-webb.edu/DEOL

GWU Theatre + Community = Classic Collaboration

The Gardner-Webb University Department of Theatre Arts presented “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe” at GWU and offered special performances for elementary and middle school students.

The theatrical production was packed with drama, adventure and mystery, while portraying the struggle of good and evil. Adapted from the classic book of the same name, the play is part of the beloved Chronicles of Narnia series written by C.S. Lewis. The plot follows the journey of four siblings from World War II-era England after they are drawn into a magical world, called Narnia. Greed, temptation, love, mercy and sacrifice are all themes woven throughout the story.

Dr. Chris Nelson, assistant professor of theatre arts at GWU, directed the play, which included a combination of Gardner-Webb students and the members of the community in the cast. Gardner-Webb students Rachel Sedota and Emily DeVries played Susan and the White Witch, respectively. Dr. Earl Leininger, associate provost for Arts and Sciences, offered the voice for Aslan’s character, while GWU students Lydia Hill and Kendall Godwin served as the lion apparatus/puppet operators.

Gardner-Webb also partnered with the community, with local residents participating in the production. The University’s theatre department often unites with the community for its shows.

COMING SOON!

Gardner-Webb University will present the five-time Tony Award-winning musical “The Music Man” from Feb. 25 - March 1. The show is set in 1912 in River City, Iowa, where a con man, Harold Hill, poses as a boys’ band organizer and leader. He sells band instruments and uniforms to the naïve townsfolk, promising to train the members of the new band. Harold is no musician and plans to skip town without giving any music lessons.

To participate in future productions contact GWU Theatre at 704-406-2777.



GWU Faculty and Staff Members Honored for Service

Gardner-Webb University recognized faculty and staff for outstanding service and teaching contributions, tenures of service, and retirement honors during the annual “Apples and Accolades” ceremony.

The Gardner-Webb Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient for 2014 was Dr. Paul Etter, associate professor of music in the School of Performing & Visual Arts.

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.

Jeff Powell, Operations Manager and Program Director for WGWG.org and adjunct professor for the University, was honored as Outstanding Male Staff Member of the Year.

Bailey Davis, former director of L.E.A.P. (Learning Enrichment and Assistance Program) was honored as Outstanding Female Staff Member of the Year.

Community engagement awards were presented to faculty member Dr. Denise Smith, Assistant Professor of Business, and staff member Ashley Koch, Secretary to Math and Natural Sciences Department. Koch was honored for her work with a community student math camp.

Retirement awards were presented to Dr. Carolyn Billings, Dr. Ron Nanney, Jack Kaufhold, Dr. Faye Rucker and Dr. Ron Williams.

Employees were also recognized for 10, 25 and 30 years of service.

Thirty-year service awards went to Dr. Glenn Bottoms, Kevin Jones, and Z. David Jones.

Awards for 25 years of service were presented to Dr. Robert Munoz and Dr. Anthony Negbenebor.

Ten-year service awards were presented to Rev. John Bridges, Dr. Sydney Brown, Cindy Clary, Dr. Bobbie Cox, Travis Cunningham, Leif Hamrick, Melissa Hollifield, Barry Lane, Dr. Felice Policastro, Lois Radford, James Reeves, Richard Reeves, James Simmons, Annette Spurling, Joseph Wallace, and Lisa Yerrick.



Dr. Paul Etter
Gardner-Webb Excellence in
Teaching Award 2014



Jeff Powell
Outstanding Male
Staff Member 2014



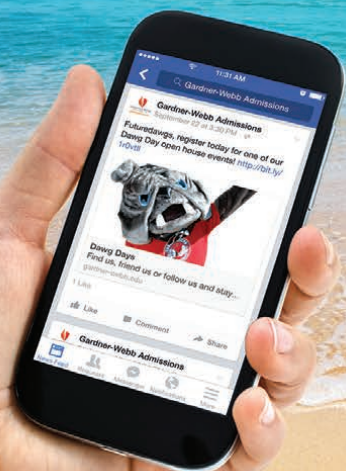
Bailey Davis
Outstanding Female
Staff Member 2014



Dr. Denise Smith
Community Engagement
Award 2014



Ashley Koch
Community Engagement
Award 2014



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EMBRACING THE EXPERIENCE

EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES CRUCIAL TO
POST-GRADUATE SUCCESS

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

The most unsettling time for a majority of college students is hidden in the midst of senior year finals and graduation preparation. As questions about their futures loom—sometimes ominously—soon-to-be-graduates are working hard to figure out what the next phase of their lives will look like. This is when the experiences afforded through college internships and other opportunities can be used to leverage confidence in spite of so many unknowns.

Lisa Yerrick is the director of the Gardner-Webb University Office of Career Development, and she is driven by a desire to see students succeed. Too often, she believes, they wait too long to pursue relevant internship experience, which is key to securing relevant employment after graduation.

“The most important advice I can offer to students is not to wait until they are a junior or senior to start thinking about an internship,” Yerrick urged. “Ideally, doing one after their sophomore year and no later than junior year is best. That way, these experiences can be added to their resumes as they seek employment during your senior year.”

According to Yerrick, the goals of an internship are to offer practical experience in a professional setting; draw connections between student learning (classroom theory) and the work environment; assist the student in establishing strategies for employment; and enhance networking and professional skills that can’t always be developed in class.

“Good internships have structural components like learning contracts between student and employer, guidance from an advisor, student learning objectives, supervisor evaluation of student performance, student projects, and reflection assignments,” she stated. “This is where a student begins to make the connections between the classroom and the workplace, between theory and practice.”

While variables within internship experiences are to be expected, Yerrick is convinced students will receive an opportunity to further develop some—if not all—of the seven

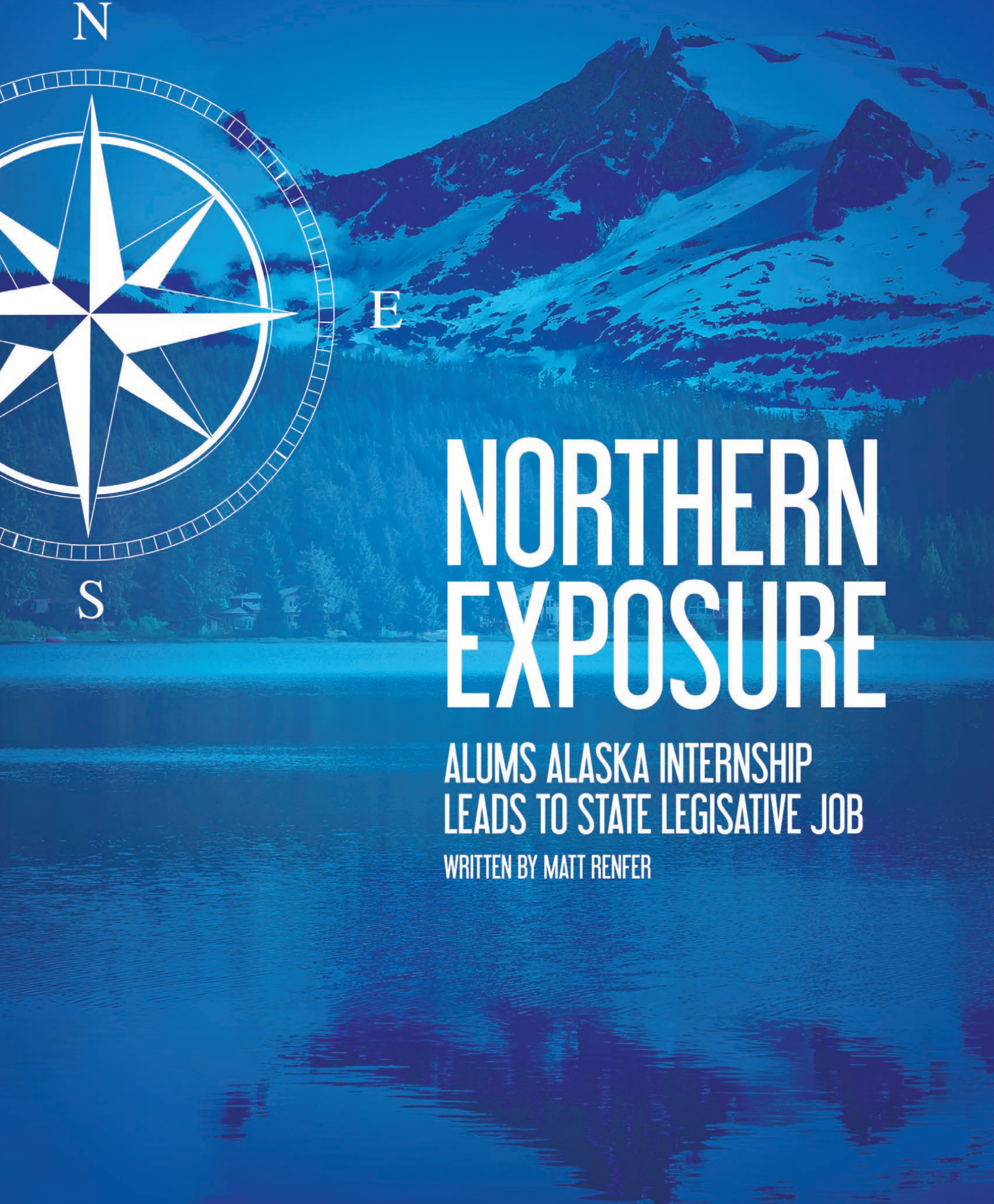
skills most needed for employment.

“Written and verbal communication, teamwork, interpersonal relations, initiative, analytical ability, leadership, and technical aptitude are fundamentals that employers have identified as important professional skills,” she explained. “Internships and experiential learning opportunities typically offer some element of growth in these areas. For example, a student may be given a project to develop during the internship that really displays their level of initiative. They may be given a chance to serve on a committee that is evaluating a product or process, allowing them to contribute to a team decision. These are the kinds of real-life opportunities that an internship offers that augment classroom learning.”

Beginning the process as early as possible is key to avoiding the senior-year panic that often sets in. And for students who may be struggling to find the right fit for their internship experience, Yerrick and her team are positioned to assist. “We have helped find internship sites for those who need assistance,” she reflected. “We exist to educate students about work and life beyond school. Preparation for employment is so different now than it was just five or 10 years ago. Our tagline is ‘Fostering character, expanding skills, advancing futures.’ And we aim to deliver on those expectations.”



“This is where a student begins to make the connections between the classroom and the workplace, between theory and practice.”



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

ALUMS ALASKA INTERNSHIP
LEADS TO STATE LEGISLATIVE JOB

WRITTEN BY MATT RENFER

While some internships might be best described as an experiential resource for future, unrelated jobs, others serve as a direct bridge to full-time careers. This is true for Gardner-Webb alumnus Drew Ford '14, of Wasilla, Alaska. He secured employment in his field of study on the heels of May commencement. Today, Ford is employed as a legislative staffer for District 9 Representative Lynn Gattis in the Alaska House of Representatives.

Ford's path to his current job gained momentum with an internship during the summer of 2011 when he began work for the Alaska Redistricting Board. The board is responsible for reapportioning the state House of Representatives and the Senate according to the population reported in each decennial U.S. census. From May to August, his duties included maintaining legal files, researching, preparing materials for board meetings and running various errands.

"My internship was an amazing experience, and I was fortunate to be able to work with people that were competent, professional and excellent communicators," Ford said.

During his time at Gardner-Webb, Ford earned the 2012 Outstanding SGA Member award. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Global Studies and a minor in Communication Studies.

"One thing that was special about my internship was that I got to work for younger people, around late 20s and early 30s," Ford said. "Working with people that were close to my generation helped build my communication skills and professionalism in a comfortable and laid back environment. This was a good stepping-stone for where I am today.."

Ford's current job as legislative staff is broad in definition. A typical day consists of working with constituents, writing press releases and collaborating with local press. Afterhours attendance is sometimes required at events relating to local, state and federal politics affecting the district—from local Chamber of Commerce meetings to national conferences, such as the Council of State Governments hosted in Anchorage, Alaska.

Ford believes his internship experience was vital to receiving the subsequent job offer. "The internship was a big plus on my resume," he reflected. "Having experience in state issues and proximity to people in the political field were boosters to both my résumé and interview. I learned some important and invaluable lessons."



Drew Ford



ONE STEP AT A TIME

**GWU ALUM ('14) ASHLEY HARRIS
SERVES DISABLED POPULATION
IN BREVARD, N.C.**

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

“I fall down a lot,” laughed Ashley Harris. “I mean, a lot!” She giggled at this, and pushed her long, dark hair behind her. Seated and smiling, she explained. “Humor is my go-to approach to most all situations in life. Sometimes it makes things awkward, but I’m OK with that.”

Harris gestured at the office around her, which is actually the workspace of her boss and mentor at Transylvania Vocational Services (TVS) in Brevard, N.C. She was hired last spring to serve as the administrative assistant to executive director Nancy Stricker, a position that utilizes and further develops her skills in communications, leadership, and interpersonal relations.

TVS is a private, non-profit dry-food manufacturer that specializes in blending and packaging of dry powder products for government and commercial customers. The facility provides skills development, career opportunities, and related services for people with disabilities or barriers to employment in Transylvania County. For Harris, who graduated in May, the new job opportunity is particularly meaningful.

“I am a disabled person,” she shared. “I have cerebral palsy. Obviously, I have a passion for people with disabilities. What TVS does is so important because people with disabilities should be entitled to the same basic human dignities that everyone else has. Working and being a productive member of society is a big part of that. This facility gives them purpose and drive that they might not otherwise find, especially in a super-small town where opportunities are not limitless.”



Nancy Stricker and Ashley Harris

When she is seated, Harris’ disability is not immediately detected. But due to a lack of oxygen at birth, her leg muscles continually contract, causing a lilt in her step and mobility challenges. As a student at Gardner-Webb, she walked as much as she could, but she also utilized a wheelchair when needed. Yet, she counts herself among the luckiest of individuals.

“The way cerebral palsy works is that your brain is damaged when you are born,” she said. “You have no control over what part of your brain will be damaged, and what will happen to you. There are people with milder cerebral palsy than me, and there are people who are severely disabled.”

As she considers the developmental delays and corresponding challenges of many workers at TVS, Harris whispers a silent prayer of gratitude. “Gardner-Webb is a Christian school, I can say it,” she offered. “I serve a pretty powerful, big Fella. I could have been severely cognitively impaired. I keep this in the back of my mind and it is a reminder of how lucky I am.”

GARDNER-WEBB.EDU

Harris works hard to keep her physical challenges from slowing her down, and her junior year at Gardner-Webb was particularly eventful. She completed an internship at Heart of Brevard, an economic and tourism development non-profit organization located in downtown Brevard, her hometown. “I did a lot of commuting. I did a lot of virtual work and a lot of Skype work,” she explained. “I learned how to operate in an unconventional setting.”

As a political science and public relations double major, Harris didn’t initially see the direct application between her schoolwork and the internship experiences. “I made a lot of connections and I met a lot of people,” she reflected. “I met the mayor, the county manager, and the city planner. I really learned how to concern myself with this community and the issues that it faces. I learned about tourism versus manufacturing jobs. I learned about community dynamics that I wasn’t really aware of prior to my internship. Now, I can’t stress enough how important it is to take advantage of those opportunities. If Gardner-Webb orchestrates an opportunity, take advantage of it!”

Toward the end of her junior year, she decided to exercise her leadership skills and was elected Student Government Association (SGA) president, a role in which she served throughout her senior year at GWU. That opportunity offered her a chance to develop additional skills needed for future employment. While all of those experiences helped shape her future direction, she believes the internship in Brevard was most instrumental in leading her back to her hometown following graduation—a step that ultimately brought her a full-time job with TVS.

“That was part of the reason I decided to take a year and come back here to Brevard before I leave to go somewhere else,” she stated. “In my internship experience, I got to do event planning. I got to answer the phone a lot. I got to do a lot of thankless grunt-work. So it builds character. More important than all of that, is what I learned about my community—how it operates and how I can operate as a grown-up within it.”

Although she plans on heading off to law school within the next year, Harris is looking forward to learning all she can during her time at TVS. “Don’t pigeonhole what your degree can do for you,” she shared. “It doesn’t have to look a certain way for it to be a valuable, worthwhile experience. This job would have never been on my radar, and it’s turned out to be the best thing that’s happened to me in a long, long time.”



Scenic Impressions

“Education is all a matter of building bridges.”

– Ralph Ellison

FIELD STUDY

Tony Setzer Marks 25-Plus Years as GWU Men's Soccer Coach, Life Educator

Written by Matthew Tessnear

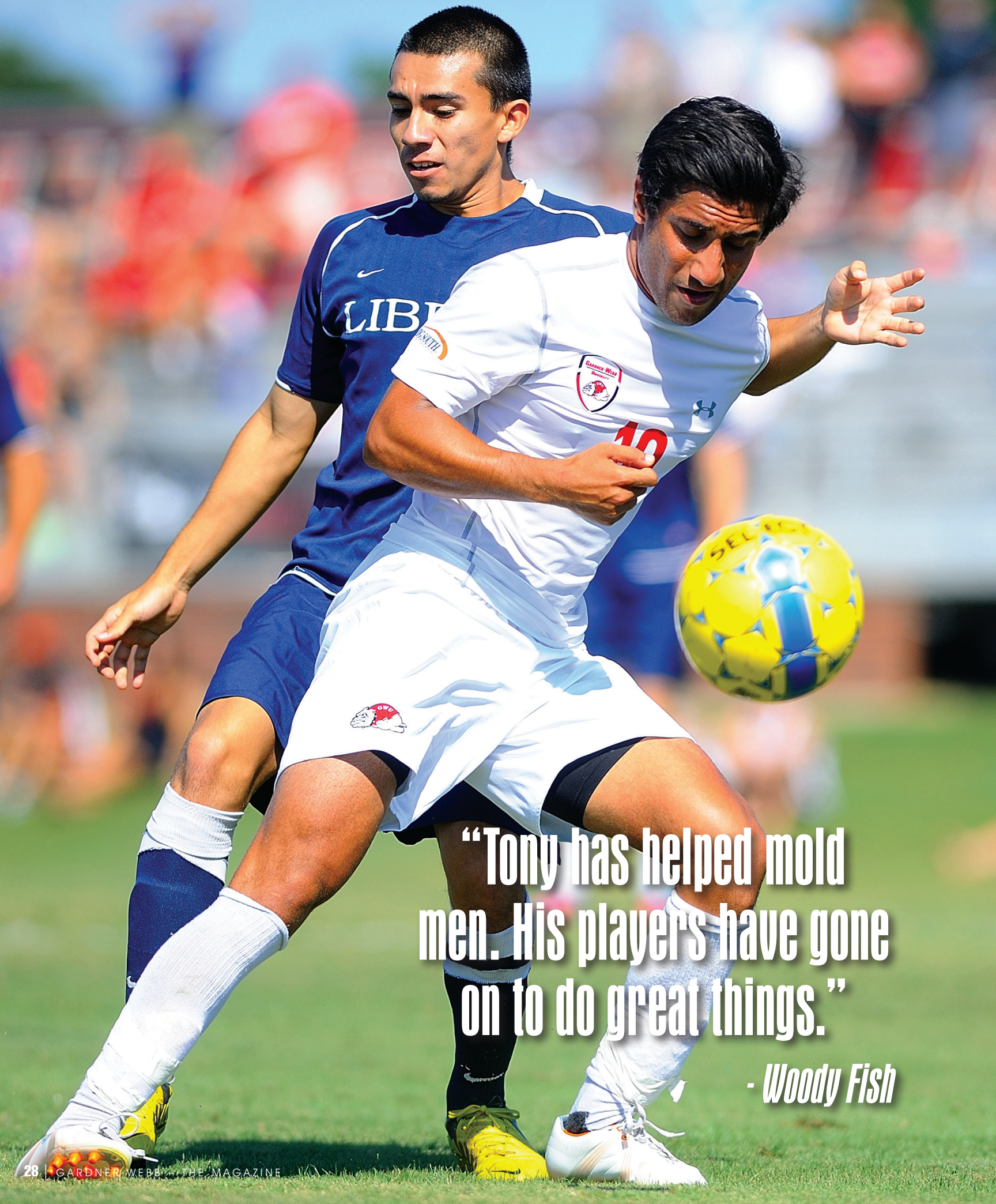
Tony Setzer remembers when Gardner-Webb's men's soccer program had one scholarship available. He recalls a time when the team lacked a permanent field on which to play. And he recollects the days when the campus had residence facilities without air conditioning.

Setzer has just about seen it all in 27 years as the University's head men's soccer coach. That's because he's led the program for all but the first year of its existence. Over the course of more than a quarter-century, the coach has successfully developed the Runnin' Bulldogs soccer brand from the ground up, and he has educated a growing list of student-athletes. Yet, Setzer passes the credit for Gardner-Webb's success on the pitch to the mentors, assistants and friends who have surrounded him during his tenure. "I am an amalgamation of all of those who have left strings in my life," he said. "Those strings have bound me together into who I am now."

After playing collegiate soccer at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., Setzer first visited Gardner-Webb in 1987. He said he didn't get GWU's soccer coaching job on the first attempt, but after the position reopened following the program's first year he got another call and interviewed. Woody Fish, now GWU Associate Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, was the athletic director who hired Setzer. "I was so impressed with Tony, being young and right out of college," Fish shared. "He had a lot of fire and enthusiasm. I felt like if our program was going to succeed, we needed a young guy who was going to work and do whatever it took to get our program going."

A balancing act followed for Setzer, as he traveled back and forth from Boiling Springs to Charleston, S.C., to simultaneously complete his graduate degree in education at The Citadel and take the reins of the GWU soccer program. "I fell in love with the place when I first walked onto campus," he reflected on Gardner-Webb. "That first season, though, was a trial-by-fire year. It was a tough season, and we had to do everything. We had to cut the grass. We had to paint the field. We didn't have fences."

Despite challenges, Setzer said he found his way through the tutelage of members of the campus and greater community. Local insurance businessman (and now Boiling Springs Mayor) Max Hamrick encouraged him that he had great athletes. GWU leaders like Dr. Dee Hunt and Dr. Tony Eastman helped teach him how to conduct himself on campus. "Eastman, he told me, 'Tony, it's the students. We're here to serve them. The rest of this stuff is just politics of a campus. You're here to serve your students,'" Setzer said.



“Tony has helped mold men. His players have gone on to do great things.”

- Woody Fish

Setzer’s service to his students will be the legacy he eventually leaves in Boiling Springs, according to Fish. “Tony has helped mold men,” Fish said. “His players have gone on to do great things. A lot of them are in the business world. A lot of them are in coaching, thanks to Tony Setzer.”

David Steeves is among those who played for Setzer and forged successful coaching careers afterward. Steeves, a 1993 GWU alumnus, has coached at Shelby (N.C.) High School for about 20 years. “Coach Setzer was a big influence,” Steeves reflected. “He gave me the chance to develop my talents. The knowledge I received from him took me to a new level.”

Even as he coached players on the field, Setzer said his major role has been as an educator. “I get more contact hours with my student-athletes than anyone on campus,” he offered. “I’m an educator who teaches soccer, not a coach who is in athletics. We’re part of the educational process. We just teach in a different way than a professor. If you look at my degrees on the wall, they’re both in education. We’re on the same team as the professors. We teach life lessons.”

Life lessons have been plentiful for the coach, too, in his time in Boiling Springs. He credits his assistant coaches with keeping him focused on how to instruct players. “If you played for me in 1988, 1989, 1990, I’m sure I treated it more like a Navy seal regiment than a soccer team,” he shared. “We’ve since gotten more higher-level players, and they require training. They require encouragement more than the out-and-out drill instructor approach. I’ve learned that.”

He said he also believes his wife and children have mellowed him through the years. He married the former Kristen Lott, a four-time All-Conference women’s soccer player for Gardner-Webb. They now have four daughters, including a set of triplets born in 2007. “I’m sure 100 percent that my wife and her professionalism and the way she motivates people to get things done and take the high road has had a positive effect on me,” Setzer shared. “She’s been a coach’s wife for 16 years. She understands the job because she’s been in soccer herself.”

Soccer wasn’t Setzer’s first sport. He played football and baseball growing up. When a high school football coach tried to get him to play wide receiver instead of quarterback, he migrated

to soccer. “I chose the one position that was most like the quarterback. I was a goalkeeper,” he said. “I loved that because there was action, there was contact, and you could throw the ball. You could punt the ball. You were the last line of defense.”

After playing soccer at Lander on a scholarship, Setzer left school before his final year and played for the Columbus Capitals in an indoor soccer league. His coach advised him to return to school and finish his degree. “He said, ‘This is a cruel business. This is a bad business. You’re not going to make a lot of money,’” Setzer remembers. “I was making \$1,000 a year, plus a part-time job at a shoe store. He told me to go finish my degree.”

Setzer did, and he then served as an assistant coach at The Citadel before coming to Gardner-Webb. He’s guided the GWU program

through the University’s transitions from NAIA to NCAA Division II in 1993-94 and then to NCAA Division I in 2000-01. His 2006 team won the Atlantic Sun Conference soccer tournament and played in the NCAA Championship Tournament. After more than 25 years in Boiling Springs, he said his challenge is to continue to build a regionally competitive soccer program.

“Our challenge is also to identify players who fit the Gardner-Webb

institution mission,” he offered. “Our president, Dr. Bonner, wants to run a clean, competitive program where kids graduate and also impact their community through service. We also want to recruit international talent, recruit players that can develop into Atlantic Coast Conference-level talent in several seasons, and to every year move one spot better in the Big South Conference standings than the year before.”

Setzer, who among other tasks announces Gardner-Webb basketball games, said he likes the challenges he handles in his job. “For us in Gardner-Webb’s soccer program, we are like surfers,” he said. “Every year, we get our surf board, put it on our Woodie, and we drive to the beach. Every August, we paddle out. If we catch a good wave and momentum, we can really compete. If we don’t hit any rocks, and there are no sharks biting at our board, our teams can win. This is a fantastic place, and it has been a fantastic journey. I’m still just learning every day and appreciate every opportunity I have to be here. Lord willing, I’ll get to sit in this chair a few more times.”



2006 Atlantic Sun Conference Champs

22

NCAA Division I Intercollegiate Sports

480 total

Student Athletes

95

Student Athletes on Full Athletic Scholarships

300

Student Athletes receiving partial Athletic Scholarships

85

Student Athletes have no Athletic Scholarships

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Estimated numbers provided by the GWU Compliance Office as of August 2014.



Brinkley Softball Stadium Construction Underway

The Gardner-Webb University Department of Athletics is constructing a new women's softball stadium in the same location as the current field located on South Main Street in Boiling Springs. The facility will be named after lead donors David and Marie Brinkley, owners of Brinkley Financial Group, based in Kings Mountain, N.C.

Brinkley Softball Stadium will include spacious new dugouts, permanent seating for 350 spectators, a concession stand, and press box, which will house a main working area and two broadcast booths to accommodate radio and video operations. In addition, a new building behind the first base dugout will offer space for coaches' offices, a locker room, conference room, and athletic training area. A practice facility will be built behind the outfield fence to offer athletes additional opportunities to train, even during times of inclement weather.

"This is a project many years in the making, and we are very fortunate and thankful for the Brinkleys' generosity in offering the lead gift for this new stadium," said Chuck Burch, vice president for athletics. "Very soon, Gardner-Webb softball will play in one of the finest stadiums in the region. Our student-athletes deserve the opportunity to compete in a first-class facility, and this project signals that opportunity."

The project will also include a new scoreboard, artificial turf, and stadium lighting, which will allow the first evening softball game on Gardner-Webb's home field. Alternative ball fields in the surrounding community will be utilized for team practices and games while construction is ongoing.

The Brinkley family enjoys sports of many kinds, and daughters Kristie and Carrie both played volleyball at Gardner-Webb. "About a year ago, I learned about the plans for a new softball field," said David Brinkley. "I visited the current fields, talked with Coach Tom Cole, and Marie and I began praying about it. We felt these outstanding female athletes deserved to play in a phenomenal facility."

Cole, who recently began his 15th year as head coach of the GWU softball program, believes current, future, and even previous players will be inspired by the project.

"Each player in our program will be thrilled to play in the new facility and every future player will be ecstatic to join a program with a ballpark of this caliber," Cole shared. "Every former player will be proud to return to campus and see what we now have here. This is an exciting time for Gardner-Webb softball."

The Brinkley family hopes their lead gift will inspire others to get involved and support the project. "I challenge others to look at the current field, consider the type of facility that is being planned, and step up with a donation to the project," Brinkley encouraged. "Whether you give \$100 or \$1,000 or more, this is a much-needed project. Marie and I have always believed that in order to receive blessings, you must first bless others. When you have a chance to serve an institution whose values and mission lines up perfectly with your own, that's exactly what you should do. We firmly believe this project will breed a winning atmosphere."



Left to right: Tom Cole, David Brinkley, Marie Brinkley, Dr. Frank Bonner, Chuck Burch





NEVER GIVE UP

GWU'S KENNY COOK DEFEATS CANCER EN ROUTE TO FOOTBALL SUCCESS
WRITTEN BY MATTHEW TESSNEAR

Kenny Cook wields his 6-foot-4-inch body, leaps in the air, extends his lengthy arms, and snatches the football from the defender's grasp. The sequence has become familiar to Gardner-Webb football fans. In the fall of 2013, Cook became one of just two Runnin' Bulldogs receivers to ever tally more than 1,000 yards receiving in a single season.

At one time in Cook's life, however, he was physically unable to play football. One day he woke with his neck swollen, which led to a sudden trip to the hospital for X-Rays and a computerized tomography (CT) scan.

Cook's body was battling Hodgkin's disease, a cancer of the tissues found in the spleen, liver, bone marrow, and lymph nodes. The cancer was already in the final stage when it was discovered, and doctors advised him to begin chemotherapy immediately. He was a high school sophomore.

"I was lost. I was hurt. I had been playing sports all my life, and they told me I couldn't play football," Cook remembers. "I love football, so that hurt me pretty bad, but when I found out Hodgkin's is one of the most curable cancers, I was relieved."

Six months of chemo followed, and radiation therapy helped clear the cancer from his body. Cook recalls that his mother and grandmother supported him as his body healed. "We take a lot of things for granted on a daily basis. You can have it all one day and lose it all the next. Having cancer made me look at things a lot differently and really appreciate life more."

Now a GWU senior communications major, he sports a T-shirt as he walks into the GWU Football Center. These words cover the front: "Cancer does not live here anymore. I beat it." Cook was cancer-free within a year of his diagnosis, and he's been in remission ever since. He said it took time to get back in shape after his body dealt with copious amounts of medicine, chemo and radiation. By his junior year of high school, he returned to form and secured a spot in junior college football at Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kan.

A successful season at Garden City led Gardner-Webb's football coaches to notice him, recruit him, and sign him prior to the 2012 season. Cook continues to refine the skills that first garnered attention, according to current GWU Head Coach Carroll McCray, who joined the football program in 2013. "Kenny is steady," McCray offered. "That's what you want out of a really good football player. He's a good model in the classroom for our young guys. He's a model citizen around



town. On the field, he comes to work every day. He comes early, and he's usually one of the last ones to leave. He's the kind of guy that you want to stand out on the field and tell younger players to imitate."

A Clinton, S.C., native, Cook posted strong numbers—including seven touchdowns—in 2012, but 2013 was his breakout season. He caught 76 passes and scored nine touchdowns, leading to All-America honors and a preseason second-team FCS All-America selection by Lindy's Sports 2014 College Football Preview Magazine. His success on the field, his size, and his speed have National Football

League (NFL) scouts tracking him as he heads into his senior year. "I'm just focusing on my teammates and winning a championship at Gardner-Webb," Cook shared.

The soft-spoken Cook remembers the focus he maintained and effort he exerted to defeat Hodgkin's. He continues to fight against cancer, now helping support others by participating in events like the

American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. His message: Never give up. "God has a plan for everybody," he said. "Just keep fighting. Coming to Gardner-Webb, a Christian school, has brought me closer to God. When I had cancer, it brought me closer to God. I just felt like He has a plan for me. My mom always tells me God gives his hardest battles to his strongest soldiers."

A piece of paper covers a few inches of Cook's No. 19 locker space in the GWU Football Center.

It contains Isaiah 41:10, which says, "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." As he battled Hodgkin's in high school, Cook gained strength from his teammates as he continued to attend practice daily. He said his friends told him to keep fighting and he would return to the field.

Just as Cook's team—his family and football peers—fought with him, he now encourages his Gardner-Webb teammates in an athletic program he says is unfailingly supportive. Coach McCray battled non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the 1990s, something that Cook says connects the two. "This team is like a brotherhood," Cook offered. "We all stick together, and this is a great coaching staff we're playing for. They hold everybody accountable, and Coach McCray is preparing us for the real world. This is my last go-around in college football. I'm going to keep fighting, never give up, and give it everything I've got this season."

"Coming to Gardner-Webb has brought me closer to God."



To see more on Kenny Cook, visit:
gardnerwebb.edu/kenny-cook

Gaining New Ground

University Installs First Artificial Surface in Spangler Stadium

Changes surfaced this fall in several of Gardner-Webb University's athletics facilities.

The University installed an artificial turf surface on Coach Norman Harris Field at Ernest W. Spangler Stadium, the first artificial playing field on Gardner-Webb's campus. Turf surfaces are also planned for GWU's baseball and softball facilities.

Officials say the turf will offer the University significant long-term field maintenance cost savings.

Advanced Polymer Technology (APT), a global leader in high-performance engineered sports surfaces, installed RS+52T Gridiron turf on Norman Harris Field.

"With the addition of women's lacrosse matches to the regular ledger of events at Spangler Stadium next spring, we were tasked with developing a solution that best fits the needs of our student-athletes in terms of safety and performance," said GWU Vice President for Athletics Chuck Burch. "The benefits of an artificial surface, both in durability and consistency throughout a variety of seasons and conditions, were much greater for us. APT proved to be the best fit for our needs and allows us to deal with a single source manufacturer for this new surface. Their installations around the world have drawn high praise and we are excited to partner with an industry leader for this project."

Spangler Stadium was built in 1966 with a natural grass surface, which has undergone several reconditioning projects throughout the past 40 years. The stadium benefitted from a major renovation in 2004, which resulted in the GWU Football Center and an overhaul of the Hamrick Field House—which now houses offices for men's and women's soccer, track and field, and women's lacrosse.

The Gardner-Webb women's lacrosse program, under head coach Jacquelyn Duggins, will begin play with its inaugural home game on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, against Limestone College, on the turf at Spangler Stadium.



Free to be Me!

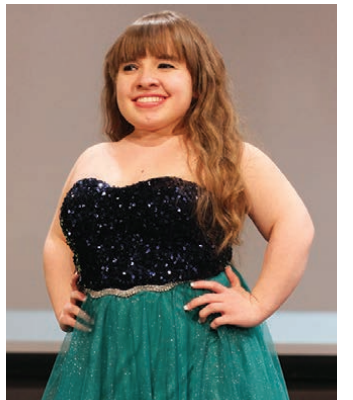
Written by Alyssa Gutierrez

Gardner-Webb University junior Deanna Ramsey stands only three-feet and six-inches tall. Yet, she is the living definition of the phrase, “Big things come in small packages.”

Although she lives a vibrant life now, it was not always bright for Ramsey who was born with a form of dwarfism called spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia congenital (SED). With her vivacious personality and wit, Ramsey does not let her condition define her and has found comfort in her own skin in a place she calls her second home, Gardner-Webb University.

Born in Shelby, N.C. to parents unaffected by dwarfism, Ramsey was raised to believe that she was not at all different. She did everything normal children did growing up. “I had to use a lot of stools, but other than that, my parents never made me feel like I needed anyone’s help or that I was different,” she added.

The rare disorder affects the bones of the spine and required Ramsey to undergo over 25 different surgeries. With the majority of the procedures focusing on her knees, ankles, back and neck, her ability to walk and participate in life as normally as she does is nothing short of a miracle. Although the physical adversity she has overcome is something to be honored, she mostly received ridicule and cruel jokes from children growing up with her.



Deanna Ramsey

Once she was enrolled in elementary school, Ramsey fully understood how her SED would affect her both physically and emotionally.

“Everything was fine at the beginning of elementary school, but then everyone else started growing and I wasn’t,” Ramsey said.

She hoped that the teasing would stop when she began middle school, but it continued to increase until she became a high school student.

“There were times when I did not even want to leave my house because someone would point, someone would stare, someone would take a picture,” Ramsey said. “Then it just dawned on me that I wasn’t going to do that anymore. I finally was tired of feeling sorry for myself, and I wasn’t going to wallow anymore in this self pity.”

Ramsey says that prayer and a strong relationship with God helped her find herself and become the confident person she is today.

“There were times that I would be so afraid to speak because I thought someone would say something back to me that was mean or just make fun of me,” Ramsey said. “Then I realized that I don’t care what those people think of me, and I am going to say or do whatever I want.”

While she says she found her self-confidence toward the end of high school, it was not until she enrolled at GWU in the fall of 2012 when her personality fully blossomed.

Since then, Ramsey became part of a core group of friends on campus and participated in several different activities like her fellow college students. She competed in the Miss Gardner-Webb pageant and was voted the “People’s Choice” award winner. She also participated in the GWU Department of Theatre Arts production, “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe,” where she portrayed a creature in the Narnia forest.

Ramsey has also made an impact on handicapped or disabled students who are in need of assistance navigating campus.

“As someone that needs a handicapped space or a shorter sink in the bathroom, I know how it feels to not have these things, so being able to work with the staff and get help is such a relief,” Ramsey said.

Since bullying is something that has impacted her life so much, Ramsey is dedicating her life’s work to try and stop it as much as she can. Through her education, she hopes one day to be able to teach young children about the importance of loving each other and that ridiculing or teasing is something that does not need to go on in the classroom.

“I want to be a teacher so that I can be able to help those children learn that it is not OK to make fun of other people,” she said. “Being able to teach tolerance and understanding to children while they are young is something that will stick with them for the rest of their lives.”

Ramsey also believes that her time at Gardner-Webb has profoundly changed her outlook on life and what her future holds.

“Once I stepped on campus, I realized that this was a place where I could be me and not worry about judgment or ridicule,” Ramsey added. “I am really happy to be where I am right now.”



SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

BUSINESS STUDENT MAKES
IMPACT AS ENTREPRENEUR

WRITTEN BY MATTHEW TESSNEAR



Listen to Ben's story at:
gardner-webb.edu/ben-payne



Ben Payne

Ben Payne helps feed malnourished families several thousand miles from home. With the aid of his family and business principles he's learned as a marketing major, the Gardner-Webb University senior has assisted in the development of a sustainable nutrition program in one of Guatemala's many impoverished villages. It's work that's earned him recognition in the local community and a mission he hopes will be replicated in other countries around the world.

Payne hails from Pendleton, Ind., where his father, Bert, works as a veterinarian who specializes in poultry. Several years ago, a family friend connected the Paynes with Pensacola, Fla.-based Global Business Solutions Institute (GBSI). The information technology training company maintains a nonprofit branch that conducts missions in several countries, including Central America's San Pedro, La Laguna, a village in central Guatemala. Half of the country's children five years and younger don't get the nutrients they need to live healthily. That rate of chronic malnutrition is the fourth highest in the world.

In 2012, Payne visited Guatemala for the first time as GBSI delivered chickens and supplementary supplies to help feed the hungry. But the aid didn't end with a simple food dropoff, according to Payne. "What started as bringing relief to people in Guatemala by providing them with chickens evolved into us determining how we could replicate this aid and make it something that could empower the people of Guatemala to do this on their own," he shared. "The idea is sustainable relief, not temporary relief. It's very much the parable that you can give a man a fish and feed him for a day, but if you teach a man to fish, you can feed him for his life."

GBSI worked with Guatemalan vendors to purchase wood, concrete, fencing, roofing, nesting materials, feed and other supplies to create small chicken houses in San Pedro. Now, the residents maintain those houses to supply chickens and eggs in the village. "If a family uses a dozen eggs a week, one farm will produce between 14 and 15 dozen eggs daily, providing enough eggs to help as many as 100 families in a week," Payne shared.

Drawing on experience from his business school studies at Gardner-Webb, Payne has helped form a business plan to sustain the nutrition program in Guatemala. "I'm applying what I've learned at Gardner-Webb. We're accounting for revenue, cost and making enough money to sustain and grow this mission. Now I'm going beyond focusing on just coming to Gardner-Webb and getting a degree," he reflected. "I'm applying knowledge from the classroom to real life. It's an empowering feeling."

The nutrition project has changed lives in Guatemala, but it's also impacted Payne's life. He met his wife, Grace, in Guatemala while both were visiting the country for mission work. The two married in August 2013 and now live in Boiling Springs. Payne's business plan for sustainable nutrition has also gained him recognition in the Cleveland County, N.C., community. His presentation about the project was honored in the University category at the 2014 Entrepreneur Expo at Cleveland Community College (CCC).

Plans call for growth of the chicken houses and their reach in Guatemala. The chickens, purchased in nearby Guatemala City, will be replaced with a new flock every two years, Payne said, and the older birds will be given to additional families that need eggs and meat. "We're seeing success, and God's bringing all these pieces together," Payne said. "Now, we're examining how we can replicate it and tailor it to other countries. We could take it overseas to Africa, provided local governments and leaders of villages cooperate."

Payne is set to complete his undergraduate degree at Gardner-Webb in December. While he also works at a church in upstate South Carolina and said he's felt a calling to youth ministry, he's open to the possibility of a career in international mission work. "God has opened doors for me to be a participant in this project, and God enabled me to have the skills to add to what (GBSI) is doing. I've always had a heart for missions. You just have to be willing to see what God's put before you."



A woman with long brown hair is performing aerial yoga in a lush green forest. She is suspended upside down by a teal fabric hammock, with her legs spread wide and arms hanging down. She is wearing a blue and pink leotard. The background is filled with tall trees and vibrant green foliage. Overlaid on the right side of the image are several translucent, colorful geometric shapes in shades of green, yellow, orange, and red.

Wounded Healer

GWU Student's Medical Trials Shape New Role in Helping Others

Written by Lix LuVisi



She climbs, spins, and drops—shifting gracefully in and out of mid-air poses supported by silk fabric—spiraling and twisting herself into intricate knots as she displays a delicate balance of beauty and strength. Gardner-Webb sophomore Aubry McMahon is an artist of aerial silks, a performance art closely resembling the acrobatics of Cirque du Soleil. Aerialists rely greatly on physical strength and skill, and while McMahon flourishes in her element, health has not always been on her side.

“Aerial was the first thing that made me feel strong,” McMahon shared. “It was something I could put my trust in and also helped me to gain trust.”

McMahon has learned that her moves must be intentional; her focus, resolute. One wrong decision could have disastrous results. The delicate balance required for aerial acrobatics closely resembles the equilibrium she’s had to find as she has struggled with limiting health issues, beginning before she took her first breath.

A triplet, McMahon was born three months premature with a mild form of cerebral palsy. Weighing a mere one pound, 10 ounces, she was delivered deprived of oxygen and put on a ventilator to help her breathe. Just minutes earlier, her brother was born with similar medical complications, leaving only her newborn sister breathing normally.

“They didn’t know if we would survive, so they wanted to make our lives worth something,” McMahon said. Parents Thomas and Rosalind McMahon entered their newborns into a drug study on Surfactant (now commonly used to treat premature babies). Within 24 hours, the trial drug began developing the newborns’ lungs normally so that doctors could take them off ventilators.

Four months later, the triplets finally left the sterile walls of the hospital to go home for the first time in their lives.

However, McMahon’s premature birth was only a foreshadowing to later complications. She began physical therapy from a young age to rehabilitate her cerebral palsy. Her jugular vein sits on her eardrum, causing deafness in her right ear. Two of her eight surgeries have corrected a lazy eye. She now has asthma and was placed in yet another medical study for hypothyroidism that caused her metabolism to slow down and her body to feel weak and cold.

Rather than allow her health’s uncertainties to restrict her lifestyle, McMahon chose to reach out of her comfort zone, ultimately turning what was once a vulnerability into a strength. She began taking aerial silk classes prior to her high school senior year at Aerial CLT of Charlotte, N.C.

“Aerial was one of the first things that truly helped me focus on becoming healthier, physically and mentally,” she said. “I started aerial at a very transitional point in my life, and it was the one thing that made me feel whole again. Some people’s stress outlet might be reading a book or photography, and it just so happens that mine is a little bit different.” Her time at Aerial CLT sparked a desire to begin to eat healthier and exercise more frequently.

While McMahon confesses that she despised rollercoasters growing up, hanging 20 to 30 feet up in the air does not faze her. “Aerial is a very disciplined and controlled form of art, and something that it has taught me is that I don’t have to be perfect. It’s about learning to trust yourself,” she said. “If you don’t re-grab the silk below you to secure yourself, you’ll most likely end up over a dozen feet below on the hard ground. Now, that’s scary. This is why control and trust are so important when it comes to aerial.”

McMahon’s pursuit of aerial silks has propelled her toward a path of physical, mental, and spiritual well being, ultimately paving the way for her to become a source of help to others. She chose to combine two of her passions—aerial silks and the National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA)—to coordinate a fundraiser in Charlotte.

“After I began focusing on my health, NEDA became important to me because they help people also struggling with health-related issues,” McMahon explained. As part of the event, Aerial CLT students performed self-choreographed routines. All proceeds from the event were donated to NEDA.

“Weeks prior to my performance, I had a mental scenario of how it would go, and although it didn’t go exactly as I had planned, it was better,” McMahon said. “It was perfectly imperfect. It was vulnerable, and it was real. Throughout this process, so many people have opened up to me about how eating disorders have affected them, and although it breaks my heart, it also mends it because I know that so many people are also passionate about becoming healthy.”

Her involvement with NEDA doesn’t stop there. McMahon is majoring in psychology at Gardner-Webb and plans to attend graduate school to become a marriage and family therapist, specializing with those who struggle with eating disorders.

The significance of McMahon’s medical trials in forming her new role as a wounded healer is not lost on her. “It’s important to me that I help people with my life,” she explained, “because people have always cared for me and helped me, even when I didn’t ask. I want to be able to do that for somebody else.”





HARMON-IC ENVIRONMENT

WENDY HARMON HEARS THE CALL OF THE WILD

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL



Wendy Harmon grew up with the mountains, rivers, lakes, and streams of western North Carolina at her back door. Born and raised in Rutherfordton, N.C., some of her fondest memories are of outdoor exploratory excursions with her parents, Tommy and Darlene Harmon, where she literally first got her feet wet in ecology—the study of how organisms interact with their environments.

When Harmon began looking at colleges, she wanted to find a place where she could further develop her love for science, biology, and ecology. “My mom graduated from Gardner-Webb and told me I needed to visit,” Harmon recalled. “Initially, I thought it might be a little too close to home, but after I visited, I knew this was the place I needed to be.”

During her holiday break last Christmas, she devoted much of her free time to applying for summer internships, based on advice she had received from biology professor and honors program associate dean, Dr. Tom Jones.

“He knew I wasn’t yet an upperclassman, and he told me if I wanted to land one summer internship, I needed to apply for 20,” Harmon explained. “So I set a goal of completing 20 applications during the holiday break.” By early January, she had sent off more than 16 applications, hoping that at least one opportunity would be offered.

Her hard work paid off. Not only did she earn a spot in the four-day SEEDS National Field Trip to Trout Lake Station in Wisconsin, but she landed her dream summer internship studying humpback whales and other aquatic life with the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance (NECWA) in Plymouth Bay, Mass.



“I had to take one of my spring finals early so that I could depart for Wisconsin in time for the trip,” Harmon reflected. She also had to pack for her summer internship, since she was leaving for Massachusetts as soon as her SEEDS program trip was complete. She believes the direct comparison between limnology (the study of inland waters) and marine ecology will help her make some important future decisions.

“The SEEDS experience prepared me for the NECWA internship in ways I did not expect,” she said. “I have always been torn between my desire to study limnology versus marine ecology. My transition from the lakes to the ocean has been interesting, to say the least. Since arriving in Plymouth Bay, the whales and other aquatic creatures have wooed me, but I am quickly learning that I may be more interested in returning to the mountains of North Carolina for my career than I had previously admitted to myself.

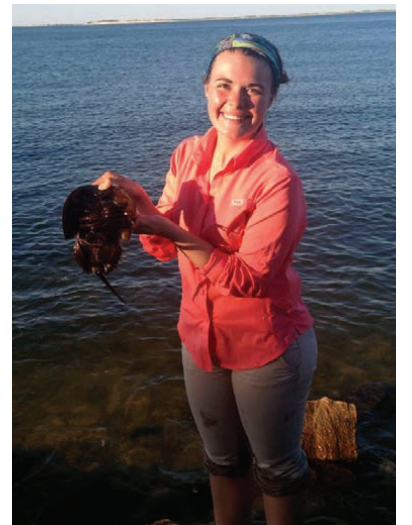
Overall, I am prepared that I may have a major turn in my interests around the corner.”

Harmon fully understands that her future success depends upon her willingness to take advantage of every opportunity and resource offered during her time at Gardner-Webb. She has discovered a level of support and concern she believes has been instrumental to her accomplishments.

“Since Gardner-Webb is a small university, I have the luxury of my professors investing in me as an individual,” she shared. “The science department has been absolutely wonderful to me, and I consider many of them role models. They may never know how truly thankful I am for each and every one of them.”

Harmon encourages her peers to secure internships, trips, and other related experiential opportunities as soon as possible to give themselves a competitive edge.

“Internships demonstrate that students can remove themselves from the mold of a college student and insert themselves into a professional position,” she explained. “The willingness to venture beyond one’s comfort zone, and the ability to excel in a challenging position can be factors that attest to that student’s true passion for their field. Opportunities such as these provide me with valuable field experience that many other candidates my age will not have.”



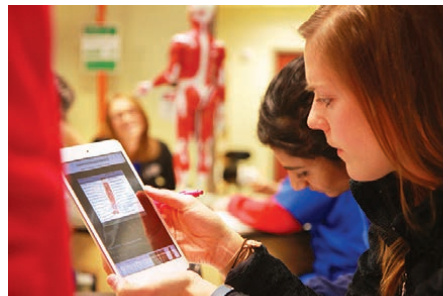
Wendy Harmon holding a horseshoe crab

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

FACILITY PURCHASE LAUNCHES NEW COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

The Gardner-Webb University Board of Trustees announced the purchase of a 53,500-square-foot building that will house the new College of Health Sciences. Officials have confirmed the sale of Crawley Memorial Hospital, located at 315 W. College Avenue, to Gardner-Webb University. The property was previously owned by Carolinas Healthcare System, based in Charlotte, N.C.



Gardner-Webb previously utilized leased space within the Crawley building for the Physician Assistant (PA) program, which began in January, and the Hunt School of Nursing.

The acquisition includes the building, along with nearly 26 acres of property. Officials say the facility will offer many additional opportunities for university growth and will house other programs that are operating in separate locations on the GWU campus.

“The Crawley building is an ideal addition to the Gardner-Webb main campus,” said GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie. “It is not only adjacent to our campus, but it provides precisely the kind of space we need to carry out high-quality programs in nursing, physician assistant studies, and preventive and rehabilitative health sciences. Having a single building dedicated to

the health sciences positions the University for growth in a critical area. The demand for healthcare professionals in our region is already quite high, and it is only projected to increase. We are proud to have the opportunity to help meet that demand with well-trained professionals who bring together Gardner-Webb’s unique blend of academic excellence and Christian commitment.”

“The demand for healthcare professionals in our region is already quite high, and it is only projected to increase.”

As the concern over healthcare options for citizens continues to rise, university officials have worked to meet the needs of an under-served rural population and increase the number of primary care providers or practitioners entering and providing services in the rural marketplace. Laying the groundwork for academic infrastructure—and the corresponding classroom and lab facilities—to address these concerns is the next logical step, which leaders say builds on an already exceptional series of health-focused degree programs at GWU. Officials firmly believe a

College of Health Sciences advances the mission of the University. Efforts will be made to intentionally recruit students with a passion for primary care and then place those students in rural, inner city, and underdeveloped country clinical rotations to address the incredible need for better access to healthcare.



Health-focused degree programs at Gardner-Webb will be included within the College of Health Sciences. The stellar reputation of the GWU School of Nursing and the excitement surrounding the launch of the Physician Assistant Studies (PA) program, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) programs, and the School of Preventive and Rehabilitative Health

Sciences programs are elements that necessitated the purchase of a facility in which students could benefit from an experiential learning environment. Additionally, the door remains open for other potential health science preparation opportunities including speech, physical and occupational therapy programs.

Crawley Hospital’s foundational roots began at Gardner-Webb. Established on the Gardner-Webb campus in August of 1949, Royster Hospital (currently Royster Residence Hall) was named for Dr. R.R. Royster, a 20-year trustee of Shelby Hospital. According to the book “Dreaming, Daring, Doing: The Story of Gardner-Webb University,” the college had once operated Royster Hospital,

but later the facility was managed by an independent board of directors. In 1958, a new wing was added, giving the hospital space for 30 beds. Then, in the mid-1970s, the new Crawley Hospital—named for John Crawley of Shelby—was built on West College Avenue and the Royster Hospital building was converted to a men’s residence hall.



Renovations expected to finish in 2015

Initially serving both the University and the community at large as an acute-care, 60-bed hospital, Crawley later transitioned to skilled-care beds and entered into a management services agreement with Cleveland Regional Medical Center in 1996. The hospital’s skilled-care operations were moved to Kings Mountain, N.C. and Gardner-Webb has leased the building for office and classroom space.

Substantial renovations are expected to be complete by the spring of 2015, and officials are planning a public unveiling of the updated facility upon completion of construction.

* Proposed building





CONTRIBUTING TO A CALLING

DONATION ESTABLISHES "HUNT SCHOOL OF NURSING"

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

Officials are thrilled to announce a significant, undisclosed donation to the top-rated Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing. Dr. Jack and Mrs. Ruby Hunt, noted public servants and staunch supporters of a wide range of community projects, have committed a generous gift to the University to establish the Hunt School of Nursing.

Gardner-Webb University President Dr. Frank Bonner believes the Hunt family represents community service at its finest, and the partnership with the University will benefit both current and future nursing students.



Dr. Jack & Mrs. Ruby Hunt

the positive impact of this couple."

A portion of the gift will be used to provide program enhancements, renovate nursing facilities, and supply educational technology. In addition, the donation will establish 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. "I'd really like to see others join in and assist with funds for the scholarship so that people can help nurses succeed with as little debt as possible."

Hunt School of Nursing Dean Dr. Sharon Starr is eager to help facilitate the exciting changes within the program, which include classroom and lab space moving to the new College of Health Sciences building (formerly Crawley hospital), upon completion of ongoing building renovations.

"The School of Nursing is very proud to be the beneficiary of Dr. Hunt's gift and to be named the Hunt School of Nursing," Starr said.

"Jack and Ruby Hunt have had tremendous, positive impact on the quality of life not only in their community and region but throughout North Carolina," Bonner said. "From the wonderful benefits of the Ruby Hunt YMCA in Boiling Springs, to Jack's service as one of the great statesmen in the North Carolina legislature, to nursing education—it is simply impossible to fully describe

"We feel this distinction is a reflection of the quality and excellence of the various nursing programs offered at Gardner-Webb."

The Hunt School of Nursing will include the undergraduate two-year Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), and graduate nursing programs at Gardner-Webb such as the Family Nurse Practitioner Program (FNP), the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Hunt said he was proud to support degree programs that have given women a chance to exercise their calling and succeed in a corporate healthcare setting.



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY
HUNT SCHOOL of NURSING

"I grew up in an era where there were few opportunities for women on a professional level," Hunt explained. "They were either teachers or nurses. When I got involved in politics, I became more sensitive to that. I continued to advocate for both nurses and teachers. And that's why this connection with an educational institution like Gardner-Webb and the School of Nursing is so perfect."

John Jackson "Jack" and Ruby Hunt live in Lattimore, N.C. Jack excelled as a dentist, farmer, entrepreneur and a statesman of Cleveland County. A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Hunt earned the rank of Major in the U.S. Army. For 22 years, he served as an elected representative in the North Carolina General Assembly. He was the longest-running Chairman of the House Rules committee and also served as Speaker Pro-Tempore. The couple has financially supported many community projects for institutions including Cleveland Community College, the Ruby Hunt YMCA, the Earl Scruggs Center, and Gardner-Webb. In 2012, Hunt was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the Gardner-Webb University Board of Trustees. The Hunts are devoted Christians, proponents of education, and advocates for the community in which they live.

"Nursing is a calling," Hunt reflected. "I don't believe you can be a caring nurse without that call. I am happy to see that Gardner-Webb is supplying a place for those to meet that calling."

Bilingual Benefits Revealed in New Studies

Written by Alyssa Gutierrez



Dr. Bernhard Martin

The increase of international business and the globalization of worldviews, products and ideas have raised the importance of learning a second language, something the Gardner-Webb University World Languages and Literature department knows all about.

“The world has now become a global village,” said Dr. Bernhard Martin, professor of German and chair of the

cognitive boosts can be caused from having both languages activated at the same time and continually having to monitor which one is appropriate. The positive effects of being bilingual have been proven to be even more important in the developmental stages of a person’s life. Children who are brought up in a bilingual household have shown an improvement in vital skills such as mental calculation and reading as opposed to those raised in a single language household.

“The world has now become a global village.”

GWU Department of World Languages and Literature. “Most jobs, whether it be management, education or business include international contacts and even if the main language of the company is English it is important to try and get the outside view of your own culture and connect to these international business partners.”

Martin believes that the language education received during a four-year undergraduate program is enough to work efficiently in a foreign language but it is not until a person learns the culture of the language that they will become fluent. “People think that places like McDonald’s in another country is the same as here, but it’s not,” he said. As an example, McDonald’s must adapt to the culture and traditions of another country, instead of the other way around. This includes common English words that might come across as offensive in another country’s language. Plus, menu items like burgers made with rice, vegetables, lamb, or even squid elsewhere around the world. “We need to understand other cultures and that is something that we continuously thrive to teach our students.”

While knowing a foreign language in a global economy gives a competitive advantage in the job market, there have also been studies showing psychological benefits. According to new research reported by PsyBlog, an award-winning website about scientific research, when a person is bilingual, there is an increase in brain growth and a person’s learning centers become more susceptible to retaining information. Improved attention and better multitasking abilities are also a benefit of knowing two languages. These

On the opposite side of the age spectrum, long-term health benefits can also be seen in older adults. PsyBlog reports that the ability to speak more than one language can help delay the onset of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease later in life. According to a study (the largest of its kind to date) conducted in India at the Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences, speaking two languages slowed the onset of three types of dementia, including Alzheimer’s, by an average of five years. “Researchers found that patients who spoke a single language developed the first symptoms of dementia at age 61, versus 65-and-a-half years old in those who were bilingual.”

“Learning a second language is a bit memory-jogging. Language instruction can help older people keep their mental abilities fresh which is important for anyone,” said Martin. “The longer you can be mentally active and use your memory for processing like language learning, it is certainly beneficial.”

Regardless of the reason for studying a foreign language, whether it is for a competitive edge when looking for a job or mental sharpness, Martin believes it is important for everyone to have some basic knowledge of another language in a world that is growing more diverse each day.

GWU Professor Guides Students Through Collaborative Publication

When Gardner-Webb University Assistant Professor of History Dr. Joseph Moore taught his first Colonial and Revolutionary America class at Gardner-Webb University, he had no difficulty engaging students in lively discussions full of energy and excitement. However, he discovered profound differences during the second offering of the course.

“Everything just fell flat,” he shared. “The time slot was different, the student make-up was different, even I felt different. Discussions went nowhere; paper topics seemed unenthused. We careened toward monotony. What’s a history professor to do when he can’t get people excited about the American Revolution?”



Dr. Joseph Moore

The answer came in the form of an unconventional opportunity. Moore was aware that a new online textbook called “The American Yawp” was in need of contributors. He immediately understood the benefits of a free online scholarly textbook for cash-strapped students. That’s when

a new idea began to form, which he pitched to the book’s project manager, Benjamin Wright.

“I offered that my students—under guidance—would do in-depth research on aspects of the Loyalists in the American Revolution,” Moore explained. “Each would contribute, after which I would corral their work into 500 words. The two-fold benefit being that my students would be immediately engaged in the content of the course and at the same time, assist The American Yawp in its journey toward completion.”

Dubbing themselves the “Gardner-Webb Loyalist Project,” the group devoured texts and information on anything and everything Loyalist. “A class blog became our nexus point to assign readings and post our notes,” Moore said. “Assignments were made by area of interest. Divisions of labor and reading notes were posted online throughout the process, and I operated as a first among equals.”

Moore noted a significant increase in enthusiasm for the course, and students reported they enjoyed seeing their professor take on the role of peer-writer. “Suddenly, they were the experts on things I had not read,” he shared. “This empowered students and kept them engaged with minimal effort from me. Also, the task helped them become extremely appreciative of judicious word choice. Five-hundred words suddenly seemed so short!”

The group debated inclusion or exclusion of material. They discussed concepts such as whether they should cut ideological history in order to make room for social history; how much social history was too much; and how to appropriately account for space and time. “I observed, debated, fought, occasionally lost, and was generally ecstatic about it all,” Moore recounted.

“I’m sure some will critique our final product, and of course, the editors will have the final say, but I’m quite proud of this group of young scholars and their collaboration,” he offered. “May it—or a version of it—live on in the free textbooks of future generations.”

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM MAIN STAY
THAT KEEPS GROWING, EVOLVING**

WRITTEN BY MATTHEW TESSNEAR

Police Capt. Travis Brittain is surrounded. There are men and women to his left, others to his right, and they have at least two things in common. They are criminal justice professionals, and they're graduates of Gardner-Webb's Degree Completion Program (DCP).

Brittain completed his criminal justice degree at GWU in 2008. In addition to teaching courses as an adjunct professor for the University, he now serves as commander over the special situations division and captain of support services at the Gastonia (N.C.) Police Department. At any given time, about a dozen of his department colleagues are fellow Gardner-Webb alumni. "It's the convenience and the variance of classroom instruction that makes Gardner-Webb's program so respected," Brittain offered. "It really dives into how agencies operate, how courts and the penal system operate, and it ties everything together."

The state of North Carolina's system of criminal justice professionals is saturated with Gardner-Webb alumni, and that number continues to grow as the needs of law enforcement agencies and courts expand and evolve, according to Dr. Bobbie Cox, associate provost of GWU's College of Adult and Distance Education. "Over the past seven years the popularity of this program has gradually increased," Cox shared. "As we continue to develop it, add courses and increase opportunities, I expect we'll see continued increases in interest and enrollment."

The University started the DCP, formerly called the GOAL Program, in 1978 with three majors, including criminal justice. "In the 1970s, it was a program that was identified as a need among adult students," Cox reflected on the criminal justice tract. "A lot of law enforcement officers did not have the opportunity for education because they could not travel and sit in a classroom due to their schedules. Gardner-Webb saw the opportunity for degree completion."

One of the University's many criminal justice student success stories, Homer Craig ventured from his job in architectural drafting into a career as a police officer. Several of his supervisors completed Gardner-Webb's program, and he noted the positive impact of their education on their careers.

Craig completed his GWU degree in 1992, and later earned his master's degree at the University of Alabama. Longtime GWU Professor Dr. Barry Hambright then invited Craig to teach courses at



Gardner-Webb, and since 1995 he has served as an adjunct professor. The retired Winston-Salem (N.C.) assistant police chief recently took the reins as criminal justice coordinator for Gardner-Webb. His duties will include teaching courses, managing adjunct professors, and serving as internship supervisor. "Gardner-Webb's program develops good critical thinking skills," Craig offered. "It also improves your discipline because you have to balance your school, your work, and your spiritual lives."

Cox keeps a family picture in her office showcasing the day she graduated from GWU with a criminal justice degree. It serves as a reminder that students can balance their lives and earn their degree under a variety of life circumstances. She worked full time in law enforcement and traveled to the classroom at night to advance her education in the field. "Gardner-Webb did this before anybody did it," she said of the University's offering of distance-education courses in the GOAL Program. "One thing I'm trying to bring to the table as the leader of this program is that we've got to stay current and we can't be stagnant in what we teach and how we offer it. Otherwise, we'll get behind other schools."

Like educational offerings, criminal justice processes are changing, according to Cox. Internet crimes, for example, have changed the way law enforcement officers must be educated to defend the public and bring criminals to justice. A strong curriculum, Cox said, must include instruction in a diverse array of topics that include science, accounting and technology. "Law enforcement is changing," she said. "This degree prepares you for how to address diverse issues, and it prepares you for increased opportunities, including promotions and administrative opportunities."

Dylan Novak found an opportunity at Gardner-Webb searching for universities on his smart phone while moving to North Carolina from New Hampshire. A former student of a small New England college, Novak had experienced difficulties with the administrative requirements of completing his college degree. The former U.S. Marine spent four years on active duty, including tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, and he sought an avenue to enter law enforcement.

A fellow serviceman connected 26-year-old Novak with Gardner-Webb and, within 10 hours of applying, the University contacted him with information about the program, he said. Now, he expects to complete the program in 2015 and hopes to enter the law enforcement field as a policeman or state trooper. His experience at Gardner-Webb has opened doors for him, particularly as a veteran. "They've made it easy to meet the Veterans Affairs requirements as prior military," Novak shared. "And the cost of attending the Degree Completion Program is significantly better than what I was paying at my previous school. I was to the point I was about to have to drop out of college because I couldn't pay for it. This program really is the reason I'm able to be in school." Currently, nearly 150 students are enrolled in criminal justice courses at Gardner-Webb, with nearly all participating in the DCP. The University currently does not offer a traditional undergraduate major in the subject, but that's among the targets for the future, according to Cox. "We're seeing growth in the degree because of the program's flexibility, and we'll continue to seek ways to improve what we offer," Cox said. "I'd love for Gardner-Webb to be known as the place to go study criminal justice."

For more information on Gardner-Webb's Degree Completion Program or the criminal justice degree, call 1-866-498-4625 or visit gardner-webb.edu/dcp.

PASTOR PARTNERSHIP

Students Can Earn Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinity in Dual Program for Pastors

Written by Matthew Tessnear

The Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity and Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy announced plans for a new dual degree program, which will offer students who are called to pastoral ministry an opportunity to earn both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies and Master of Divinity degree in five years. The program, set to begin in fall 2015, is supported by a grant from the Kern Family Foundation.

“The Five-Year Pastoral Degree is a great opportunity to advance the University’s special role in assisting congregations with their leadership needs,” said GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie. “The program provides a more affordable route to theological education for highly motivated men and women who experience a call to ministry early in their educational journey. At Gardner-Webb, we are thrilled by the prospect of partnering with churches in a way that can so directly promote congregational vitality.”

The five-year cohort model program will feature approximately 180 hours of academic credit, which includes 30 hours in a church pastoral residency. By comparison, a traditional GWU undergraduate degree requires a minimum of 128 credit hours, and the Master of Divinity degree requires the completion of 90 credit hours. Officials say the new degree track will still offer Gardner-Webb’s foundational liberal arts core curriculum, while also consolidating certain courses that duplicate instruction in the traditional completion of the bachelor’s and master’s curriculums. “We don’t have anything similar, in terms of a five-year bachelor’s and master’s degree program at Gardner-Webb,” said Dr. Robert Canoy, dean of the GWU School of Divinity. “This type of program may become the wave of the future, for private schools in particular.”

The first two years of study will concentrate on undergraduate core and religious studies coursework. In years three and four, students will focus on a mixture of undergraduate and divinity school courses for intensive academic, theological and pastoral training. The fifth year will engage participants in a full-time church pastoral ministry internship. Coursework will follow a cohort model during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

“We feel this program provides a solid academic foundation in keeping with Gardner-Webb’s legacy,” said Dr. Eddie Stepp, department chair and associate professor of Religious Studies.

“It also provides excellent opportunities for the development of practical pastoral ministry skills.”

“The Five-Year Pastoral Degree is a great opportunity to advance the University’s special role in assisting congregations with their leadership needs.”

Students who enter the ministry traditionally complete bachelor’s and master’s degrees in a seven-year period. The accelerated degree track will significantly reduce

the financial burden of paying for an advanced college education, according to Canoy.

“Gardner-Webb and the Kern Foundation are fully aware of educational debt. We want our graduates to be productive, active citizens in our world, representing God and humanity,” Canoy explained. “You’re traditionally looking at seven years of accumulated educational debt for these students. We asked: How much of that is from the potential overlap of coursework? Is it possible we can reduce this whole debt issue to a more manageable size for students who are called to serve as ministers? Gardner-Webb and the Kern Foundation believe we can.”

Each year, beginning in fall 2015, the program will enroll a new group of 10 students. When the first class reaches the fifth year, 50 total students will be enrolled in the five-year track. “This degree program will be academically rigorous, so students will be carefully screened to make sure that they are not only ready academically, but that they also have a specific call to the pastoral ministry,” Stepp shared.

In August, GWU announced it named Dr. Joseph Caldwell director of the program. “If I was asked to define what I hoped the end state would be,” Caldwell said, “I would say that my greatest desire is that the Five-Year Pastoral Degree Program will be the premier program in the nation from which churches seek their future pastoral leaders.”



THE WRITE STUFF

WRITTEN BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL



Research papers and extensive end-of-term writing projects are higher education requirements of which students are aware long before they fill out their first college application. But what's one to do when that 20-page paper is due in two weeks and must be referenced in a format that is completely foreign to the student?

According to Gardner-Webb University Assistant Professor of English Dr. Jennifer Buckner, the answer is surprisingly simple. For help in a wide array of areas, that student should visit the GWU Writing Center, located in the Tucker Student Center. As the director of the GWU Writing Center, Buckner believes its services can improve a writer's skill no matter where they fall on the spectrum.

"A common misconception is that you only go to the Writing Center if you can't write," Buckner shared. "That simply isn't true. Some students might be really talented performing in one genre, but then they have to move to another class with different rules about formality, headings, structure, and so forth. For instance, the science department doesn't want you to be poetic in your lab reports, but the English department likes some craft in what they read. Sometimes that is difficult for students to navigate, and the staff members at the center are able to provide valuable assistance."

Since 2012, when the center moved from its previous location in Craig Hall to the Tucker Student Center, officials have reported substantially larger numbers of people utilizing the services. "I knew we would have more traffic, but I did not realize that it would be that much more," Buckner reflected. "In the first month, we had a 30-percent increase in attendance! The staff in the writing center are wholly committed to helping their peers, so they were thrilled with the increase."



With up to seven student workers—five undergraduate and two graduate students—the center provides one-hour consultations in which clients can receive guidance on getting started with their project, organizing a draft, documenting sources research, formatting according to a style guide, proofreading, style, and more.

"The most common misconception—and this is universal and not unique to Gardner-Webb—is that the Writing Center is a 'fix-it' center," Buckner offered. "People believe you just take your paper in there, and we all have giant red ink pens and we mark all of the grammatical errors and then hand the paper back. But that's not what happens. I actually talk to the staff a lot about teaching, not fixing. The goal is not just to make that paper better, but to make that student a better writer, so they can transfer those skills to other writing situations."

Open to all students—undergraduate, Degree Completion Program, graduate, on- and off- campus learners, native English speakers and those for whom English is a second language—the Center's staff also represents a diversely educated group. "Just in the past two to three years, we've worked to emphasize that this is not just an 'English majors' center," Buckner said. "We've had nursing, psychology, chemistry, biology, social sciences, Spanish, and English majors serve as student workers. That helps provide beneficial services to our students because these workers have been in these classes with these professors. They can say, 'I took that class. This is the way you should write for that professor.'"

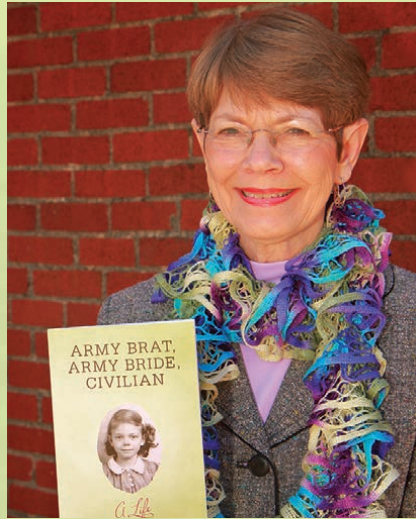
Each year, the number of off-campus students served through the GWU Writing Center has also increased. By using online programs and asynchronous communications, distance education students can access the staff by appointment as well. Staff members use programs to share information from desktop-to-desktop, and then offer feedback and assistance. Buckner is looking for additional ways to utilize technology to enhance accessibility for non-traditional students. "I've been mulling several 'out of the box' solutions for the writing center," she shared. "Any technology we adopt has to be simple and accessible to individuals without sacrificing the quality of service."

With consultations lasting one hour, and a maximum of six consultations in one week allowed per student, Buckner believes that great strides can be made in improving a client's writing skills if they provide enough lead-time. "Consultants can share a variety of strategies and can offer advice about a wide range of writing situations and challenges," Buckner declared. "Within those guidelines and with just two weeks, our staff can really provide some help with focus, organization, polish and style."

The GWU Writing Center is a free service for all students of the University. Located on the second level of Tucker Student Center in Room 237, specific hours of operation are posted online at gardner-webb.edu/writingcenter. Students can make an appointment via WebbConnect or by calling (704) 406-4393 during operating hours.

Former GWU Professor, Graduate School Dean, and Associate Provost Pens Memoir

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll



Dr. Darlene Gravett

A former English professor, graduate school dean, and associate provost at Gardner-Webb University has unveiled her memoir, “Army Brat, Army Bride, Civilian: A Life,” in which she shares the benefits and drawbacks to military living and the challenges her family later faced as civilians. Dr. Darlene Gravett has experienced just about

everything the military life has to offer, including countless relocations, deployments, and transitions.

“I always knew I wanted to write a book,” shared Gravett, a self-proclaimed Army brat. “I just wasn’t sure what it would be about.”

As she contemplated the lives of military persons, and their spouses and families, the subject of her future book emerged quite clearly. “The more I thought about it, I knew I really wanted to write this down and let people know what living that kind of life is all about,” Gravett explained. “There are lots of wonderful and lots of frustrating things about being in the military and moving around.”

Born in Roanoke, Va., Gravett still struggles with the question, “Where are you from?” She said it is one of many common denominators among children who were raised in the military. “Military brats don’t know how to answer that question,” she explained. “Because while we were born in one place, most of the time we haven’t lived there very long and certainly don’t remember anything about it.”

As an Army sergeant’s daughter and later an Army lieutenant’s wife, Gravett has lived in more than 35 different homes throughout the United States, Central America, and Europe. She discusses a time when she and her husband, Second Lieutenant Ray Gravett, decided to move onto a nearby military base because the housing

was better than what they were renting and it would be much closer to Ray’s work. Within three months, Ray was deployed to Vietnam and Darlene was forced to vacate the military housing. “You make what you think would be the best decision for your life, and then the Army makes another decision that you weren’t expecting,” she offered. “Initially, Ray never intended to stay in the Army. He was just going to do his two years and get out. But, he decided he liked it. So once he decided to stay in, I just adjusted to it. I guess because I was used to the life, it didn’t bother me.”

Much like her life story, Gravett learned to navigate the challenges of the book project with the resilience and determination that has come to define her character. She understands the life lessons her experiences have offered and considers herself fortunate to have been taught by them. “I think the hardest part was putting everything together in a format that would make sense,” she shared. “After more than 24 years here, when people ask me where I’m from, the most accurate answer for me is ‘Boiling Springs.’ Even though that’s not exactly true, I feel more connected to this community than any other.”



A Most Holy Journey

GWU Divinity Students and Professors Make Transformative Holy Land Pilgrimage

Written by Matt Renfer



For many Christians, a visit to the Holy Land is a time to pay homage to the physical roots and birthplace of their faith. For



Group shot at the Temple Mount

Gardner-Webb School of Divinity students and professors, it was an appropriate setting for a transformative spiritual journey.

More than 35 students and professors traveled to Israel as part of the school’s annual trip in May. For 11 days, the group visited many of the historic locations made famous by Biblical accounts.

Dean of the School of Divinity, Dr. Robert Canoy, offered theological insight for places and events alongside local guide Bader Rabadi, who provided historical and archaeological context. “I think offering the trip in such an accessible way really makes Gardner-Webb unique,” Canoy said. “Experiencing the topography, the geography, the geology, the close proximity of these places to one another just radically deepens your Biblical understanding.”

The group traversed many of the locations of Jesus’s ministry as told in the Bible—from his birthplace in Bethlehem to the empty Garden Tomb—in addition to Old Testament sites, such as the city of Jericho. Notable sites included the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Mount of Ascension, and Nazareth.

More than a physical journey, the school’s Holy Land trip is a time to be challenged by the spiritual lessons tied to each site. For example, the group stopped at a church marking the spot where Jesus prayed the Lord’s Prayer—called Pater Noster (Latin for “Our Father”)—where the prayer is translated into all the world’s languages. “It’s a special time to gather there and find the language of our ancestors and to rub shoulders with believers from all over the world who stand before the mosaic of the Lord’s Prayer in their own language,” Canoy shared.

Divinity student Daniel Rushing spoke highly of the strong camaraderie formed between both students and professors as a result of sharing their journeys with one another. “There is a bond built between people who experience this together—one that cannot be duplicated in any other setting,” he offered. “As a group, we were growing. We woke each other up in the mornings, encouraged one another as the toil of the travels took its toll on our bodies, and we worshiped with one another on a daily basis. All of this at the places Jesus walked.”

At the Jordan River, nearly the entire group participated in a baptismal renewal service as a reaffirmation of their faith. In addition, three Indonesian men, unknown to the group, asked to be baptized as Christians for the first time.

“At the Jordan I was baptized by Dr. McConnell [assistant professor of New Testament interpretation],” Rushing shared. “The baptism was surreal—one to commemorate my pilgrimage into the Holy Land.”

Alumna Aileen Lawrimore said she was changed by the opportunity to travel with spiritual mentors, friends and teachers.

“It was great to walk where Jesus walked,” the 2010 M.Div graduate said. “It was greater still to be there with people who are living as Jesus lived. In how they teach, how they pray, how they care about us individually as students, our professors showed us how Jesus lived.”

Canoy shared one of the group’s more important spiritual lessons at the Mount of Beatitudes, where they were reminded of Jesus proclaiming believers as the salt and light of the world. As much as a trip to the Holy Land is an individual blessing, he believes God is also capable of using that experience to benefit others as well.

A visit to the Holy Land can be a reaffirming experience for any believer, no matter where they are in their personal spiritual journey. “We found the Garden Tomb just as the first disciples did—empty,” Canoy shared. “That’s the best word of all the words I have used to summarize our days in the Holy Land. An empty tomb still means that Jesus is risen from the dead!”



Watch GWU sing at St. Anne’s Cathedral in Jerusalem:
gardner-webb.edu/holy-land

Class Acts

The 1960s

REV. MAX PENDLETON '61

was honored as Man of the Year at the 64th annual Mount Holly Community Awards banquet in Mt. Holly, N.C. Pendleton, now retired, served 33 years as pastor of Catawba Heights Baptist Church. He continues to serve the Mount Holly area with bereavement ministering and civic groups in need of pastoral care. Pendleton and his wife of 61 years, Virginia, are still members of Catawba Heights Baptist.

ROGER DIXON '64

was honored by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. Dixon spent 31 years working in at five schools in North Carolina, as well as nine years in South Carolina. He was one of eight high school athletic directors nationwide honored with an NFHS citation.

The 1970s

JOSEPH SOUTHARDS '71 BS

was awarded the Silver Beaver Award at the 91st Annual Recognition Banquet of the Piedmont Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Silver Beaver is the highest honor a council can bestow on a volunteer and is awarded by the national Scouts council upon recommendation of the local council. He has been a Scout for more than 30 years, and he achieved the rank of Eagle in his youth. He has held several positions as an adult Scout. He and his wife, Evelyn, reside in Cherryville, N.C.

JAMARICA JONES '72 AA

recently published a new collection of poetry, "Legacy in Words." The work seeks to capture snapshots of

everyday life and specific experiences throughout her lifetime. It was selected for inclusion in the Gold Seal program, which recognizes excellence in writing and potential. She worked as a public health nurse in Shelby, N.C., for 35 years before retiring in 2010.

GREG MATHIS '77 BA

recently began his first term on the North Greenville University board of trustees in Greenville, S.C. He is the University's first-ever out-of-state trustee. The South Carolina Baptist Convention approved in 2012 that the institution would be allowed to appoint trustees from states other than South Carolina. He has served as senior pastor at Mud Creek Baptist Church for more than 30 years.

The 1980s

JAY TEMPLE '81 BS, '06 MA

recently retired from Davidson County (N.C.) Schools after 30 years in education. He spent the past 15 years in the central office as the transportation director for 10 years and the executive director of auxiliary services for five years.

In his retirement, he plans to work on model cars, hunt, fish and ride boats at the lake.

RONALD HARGRAVE '85 BS, '03 MA, '06 EDD

was named superintendent of Scotland County (N.C.) Schools. He previously served as deputy superintendent of operations for the Iredell-Statesville (N.C.) Schools district since 2009. Hargrave attended Gardner-Webb on a basketball scholarship. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves, attaining the rank of first sergeant, from 1985 to 1993.

LAURIE BUSH-JOHNSON '89 BSN

now works at Conceptions Reproductive and Infertility Clinic in Denver, Colo., as

well as at Ridgeway OB/GYN Clinic in Castle Rock, Colo. She and husband, John, have three children.

The 1990s

LAURA COLEMAN '90 BS

married Steven Wetzel on Nov. 2, 2013. She is the accounting manager for CFY Inc. of Clemmons, N.C.

JEFFREY S. LINNEY '91 BS

completed his Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Information Systems at Nova Southeastern University, based in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Linney has worked more than 20 years in law enforcement, currently serving as police chief at Louisburg College in Franklin County, N.C. He resides in Johnston County, N.C.

MARK ACKERMAN '93 BS

became head football coach and athletic director at Unity Christian School in Rome, Ga. He previously served as athletic director and football coach at Southwest Florida Christian Academy in Fort Myers, Fla., for four years.

WILSON WEAVER '93 BS

was promoted to assistant police chief for the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Police Department. He oversees the department's field-services bureau. He has almost three decades of police experience, after beginning his career with the police department in 1984 and serving in several divisions.

DAVID JOHNSON '94 BS, '99 MBA

was appointed new finance director for Caldwell County (N.C.) Schools. He previously worked for Wilkes County (N.C.) Schools as executive director of business operations and as finance officer.

GWU Alum Expands Community Leadership Role

Hoyt Bynum Jr. ('93) Models Christian Leadership as BBBS CEO

Written by Matt Renfer

An impactful mentorship can mean the difference between a troubled and thriving life. Gardner-Webb alumnus Hoyt Bynum Jr. '93 never understates the importance of pouring guidance into someone in need of clarity. Having grown up with the help and love of others, Bynum has sought to pay it forward as CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of the Upstate region of South Carolina, a position he's held since late 2013.

"My passion has always been with youth and seeing young people succeed," Bynum said. "BBBS Upstate gave me the opportunity to use my talents and experience by becoming the president and CEO."

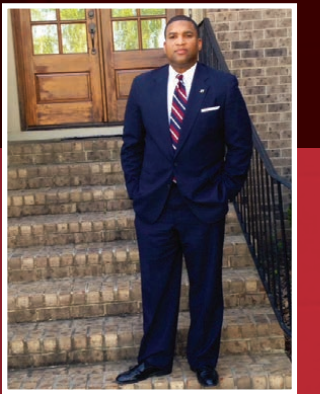
BBBS Upstate matches children age six through 18 years with positive role models. Their mission is to provide those facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better. BBBS Upstate serves children in Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Laurens, Oconee and Pickens counties of S.C. Over 10,000 youth have been provided mentoring services by BBBS Upstate since 1974.

Helping others is no new venture for Bynum, who has spent the past 20 years of his career working with non-profit organizations including Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Children's Shelter of the Upstate, Habitat for Humanity, and the Simpsonville, S.C., Area Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as pastor of Born Anew Church, which he launched in August 2012 in the Spartanburg, S.C., area.

As the leader of BBBS, a non-profit whose goal is to build up strong youth communities, Bynum seeks to reverse the shortages of children without mentors, particularly in the African-American community.

Bynum recalls his experiences at Gardner-Webb as positively life-forming for what would be a future career in community service. "GWU education and experiences were pivotal for providing me with a solid foundation to serve," he shared. After arriving on campus on a football scholarship, he graduated in 1993 with a bachelor's in business administration as a member of the football team, the gospel choir and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Bynum is currently enrolled at Liberty University Theological Seminary and is working on a master's degree in Religion and Christian Leadership. He continues to look toward the future. "My goals are to be the best CEO for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Upstate and the best husband, father and pastor of Born Anew Church," Bynum shared. "I'm excited about how the Lord is using me, and how he is going to position me to lead and serve His people. For over 20 years, I have been mission-driven to using my gifts and talents to make a difference within the community."



Hoyt Bynum Jr.

NOEL T. MANNING '94 BA

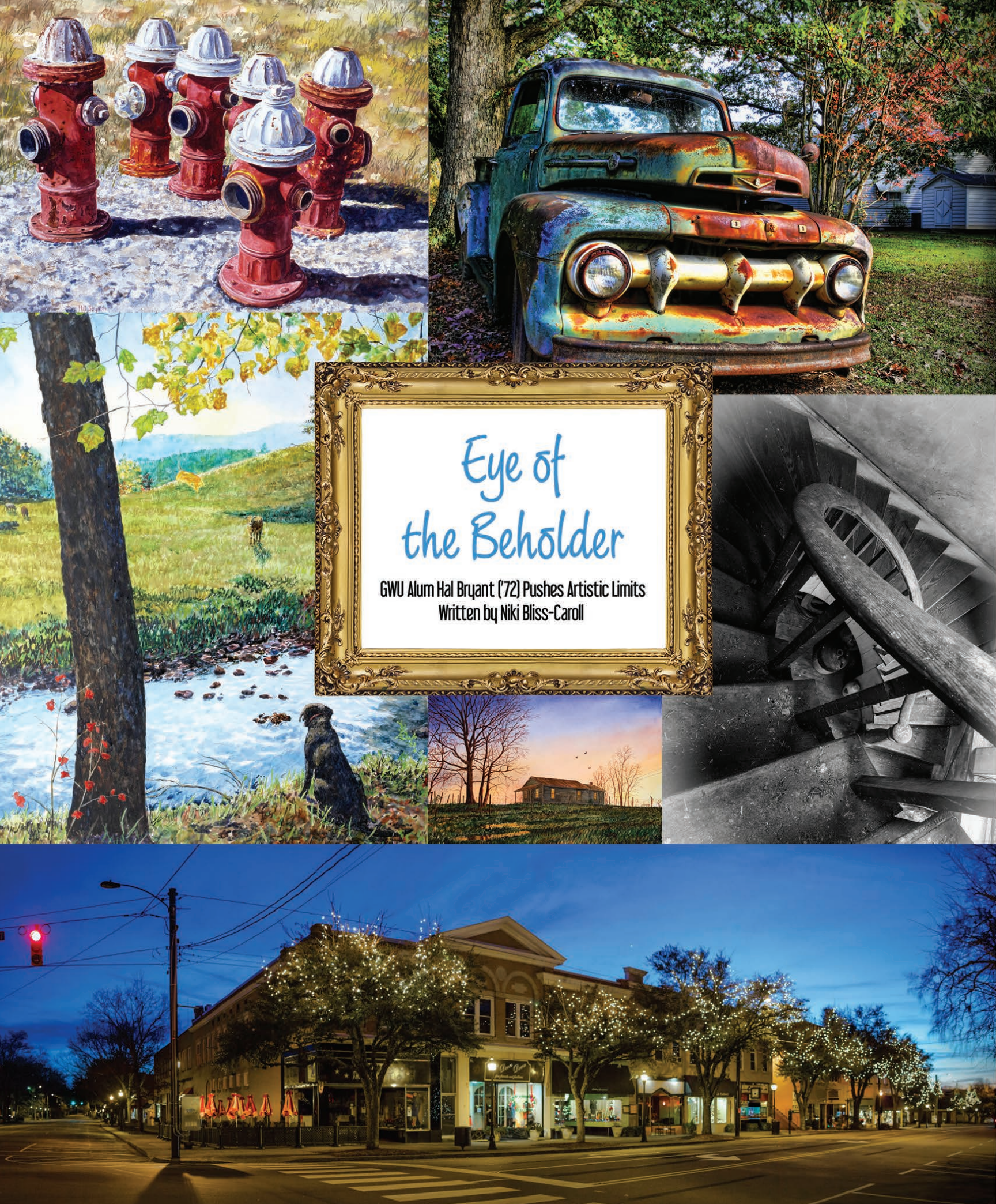
was named associate vice president for marketing and communications at Gardner-Webb. In the position, he directs operations that include public relations, marketing, WGWG.org and Gardner-Webb's web design, and graphic design. He also serves as chief



communication officer for the University. Manning was also recently elected as secretary for the Salvation Army Board of Advisors (Cleveland and Rutherford counties, N.C.) and for the Cleveland County Arts Council. He resides in Boiling Springs with his wife, Beth, and children, Kathryn and Thomas. He can be reached at ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu.

DR. DAVID WALKER '94 MA, '06 EDD

was named principal at Casar Elementary School in Casar, N.C. He started his career as a teacher at Burns High School and then taught driver's education. He has been a school administrator and assistant principal for 12 years. He and his wife, Tonya, have two daughters.



Eye of the Beholder

GWU Alum Hal Bryant ('72) Pushes Artistic Limits
Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

Gardner-Webb alum Hal Bryant may have graduated in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in Social Science, but his minor in art offered more of an indication of his future career path. Bryant enjoyed more than 30 years as an art instructor at Cleveland Community College in Shelby, N.C., where he helped shape the artistic technique of hundreds of students. In addition, he has received tremendous accolades for his own watercolor, acrylic and pastel renderings, for which he offers his alma mater much credit.

"It was at Gardner-Webb where I really honed my desire to create some type of paintings and some type of art," Bryant explained. "Works in acrylic, watercolor, pastel are what I would consider my favorite type of media... depends on my mood at the time."

Because he never had the luxury of full days to go out and paint a scene on location, Bryant developed some skill in photography. He became friends with longtime Shelby photographer, the late Elwin Stillwell. He said Stillwell taught him how to successfully develop images in a chemical darkroom. Bryant would then use those photographs as source pictures from which he could later paint.

As technology changed and images moved from film to digital, Bryant adapted. He continues to teach digital photography classes as an adjunct instructor at the community college. Yet, he maintains his foundational ideals of artistry.

"It would be real tempting to take a photo and run it through some of the Photoshop filters and make it look like a pastel or make it look like a watercolor and then print it out," he shared.

Bryant uses elements of technology to enhance his photographs and offer the viewer an opportunity to experience subjects that he finds fascinating including nature, rustic farm life such as barns and old houses, and anything that depicts the passage of time.

"My favorite part of photography is trying to find the subject," he reflected. "Just going exploring and as Charles Kuralt would say, 'seeing what's around the next bend.'"

He enjoys capturing scenes which might not seem worthy of closer inspection. "In my photography, I like to photograph subjects that a lot of people would just not have seen beauty in," he offered. "That's something I've always been interested in—what they call the 'art of seeing.' That's true of both paintings and photographs—trying to discover beauty where most people would not think beauty existed."



Watch Hal Bryant discuss his passion:
gardner-webb.edu/hal-bryant



RE-IGNITE THE experience

Rewarding academic programs

Professional connections with mentors

Lasting friendships with classmates

Personal growth within a faith-based community

Every time you share your successful Gardner-Webb experiences, you serve your alma mater by recruiting prospective students who will write the University's next chapter. Thousands of Gardner-Webb alumni network with potential students every day, in the workplace, in church, in school, and in neighborhoods. It takes just a few minutes to show how GWU can be the "right fit" for those students' college choice. Help extend the Gardner-Webb message into your community, and connect college-seeking high school students with the GWU Admissions Office.

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GWU Alumnus Joins College Baseball Hall of Fame

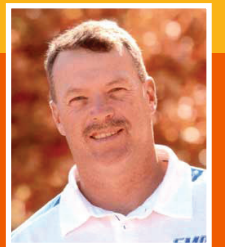
Gardner-Webb University alumnus Tim Wallace '95 MA was elected to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. An induction ceremony was held in May 2014 in Grand Junction, Colo.

He has led Spartanburg Methodist College (SMC) to the Junior College World Series six times, including back-to-back appearances in 2012 and 2013. In 23 coaching seasons, he has amassed about 1,000 victories and set a winning percentage of about 75 percent, among the best in the country.

"It's a great honor," he said. "But it's more a testament to the players than me. If you've got some horses, you can have some pretty good races. We've had some good horses through the years. I take my hat off to those guys."

He has led SMC to Region 10 championships 11 times, and he has garnered six NJCAA Eastern District Coach of the Year awards. He is a member of the halls of fame at SMC and at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., where he was a standout player as a catcher.

He was a second-round Major League Baseball draft pick of the St. Louis Cardinals and played seven professional seasons, was an all-star in Triple-A and became a batting champion and home run leader in Italy.



Tim Wallace

MARTY CAUDLE '95 BA, '99 MDV was ordained into the gospel ministry on Oct. 13, 2013, at New Hope Baptist Church in Denver, N.C., where he serves as assistant pastor with evangelism and outreach.

JOAN ROVENSTINE '98 BS was named programs director for the McDowell County (N.C.) branch of the Partnership for Children of the Foothills. Previously, she worked 14 years with Smart Start, including nine years as executive director. She resides in Burke County and is married with one son and two grandsons.

BRIAN RIGGINS '99 MBA joined the sales team at Weber-Hodges real estate agency in Boone, N.C. A 14-year resident of the Boone area, he assists property buyers and sellers in the surrounding region. He is a member of the High Country Association of REALTORS, and he serves as a deacon at Highland Christian Fellowship in Boone.

The 2000s

RODNEY ALDRIDGE '00 BS was recently promoted to captain with the Gastonia Police Department in Gastonia, N.C. Aldridge joined the department in

October 2000 after receiving his degree from Gardner-Webb. In 2008, he was promoted to sergeant. He has served in the patrol, juvenile/missing persons investigation bureau and, most recently, as community coordinator sergeant in the city's central district. He has also served on federal terrorism and safe streets task forces.

ASHLEIGH BRADFORD '00 BS now teaches a pre-kindergarten class at the Discovery Preschool, part of the A.E. Finley YMCA in Raleigh, N.C. She lives in Raleigh with her husband, David, and their two children.

BRAD RICHARDSON '00 MA was named the 2014 Wells Fargo Principal of the Year for North Carolina's Region 8. Richardson is principal of Forest City-Dunbar Elementary School in Forest City, N.C. Since becoming principal at the school, he has implemented dress code, calendar and after-school remediation program changes to improve the quality of education for students. In fall 2013, he was selected by his peers as the Rutherford County (N.C.) Schools Principal of the Year.

BRANDON ZOCH '00 BS, '09 MBA was promoted to associate vice president for student affairs at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, N.C., and became chairman of the deacons at Murfreesboro Baptist Church. He also serves as chairman of the Murfreesboro Tourism Development Authority.



DAVID WHITE '01 BS was recently named vice president of operations for Superior Paving Corp. in Gainesville, Va. He has worked for the company since earning his bachelor's degree at Gardner-Webb in 2001 and has worked his way up through the company's operations division. He also serves on the board of directors for the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) and currently serves as vice chairman of the NAPA Young Leaders. He is a board member for the Virginia Asphalt Association (VAA) and will serve as president of the Heavy Construction Contractors Association (HCCA). He and his wife, Debby, reside in Fairfax, Va., with their two sons.



Living Among the Dying

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Survivor Lynn Hamrick Imparts Hospice Experiences in Book

Written by Jackie Bridges, The Star (Shelby, N.C.)

Since Lynn Hamrick has been at Wendover Hospice House in Shelby, N.C., she's learned more about living than dying. "When I came to Hospice, I felt like people sometimes have the wrong idea," she reflected. "They automatically think you are at death's door, but I found out the people here are focused on making your life better.

Hospice is not a place of gray gloom and whispered woes. It is a place of caring and living and peace."

Hamrick is a 1984 alumna of Gardner-Webb, where she completed a bachelor of science in elementary education degree.

She said Hospice provides an extra dimension of support for her and her family. "Here, I can get all the care I can possibly need but have the freedom to spend quality time with my family," she said. "They are relieved and not overly burdened with caregiving, so the time I spend with them is special."

She shares the lessons she's learned and describes her life and 23-year battle with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in a book she has written, *"Living Among the Dying."*

Writing a book is something Hamrick, 52, has always wanted to do, said her husband, Mark, also a 1984 alumnus of Gardner-Webb, where he received his bachelor's degree in business. "The book is a real triumph considering she typed each letter one at a time with her eyes," Mark shared.

Hamrick used an Ecopoint Eye Gaze Computer, which allowed her to select each letter from the keyboard. It is painstakingly slow. "I had it in my head, and if my eyes could type as fast as my brain, I could have written it faster," she said.

"Lynn can no longer move below her neck, but we will have a very dear friend to write any request from Lynn or the person buying the book and I will be there to stamp Lynn's signature," Mark said. "The stamp was made from a signature from when we first got married back in March 1985 (29 years ago). We dated eight years, so we have been together 36 years."

Hamrick, who taught school for 13 years, doesn't exaggerate when she says that she has always loved to write. "My grandmother found a postcard that I had written and mailed when I was four years old," she said.

She's not sure how she did it—whether she had help or not—but there on the card is the note, "I hope you have a very nice Christmas." When she was in the seventh grade, her teacher, Jane Scherger, gave her the next boost of confidence. "She said, 'I love to read your writing,'" Hamrick remembered. "I think that was the first time I realized that I had a real love for writing."

At Crest High School, she took creative writing. The teacher, Frances Kiser, asked her to write an essay for her. "That made me feel honored," she said. "In college (at Gardner-Webb), I loved the classes that required term papers. I would rather write a term paper than take a test."

Over the years, she wrote essays and poems for the family to celebrate special occasions and as a new first grade teacher, she broke the ice by writing something for her school. "When I started teaching and I was trying to make friends with the teachers, we were doing accreditation and I wrote a poem for the school," Hamrick said. "After that, they would always come to me when they needed something written. I have files and files of poems, essays and thoughts."

After spending time at Hospice and with help from her pastor at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C., Dr. Rit Varriale, the timing was right to finally publish a book. "Our pastor has a publishing company," she shared. "And Westmoreland Printers is printing the book."

Working with Lynn and Mark to publish the book has given Varriale a greater appreciation for the couple. "Together, Mark and Lynn have kept their faith in the Lord and their love for one another," Varriale offered. "There aren't many couples who could endure like they have. There aren't many women who, given the context, would strive to find the best in life like Lynn does. There aren't many men who would be as faithful as Mark has been over the last 29 years."

He said the book is "a glimpse into Lynn's thoughts and feelings while being in residential care at Wendover Hospice."

"Our desire is that the book would benefit people who are receiving care at the end of life," Varriale said. "Perhaps in some way readers can, like Lynn, find love in the midst of loss, joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the midst of pain, and life in the midst of death."

WANT A COPY OF THE BOOK? For more information on how to purchase a copy of Hamrick's book, contact Elizabeth Baptist Church at (704) 482-6339.



Mark and Lynn Hamrick

Finding Service

Internships Helped '13 Alumna Find Calling in Missions

Written by Matthew Tessnear

The daughter of international missionaries, Michelle Palacio never thought the occupation was her calling in life. That was until a summer internship with a familiar mission organization showed her how she could blend her passion for global issues with resources to improve lives. Experiences during and after that internship changed her perspective and, ultimately, led to a career opportunity after her graduation from Gardner-Webb.

Palacio lived in South Africa in her youth, and she returned to the country for a 2012 internship with Serving In Mission (SIM). The agency has, for more than 120 years, shared the Gospel message, equipped churches and served the needy around the world. SIM now sends more than 1,600 missionaries to more than 60 countries. Among other duties during her internship, Palacio strengthened communication with the South African public about services SIM provides. She developed a Twitter account to reach a population she says communicates largely through mobile devices. “It was really starting from nothing,” she reflected on her work. “However, now that Twitter account, that communication, is still active.”

A busy college student, Palacio still took advantage of two internships prior to her graduation from Gardner-Webb. While balancing her academics as one of the University’s first Global Studies majors with her participation on GWU’s swim team, she also interned as a volunteer coordinator with Washington, D.C.-based Martha’s Table. The organization offers a mobile soup kitchen, after-school care, and a clothing closet.

“For younger students, it’s important to find not only the career you want, but the organization you want to work in and the type of environment you want to work in. How you live your life is so much more than your job and your life outside your job,” Palacio shared. “For me, job and life integrate, and my job is 24 hours a day, which is a cool way to work and engage with people.”

A 2013 GWU alumna, Palacio now works as a special assistant to SIM USA President Bruce Johnson, who visited the University to speak at its Dimensions program during her senior year. Johnson noted Palacio’s research, cross-cultural and missionary life experience, and he extended an opportunity for her to connect with young people to prepare them to serve in ministries around the world. Palacio said a combination of Gardner-Webb and off-campus internship experiences prepared her for the job.

“The internships allowed me to see what I could do in a real-world environment,” she offered. “They also gave me a lot of confidence, knowing I was equipped to do the work. Gardner-Webb prepared me, too. My experience in Gardner-Webb student government and taking minutes allowed me to take minutes in our SIM international board meetings. English classes allowed me to engage with people cross-culturally. Working in admissions prepared me for recruiting.”

Palacio plans to work in SIM’s Charlotte-area office until mid-2015 and then take an international position with the company. She’s traveling to Asia this year to research possibilities for her location. “I’ll be praying for where God wants me,” she shared. “I now feel like I’m called to serve where people need to hear the Gospel and where I can be of service. The relationship I’ve had with SIM was really helpful because I saw how people worked to combat a lot of the issues we talked about in my political science classes at Gardner-Webb. All of my experiences really prepared me for where I am right now.”



Michelle Palacio

DR. LORY DILLNER MORROW '01 MA, '06 EDD

became superintendent of Davidson County Schools in Lexington, N.C., in January. Morrow previously served as deputy superintendent of instruction in Gaston County (N.C.) Schools. In that role, she helped the school system establish a career and technical education expo and create a robotics program for elementary, middle and high school students. She has been married to her husband, Jerry, for 20 years.

ROBIN CORNETT '02 BS

was inducted as president of the N.C. Society of Radiologic Technologists (NCSRT) at the 75th NCSRT annual conference. She is program director of the radiography program at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, N.C. She has served as vice president, president-elect, chief sergeant at arms, student liaison committee chair and on other committees for the NCSRT.

JOSH STROUP '02 BS, '11 MBA and LEANNA STROUP '08 BM

welcomed their first child, Violet Marie Stroup, on Nov. 24, 2013. She was 6 lbs 9.5 oz and 18.5 inches long.



DR. AARON ALLEN '03 MA

was promoted to assistant superintendent for human resources for Lincoln County (N.C.) Schools (LCS). He previously served as director of human resources for LCS. He is a former principal at Burns High School, Kings Mountain Middle School and West Lincoln Middle School. He has been an educator for 16 years. He and his wife reside in Kings Mountain, N.C, with their three children.

CHAD MANN '03 MA

was named principal at C.B. Eller Elementary in Elkin, N.C. He previously served as assistant principal at Wilkes Central High School for three years and assistant principal at Central Wilkes Middle School for two years. He taught business and coached for nine years in Yadkin County (N.C.), including two at Forbush High School and seven at Starmount High School.

AMY MILLER '03 BA

welcomed second child, Alessandra Grace, on Oct. 4, 2012. She weighed 7 lbs 13 oz and was 20 inches long. Her family resides in Haverhill, Mass., currently serving with OMF International for the New England region.

REV. SEAN MILLER '04 MDV

was recently installed by the S.C. Synod of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America as pastor of St. Matthias Lutheran

Church in Easley, S.C. He was born and raised in Greenville, S.C. During his senior year of seminary at Gardner-Webb, he served as chaplain resident at Greenville Memorial Hospital. He has served as chaplain of Lutheran Hospice since 2004. His family includes wife, Pastor Maria Miller, and son, Ethan.

AMBER NORMAN '04 BS

married Jeffrey Queen on Sept. 28, 2013 in Casar, N.C. She is employed at Carter Bank & Trust in Shelby, N.C.

CATHY STARNES '04 BS

has been honored with a Citizenship Award from North Carolina Lawyers Weekly (NCLW). She works as a family case coordinator for the Catawba County (N.C.) Family Court to help schedule cases, process paperwork and serve as a liaison between the public and court officials. She also serves as a member of the Catawba County (N.C.) Board of Education. Starnes resides in Hickory, N.C.

LORI WILBANKS '04 MA

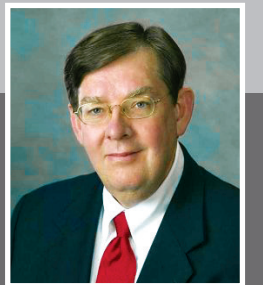
was named principal of Bethware Elementary School in Kings Mountain, N.C. She previously served as assistant principal at Kings Mountain Middle School, following stints as a science teacher in Cleveland, Columbus and Union (N.C.) counties. She and her husband, Mike, have two children, Carter and Eli.

GWU Alumnus Named State Superintendent of the Year

Gardner-Webb University alumnus Brady Johnson '98 MA was recently named the 2014 A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year by the North Carolina Association of Schools Administrators (NCASA) and the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA). Johnson serves as superintendent of Iredell-Statesville Schools and has been in that role since the 2009-10 school year. He has spent most of his life in Iredell County.

Johnson was selected among seven finalists for the award by a committee appointed by the NCASA and NCSBA. Achievements that led to Johnson’s selection included the school system’s successes in graduation rate, dropout rate and attainment of two federal grants.

“Johnson’s commitment to achieving positive results for the children of Iredell County is a shining example of visionary leadership in North Carolina’s public schools,” said NCASA Executive Director Katherine Joyce.



Brady Johnson

The True Love Project

GWU Alum Clayton King Rewrites Lifeway's Top Bible Study

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

The most successful product ever released by LifeWay Christian Resources has been re-launched, and officials handpicked Gardner-Webb University alumnus Clayton King '95 to develop and write the new curriculum.

True Love Waits, an international moral purity campaign designed to challenge teens and college students to commit to sexual abstinence until marriage, initially debuted in 1994, when King himself was a college student. As a traveling evangelist and speaker even during his years at Gardner-Webb, he remembers speaking at *True Love Waits* rallies all over the country. When LifeWay officials decided to revamp *True Love Waits* in honor of its 20th anniversary, King was their first choice to rewrite the material.

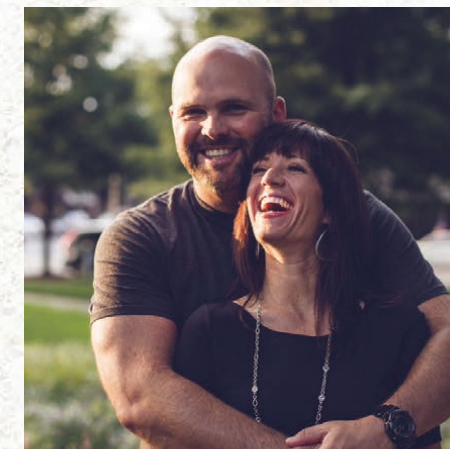
"I was blown away. I couldn't believe that I would have an opportunity to do that," he shared. "I was very curious, you know, why me? There are many other people in America with bigger platforms and more success and a much bigger voice than I have. I wanted to know, 'Why would you choose me to write something so big and so important?'"

His answer came when he flew to Nashville, Tenn., in early 2013 to discuss the project with the LifeWay development team. As he listened to LifeWay Vice President Eric Geiger, King discovered God had perfectly orchestrated his involvement in the new project more than 20 years ago.

"When I was 20 years old and a student at GWU, there was a church in Louisiana that brought me in to speak on the issues of sexual purity and abstinence until marriage," King explained.

In the audience that night, King learned, was Eric Geiger, then just a teenager. "He told me that God really convicted him through my message that he needed to give total control of his life to Christ, that he needed to straighten some things up in the area of relationships, and that he needed to practice sexual purity because he was a Christian," King recalled. Geiger's life path led him to pursue his doctorate, become a pastor and author, and eventually, a vice president at LifeWay.

When the president of LifeWay, Thom Rainer, was discussing the re-release of the *True Love Waits* material, he asked his team to offer suggestions on who should be contacted to write the curriculum. Geiger raised his hand and told them the story of what had happened to him as a result of Clayton King's message in Louisiana more than 20 years ago. Without hesitation, Rainer replied, "Go get him."



Clayton and Sharie King

Renamed the *True Love Project*, King—along with his wife and ministry partner, Sharie—modernized much of the material. "We changed the name. We changed the focus," he offered. "We still talk about sexual purity, but we also focus more on sexual health."

With the goal of reaching the next generation with relevant information relating to sexual purity, King's message includes topics such as forgiveness, sexual abuse, pornography, and how to establish and maintain sexual purity in a decidedly over-sexed culture.

"We've talked more about making wise choices at a younger age and also about receiving God's grace and God's forgiveness if you have made mistakes," King shared. "We've dealt with pornography

issues because it is such an epidemic now among the younger generation. People are dealing with the same temptations that I think I dealt with 20 years ago when I was a teenager, but those temptations are more evident, and they are much more accessible than they used to be."

Lifeway recently released three additional books in the *True Love Project* line: a 40-day devotional for girls, a 40-day devotional for guys, and a trade book. "We're really excited about these materials, especially the trade book," King explained. "The book really digs deep into the scripture regarding love and marriage, as well as scientific findings that

explain human connections, addictions, and the way God hardwired us as human beings."

The opportunity to become part of the legacy of *True Love Waits* and the chance to touch the lives of teens in the next generation has been overwhelming for King. "I never dreamed I would have an honor like this," he said. "It's been thrilling to be able to write something that has the potential to reach so many people and to really help people by preparing them for marriage and family."



The True Love Project is an eight-session, video-driven Bible study for all students. It focuses on how the gospel—as it leads to lasting heart change and transformation—serves as the catalyst for sexual purity in our lives. Students will take a look at how the world's distorted view of sex compares with God's true design for it. They'll learn that sexual abstinence is centered in a desire to honor and please God as a result of spiritual transformation and not just behavior modification. The materials are available at

Lifeway.com.



Watch Clayton at:
www.gardner-webb.edu/trueloveproject



Photo by Colin Mukri

Photo by Colin Mukri

CHRISTOPHER BREEDLOVE '05 BA

was named director of public relations, marketing and web operations for the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Liberty University. He previously served five years as director of public affairs for Liberty's School of Law. Following his graduation from Gardner-Webb, he served three years as communications specialist at GWU.

**KATIE CANNADA '05 BS**

married Keith Cannada on April 19, 2014, in Greer, S.C. She currently teaches 4-year-old kindergarten at Cherrydale Elementary School in Greenville, S.C., where she also serves as the lead technology contact and member of the strategic planning committee. She completed her master's degree in curriculum and instruction at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., in August 2013. She also was selected for the Greenville County Schools Instruction Coach Pool in March 2014.

KEVIN GARAY '05 MA

was named principal at Mallard Creek High School in Charlotte, N.C. He previously served five years as principal at A.L. Brown High School and was assistant principal the four years prior at the school.

RYAN McGIRR '05 BS

was promoted to vice president at BB&T. He is a market leader in BB&T's Kenersville (N.C.) main office. He is a native of Kenersville and a graduate of the BB&T University Leadership Development Program.

DONALD JENSEN TURNER '05 BS

married Megan Frances Odom on June 7, 2014, in Greenville, S.C. She is employed as a pharmacist with Ingles in Greer, S.C. He is practicing with his father at Pediatric Dentistry of Spartanburg, S.C.

DAVID WALL '05 MBA

was recently named chairman of the Upstate Workforce Investment Board in South Carolina. The board works to help residents

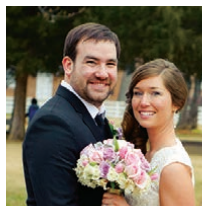
in three South Carolina counties obtain a livable wage and provide employers with a pool of job applicants. It promotes youth development in education, training and employment through a youth council. Wall serves as assistant vice president, regional bank private banker at Wells Fargo in Spartanburg, S.C. He has been an adjunct instructor for Limestone College in the Business Department for Extended Campus. He and his wife, Pam, have two daughters.

CHERISH CAWTHON '06 BS

was named executive director of the Cleveland County Promise. The organization raises money with the goal of providing full tuition funding for all Cleveland County (N.C.) graduating high school seniors. She resides in Shelby with her husband, Graham.

KELLY HINE '06 BS

married Caleb Duvick on Feb. 1, 2014 in Winston-Salem. She is employed by Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools at Morgan Elementary in Clemmons, N.C., as a first-grade teacher. He is employed by the Jerry Long YMCA in Clemmons.

**JASON MILLS '06 BA, '10 MDV**

recently joined First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, N.C., as youth minister. He previously served as Minister of Students at Canton First Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C. He served as Associate Youth Minister at First Baptist in Kings Mountain from May 2004 to September 2010. He is married to Heather Mills '09 BA.

JUSTIN SHORE '06 AA, '07 BS, '08 AAS, '13 MBA

recently became a casualty adjuster for N.C. Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. He previously worked nearly 10 years at Lowe's Companies Inc.

JUSTIN WEBB '06 BA, '08 and STEPHANIE WEBB '07 BA

welcomed their first child, Luke Dillon Webb, who was born Jan. 31, 2014. He weighed 8 lbs 8 oz.

FATEAMA FULMORE '07 MA

was named principal at North Rowan High School in Spencer, N.C. She previously served as an assistant principal in the Cabarrus County Schools (N.C.) system since 2010. She is working on her doctorate of education in organizational leadership through Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz.

LYDIA LOVELL '07 BA, '08 MA

was named the exceptional children's director for Mt. Airy N.C. City Schools. Lovell began her administrative career in 1999 and served as principal of Tharrington Primary School for six years. She began her career with Mt. Airy City Schools in 1991 as a dropout prevention coordinator. She was named the school district's principal of the year in 2012.

MATTHEW TESSNEAR '07 BA

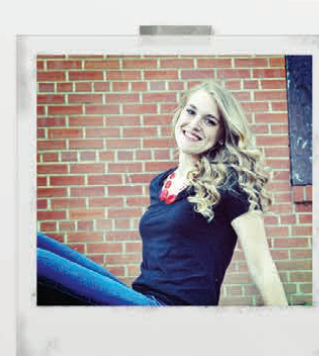
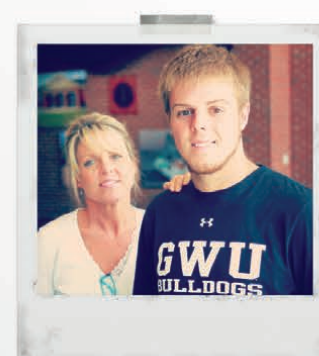
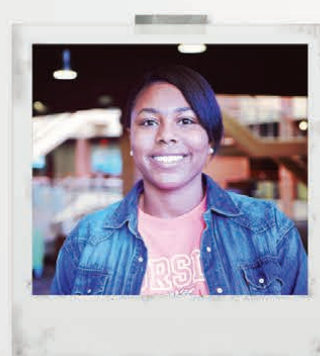
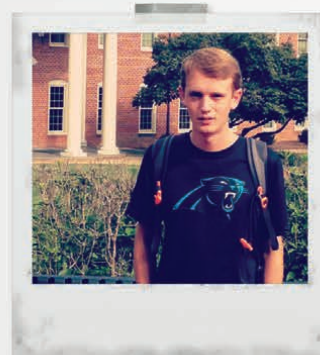
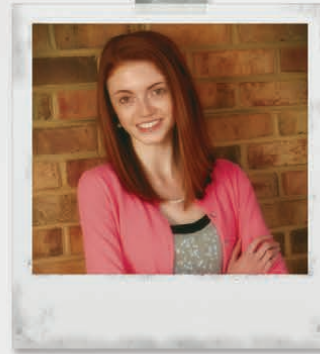
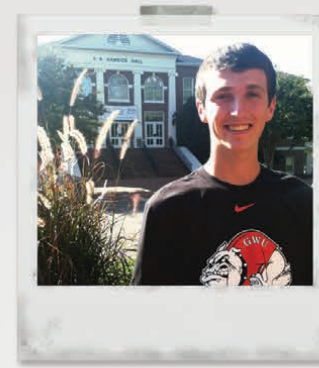
recently joined Gardner-Webb's Office of University Communications as public relations specialist and staff writer. He previously worked in newspapers for 10 years, most recently as city editor of *The Star* in Shelby, N.C., where he resides.

**BENJAMIN BROWN '09 MA**

was named principal at West Montgomery High School in Mt. Gilead, N.C. He has worked 21 years in education, including 14 years as a high school teacher. He also served as a coach and athletic director prior to his administrative career.

ANDREW COLLINS '09 BS

became wrestling coach at Statesville (N.C.) High School, where he was a 2005 graduate. He teaches career and technical education classes at Statesville High.



ONE BIG FAMILY.

The University offers a warm and welcoming environment, a Christian community, and personal relationships between faculty, staff, and students.

The family environment is also present, for many, in the literal sense. Generations of Gardner-Webb students have followed in the footsteps of their grandparents, parents and siblings, choosing to attend the University that educated and nurtured other members of their families. Those next-generation students help strengthen GWU's family history, earning them a place in Gardner-Webb's Legacy Society.

Now, the University plans to strengthen the family ties for new students whose parents, siblings, or grandparents graduated from Gardner-Webb.

Beginning with the 2014-15 academic recruiting year, the University is offering a **\$500 Legacy Grant** to all new, full-time traditional students whose family members graduated from any GWU degree program. The grant will be available to all freshman and transfer students, and the aid benefit will be renewable for four years of study.



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For more information about the Gardner-Webb Legacy Grant, contact the University's undergraduate admissions office via email at admissions@gardner-webb.edu, by phone at 800-253-6472, or on Twitter @FutureDawgs.



A VOICE SET FREE

GWU Graduate Thrives on Vulnerabilities to Connect with God, Listeners

Written by Matthew Tessnear

Scott Johnson stutters when he talks. When he sings, there's no evidence of stumble in his words or his faith in God.

On his album "Hemmed In and Set Free," the '03 sacred music alumnus showcases a mix of contemporary Christian, Americana, and rhythm and blues sounds he's crafted in the 10 years since earning his bachelor's degree at Gardner-Webb.

"I think the album really showcases my vulnerability a lot of times," said Johnson. "That's evident in my speech. It's kind of always on the table, so I'm not afraid to come to a topic in the scripture or a topic in life because all things are eligible. All things are able for us to come to, and God wants to engage us in all those. He wants to help us in our vulnerabilities. He gave me a stutter, but at the same time, He allows me to sing for His glory. I think that can resonate with the audience of Christ."

Johnson's musical journey harkens back to his childhood, when he started playing the trumpet and eventually joined a chorus. From those experiences, he decided his destined career path would be in music. When he arrived on campus at Gardner-Webb, he discovered new sounds and avenues to develop his talents. As he studied music theory and chords at the University, he started to write songs in O. Max Gardner Hall. Many of the songs he wrote were first tested by performing them in the campus' music hall.

Johnson reflected on his study and performance habits. "I remember getting a lot of bad grades the first couple years. In piano, I'd always get a bad grade because I'd spend time on the piano and I'd compose, but I wouldn't practice the way I should. I remedied that in the last two years [of college]."

In the past decade, Johnson has explored Americana and blues music. Among his studies, he spent time listening to folk performances from the 1960s and 1970s and says the genre's best lyrics are "penned with poetry." His music also draws from the contemporary Christian music influences of his teenage years, when he listened to popular bands like dcTalk, Audio Adrenaline and the Newsboys. Now, he also draws inspiration from Christian artists that include Derek Webb and Matthew West.

Johnson, who hails from Trinity, N.C., a town of about 7,000 residents and located southwest of Greensboro, crosses a mix of musical influences on his album. Tracks like "Turn The Light On" and "Give Me Away" rest on a foundation of contemporary Christian rock, while "Chains & Trains" exudes Americana influence with a merger of folk, country, blues and rock.

The title of Johnson's album, released by Oklahoma-based Christian label Tate Music Group, comes from scripture, as do many of his lyrics. "Hemmed In and Set Free" references Psalm 139:5, in which the writer says God surrounds us and places his hand on us. "David goes on to talk about all the things that God is and all the things He can do if we surrender to him," Johnson said.

During a recording session in 2013, Johnson was reminded of that need to surrender to God's plans, even when that means the journey is difficult. He got bronchitis and couldn't sing for the album that was in the works. "I had never gotten it this bad. It's kind of a nightmare as a singer," Johnson shared. "I went home and got a chance to ask for the Lord's help. He brought me Shane Key. He's a good friend of mine who plays all the lead guitar parts. He and I sat in his home studio and got to record all the vocals that you hear on the album. He's a godsend and kind of my right-hand guy."

Through that experience and others, Johnson said he's come to believe that musicians are only as good as the people around them. He works to surround himself with people who encourage him both spiritually and professionally. "Kind of like iron sharpens iron in the body of Christ," he related. "I want to encourage everybody in these tunes to be able to open up and break down a wall and be honest with God at all times."

Johnson continuously searches for avenues to share his faith through testimony and his music. Each new experience helps him overcome the vulnerability of his stuttering to find his voice.



Scott Johnson



*"Hemmed In and Set Free" is available
via iTunes and Amazon.com*

Listen to Scott Johnson talk about his music and faith journeys at:
gardner-webb.edu/scott-johnson

Crowning Moments

Molly McKinney '12 represents GWU, hometown in Miss America Preliminary Pageant

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll

The glimmer of her crown is eclipsed only by a gleam in her eye. The 2012 Gardner-Webb alum is hoping the stars continue to align as she looks to the future possibility of once again competing for a state title that could ultimately earn her a chance to compete in the Miss America pageant.

Molly McKinney, a May 2012 graduate of GWU and the current marketing director at the LeGrand Center (Shelby, N.C.), recently competed in the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant, a preliminary to the renowned Miss America contest. She was crowned Miss Shelby in February, and earned the opportunity to compete at the state level in June. Although McKinney did not win that event, she admits it sparking a desire to possibly compete again in the future.

"It was fun. It was a learning experience and it was a networking experience," McKinney explained. "It was an opportunity for me to meet people, for me to grow, and for me to make connections with girls all around the state of North Carolina. It definitely opened up a lot of doors for me

Molly McKinney at the 2014 Miss NC Scholarship Pageant

Lenn Long / PageantPics.com

and may or may not have planted that pageantry itch within me. So who knows? Maybe I'll look at another preliminary pageant when I give my title up next year."

Following a 40-year hiatus, the Miss Shelby preliminary pageant returned in 2014, offering local young women an opportunity to compete for the chance to represent their city and community at the highly competitive Miss North Carolina state pageant. Although she was born and raised in Shelby, McKinney was still not 100-percent convinced that she wanted to participate.



"The Miss Shelby event was my first preliminary pageant and I was really on the fence about whether I was going to do it," McKinney shared. "I've done a lot of things that pageantry requires, but never participated in a Miss America organization pageant. Earning the title of Miss North Carolina sends you straight to the Miss America competition!"

In the Miss America Pageant Organization, contestants must actively work in their communities to raise awareness and offer service opportunities on an issue of their choice. For McKinney, deciding to focus on Children's Homes of North Carolina was

almost a foregone conclusion.

"Growing up, my mom was always sort of an easy target for me. If I couldn't get something from my dad, I always asked my mom," McKinney admitted. "I never understood why she would give in so easily. When I got older, I realized that she didn't have a lot growing up. She grew up in a children's home and wanted to make sure I had what I needed. She wanted me to have the things that she didn't have while she was growing up."

She continued, "That translated into the perfect platform to raise awareness for children's homes. She had four sisters and they all went to different homes after their mom passed away. We recently were able to connect with all of the siblings, and I met my aunt for the first time. She has two girls about my age, and we look exactly alike! That meant so much to me, and I want it to mean something to other people, too."

In preparation for the state competition, McKinney underwent intensive training and practice sessions to refine her skills and ensure that she was ready for the state pageant competition in June. She utilized social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to communicate with her hometown community. Throughout her experience, she has been thrilled by the way she's been embraced by the city and county she calls home.

"Everyone has been so supportive, from my church family to my Bulldog family to my work family. The support coming out of this has been insanely immense," McKinney shared. "I'm very humbled by it all."



Listen to Molly share her pageant experiences at:
gardner-webb.edu/molly-mckinney

Lenn Long / PageantPics.com

Q&A

LIVING & WORKING OVERSEAS

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION GRADUATE
JOSH BISHOP IS PRINCIPAL IN MUMBAI, INDIA

WRITTEN BY NIKI BUSS-CARROLL



The Bishop family

Gardner-Webb University Doctor of Education alum Josh Bishop knew a job overseas would offer him invaluable experience as both an educator and administrator. When he served as a principal within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (N.C.) school system, he

didn't know how quickly his dream would become a reality. Two years ago, Bishop and his wife, Rachel, moved their family 8,300 miles from the Carolinas to Mumbai, India, where he works as assistant principal for the American School of Bombay. GWU's Office of University Communications recently caught up with Bishop to find out more about how his education at Gardner-Webb helped him land the post of a lifetime.

Full name: Joshua David Bishop

Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (Millersville University of Pennsylvania); Master of Arts in School Administration (Edinboro University of Pennsylvania); Doctor of Education in School Administration (Gardner-Webb University)

Family Info: Rachel Morris Bishop (wife); son Peyton; daughter Ava

GWU: How did you become a GWU student?

JB: I initially learned of GWU through Dr. Doug Eury (dean of the GWU School of Education). Dr. Eury spoke to me on many occasions about joining the doctoral program, which was a cohort that met at the Charlotte campus. I completed my coursework for my Ed. D. in School Administration in June 2012 and am writing my dissertation.

GWU: Did you always know that you wanted to work internationally?

JB: When I was a principal in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, a colleague of mine accepted a job with the Department of Defense as a principal in South Korea. This was my spark! Over the next three years, I began to look into international schools and began the process of applying for vacancies. In October of 2012, I was interviewing with the American School of Bombay. After several Skype interviews, my wife and I were flown to Mumbai, India, for our final interview. In late November, I was offered a job with the school and accepted.

GWU: Where do you live and work in India?

JB: Currently, we live in Mumbai, India (population between 18-21 million people). We live in a complex comprised of teachers and administrators from the school, along with other expats and Indians.

GWU: What sort of work do you do?

JB: This year, I am the assistant principal of the high school and will be the principal of the high school next year. The positions are very similar to U.S. positions. Each international school is different. Some schools follow an American style of education, others follow a European style and still others follow specific countries. The majority of schools, American School of Bombay included, follow the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. As I started the process of applying at schools, I began to focus on two important factors: it had to be a great school (one where I wanted my children to attend) and it had to be the right fit for both the school and me.

GWU: How has your education at GWU equipped you for success in your current post?

JB: GWU's doctoral preparation has been instrumental in providing the foundation and application of material. I do wish I had learned more about the many systems of education around the world. As a

principal, even in the U.S., you will encounter students coming from these other systems and knowing more about them would allow me the opportunity to better meet their needs. There is a lot of value to knowing about and "borrowing" some of the great things that other educational systems use.



Bishop family at the Taj Mahal

GWU: How important is learning a second language in India?

JB: As this is an American School, English is the spoken language. We do offer ESL (English as Second Language) classes for our students who may not be fluent. As students enroll, they are given the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) to see if they meet our requirements for admission. As an expat, the vast majority of Indians speak English. There are a few instances where a translator is needed, but there are always people around who are willing to assist.

GWU: Can you offer some notable similarities and differences with regard to the schools in India?

JB: Because we are an American School, most things are very similar to what you would see in the U.S. A few of the commonalities are as follows: students in fifth through ninth grades are administered tests for formative analysis; our curriculum follows standards which are based on the Common Core; we typically follow the same calendar; and we use some of the same current research including Grant Wiggins, John Hattie, Ken O'Connor, Suzie Boss, etc.

GWU: Have you had an opportunity to tour the country? What have you learned about the culture?

JB: We have had several opportunities to tour/visit India since our arrival in July. To date we have spent time in the Kerala region, which is southern India, New Delhi, and Agra (the city of the Taj Mahal). The Indian culture is very welcoming. People are almost always smiling and willing to help.

GWU: What is your advice to GWU students who may have an opportunity to live/work internationally?

JB: If they are truly interested in teaching abroad, they need to start the process early. There are several recruitment firms that cater to international educators such as Search Associates and International Schools Services. Both Search Associates and International Schools Services require a payment in order to access their database of posted vacancies and their job fairs, and this is where the majority of hiring is done. The hiring process runs from November through March for the upcoming school year. The one piece of advice I would offer is to keep your options open. In other words, don't count a school out because it is in a country that you had not considered. Many schools offer comparable salaries, housing and airfare home in the summer, so keep your options open.

GWU: What are your future plans?

JB: Typically, contracts are awarded for two years. Originally, I signed a two-year contract and because of the new role next year, I have signed on for an additional three years. That would make our stay here at least four years. We will reevaluate our plans at that time.



GWU: How valuable has this experience been for you?

JB: Overall, we have been very pleased with the country and the opportunities that we have been exposed to as a family. To date, I would say that this has been the most rewarding experience both personally and professionally.

Focused on the Future

GWU Graduate Serving as Intern at Sports Illustrated

Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll



Heather Pendergraft

Her hair danced in the breeze as she smiled for the photo. She is not used to being in front of the lens, but is instead much more comfortable behind it. However, on graduation day, journalism major Heather Pendergraft obediently posed for the obligatory pictures with family and friends. She smiled not only because a significant milestone has been reached, but also because her achievement brought with it two significant internships throughout the summer and fall.

Pendergraft said even though graduation was looming, she wasn't worried about what was coming next. She understood that some opportunities cannot be planned in advance. Instead of worrying, she focused on honing her craft and becoming an accomplished sports photographer.

"I learned to let go of things and let God handle it," Pendergraft shared. "Every opportunity I have received in photography has come unexpectedly. My job was to be ready for it."

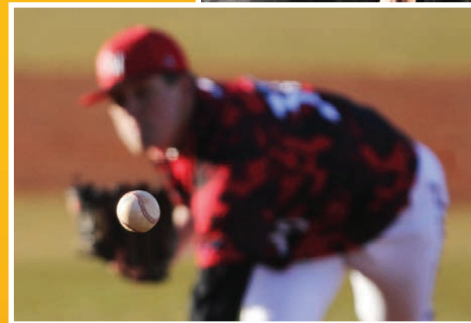
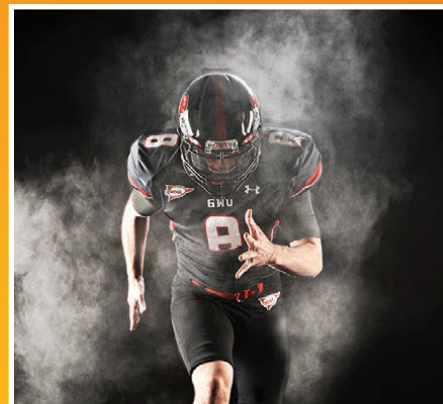
She traveled to New York City with other communication studies students during spring break. Dr. Bob Carey, chair of the GWU Department of Communication and New Media Studies, served as a team leader for the trip and connected his students with some of his professional contacts in the city. One of those individuals was Brad Smith, the director of photography at Sports Illustrated.

"With Dr. Carey's connections, we were able to visit the Sports Illustrated offices and meet Brad Smith," Pendergraft explained. "While we were there, Dr. Carey told him I had an interest in sports photography. So we were talking to him and it kind of turned into an interview for me. He encouraged me to fill out an application for an internship."

Throughout the next couple of weeks, she refined her portfolio, and followed up with both Smith and Carey. She already had a summer internship lined up with the International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va. "We decided I should continue with my plan to work with IMB this summer, and then head to New York in the fall to be with Sports Illustrated," Pendergraft shared.

"I've wanted to work at Sports Illustrated since I started photography. It's always been my dream," she expressed. "I'm in awe of the fact that I actually met their director of photography and he wanted me to apply for an internship. Then, after he saw my portfolio he was even more interested."

Pendergraft credits Carey as a tremendous mentor and teacher. She believes Gardner-Webb University was instrumental in positioning her for a career in photography, even though she started out as a psychology major. "I would tell new students to step out of their comfort zone and do something new," she advised. "You're not going to regret it."



Photos by Heather Pendergraft



JOSEPH HAMBY '09 BA

recently became manager of Visitor Center Operations at Old Salem Museums & Gardens in Winston-Salem, N.C. He is responsible for customer care and experience at the Old Salem Visitor Center, which is the primary source of general information, programs, memberships, and tickets for the Museum and Gardens. Hamby previously served as manager of the Tucker Student Center at Gardner-Webb, as a student pastor at Westview Baptist Church, and a membership specialist at the Cleveland County YMCA, both in Shelby.

TAKAYO SIDDLE '09 BA

became an assistant basketball coach at UNC Wilmington in Wilmington, N.C. Siddle previously served four seasons as an assistant basketball coach at Gardner-Webb.

The 2010s

KATHRYN FARMER '10 BS and JOSIAH FERNANDEZ '10 BS

married Oct. 12, 2013, in Lake Wylie, S.C. Kathryn is employed by Alliance Bank and

Trust in Gastonia, N.C. Josiah is employed by Wells Fargo Bank in Gastonia.

TREVAR SIMMONS '10 MDIV, MA

married Sherry Roselyn Ingram on March 1, 2014, in Pembroke, N.C. Sherry is director of Residence Life & Housing at North Park University in Chicago. Trevar is studying at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago.

SAXON SIMPSON '11 BA, '14 MA

became head coach of the Sharks Aquatic Club swim team. His father, Mike, is swimming coach at Gardner-Webb.

RESA HOYLE '11 BA, AAS, '11 MA

was honored as the central office administrator of the year in Gaston County (N.C.) Schools. She is director of the academically and intellectually gifted program and the English-as-a-second-language program. She has worked 24 years in education.

CRYSTAL STOWE '11 MBA

now serves as marketing specialist for Meijer in Grand Rapids, Mich. Meijer is among the largest private companies in the United States.

JEANIE GROH '13 BA

recently became the education reporter at The Salisbury Post in Salisbury, N.C. In the position, she covers news in the Rowan-Salisbury and Kannapolis school systems, at Catawba and Livingstone colleges and at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. During her time at Gardner-Webb, she interned in the University's Office of Media Relations.

BETHANY WRIGHT '13 BA

was promoted to producer at Time Warner Cable News. She produces the morning and afternoon news for the coastal region of the Carolinas. She is responsible for writing, for setting up live on-location filming, and newscast planning. She previously served five months as associate producer.

In Memoriam

The 1940s

JACKIE HUGHES '45 AA

passed away Feb. 19, 2014. She worked briefly at Oak Ridge Tennessee as a member of the clerical staff of the top secret "Manhattan Project" to develop the first atomic bomb during World War II. She enjoyed singing in the choir at First Baptist Church in Shelby for many years and served her church as pianist and youth camp counselor. She was survived by two children, four grandsons, and five great-grandchildren.

JACKSON HOYLE '47 AA

passed away Jan. 3, 2014. He worked for the Burke County (N.C.) Department of Welfare, the Cleveland County (N.C.) Department of Welfare, and the N.C. State Welfare Department. He served as director of the Social Work Department at The Methodist Children's Home in Winston-Salem (N.C.) for 20 years and as director of social work, director of admissions, administrator, vice president of health services and interim director of The Baptist Retirement Home of North Carolina for 14 years. He was survived by his wife, Mary, three children, and six grandchildren.

MARGARET MCMURRY '47 AA

passed away May 14, 2014. She served as a private practice and orthodontic nurse for 45 years and retired in 1995 from Dr. John Thompson Orthodontics. She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church Shelby. She is survived by her husband, Robert, two children, and four grandchildren.

FRANCES SHEPPARD '47 AA

passed away March 19, 2014. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Forest City, N.C., where she was a former choir member. She was wife to a pastor, her husband, the Rev. T.A. Sheppard. She was survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Former GWU Trustee, Longtime Donor Passes Away

Written by Matt Renfer



Frank Nanney

Former Gardner-Webb trustee and longtime donor Frank R. Nanney passed away Aug. 6 at Rutherford Regional Medical Center at the age of 93.

Nanney was known for his generosity to the University in both service and notable gifts, including lead funding to his namesake building, Frank Nanney Hall.

A Rutherford County native, Nanney served Gardner-Webb as a two-term trustee after nearly 50 years with Stonecutter Mills Corporation in Spindale, N.C. He served in the Army during World War II before teaching algebra, chemistry, biology and directing the band at Tri High School in Rutherfordton, N.C. He attended the Round Hill Baptist Church in Union Mills, N.C., where he served as deacon, music leader, Sunday school teacher and church trustee. Nanney also published a book tracing his lineage from 12th-century Wales to North Carolina.

Nanney's total lifetime giving to Gardner-Webb surpassed \$1 million, earning him a place in the President's Roundtable Society and solidifying his legacy as one of the most generous friends in Gardner-Webb history. His most notable gift, a lead donation to Frank Nanney Hall, became the home of the Noel Center for Disability Services and the Social Sciences department.

"Mr. Nanney said at the groundbreaking ceremony that he wanted his gift to make a difference," said Cheryl Potter, associate dean

of the Noel Center for Disability Services. "He made a choice to invest not in a building, but in the education of students. His gift demonstrates his belief that all people, regardless of their differences or challenges, have a right to a quality education in a Christian environment."

Nanney is survived by four brothers and two sisters. During a 2007 speech, Nanney spoke of his conviction to give to the Noel Center for Disability Services that came shortly after an encounter with a blind woman on campus. "I immediately knew that was it. That was what I wanted to be remembered for at the University and in the community," he said. "To assist handicapped students get an education was certainly 'if you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'"

"He'd never say it, so I will," said GWU President Frank Bonner in a recent interview. "When Gardner-Webb's family tree is traced, Frank Nanney will find his name carved close to the root."



EDWARD CAMPBELL '48 AA

passed away Feb. 22, 2014. In February 2014, he was named to the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni and was honored as Junior College Alumnus of the Year. He graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1948 and later established a lucrative career as vice president of sales for Kenneth G. Lilly Fasteners Inc. Prior to attending Gardner-Webb, he served in World War II and sailed in the North Russian convoys from 1942-1945 with the U.S. Merchant Marines and U.S. Navy.

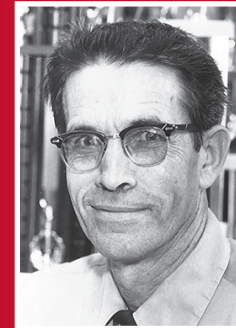


The 1950s

BOBBY DUNCAN '50 AA

passed away Nov. 15, 2013. During a 32-year career with Colgate, he was the company's No. 1 salesman for 10 years. He also worked for 28 years in the funeral industry. He loved animals and was known for giving them homes and improving their health. He is survived by two sons and three grandchildren.

GWU Mourns Loss of Legendary Dr. Garland Allen



Dr. Garland Allen

Gardner-Webb University Professor Emeritus, Athletics Hall of Famer and two-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Golf Coach of the Year Dr. Garland Allen passed away Tuesday, June 3 at the age of 91.

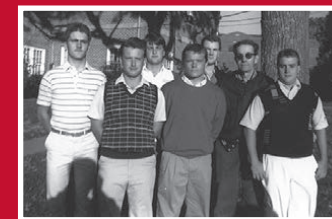
Allen began his tenure at Gardner-Webb in 1961 when the institution was still a junior college. During his first year, he served as an academic counselor. He taught history in 1961 and 1962 and served as the acting chairman of the religion department from 1962-64. He began his 27-year golf coaching career in 1962, a post he maintained until his retirement from the University in 1989.

While his achievements in Gardner-Webb athletics were substantial, his commitment to higher education was also monumental. Born in Tuckerman, Ark., he was a self-taught farmer and veterinarian. Without the benefit of a traditional classroom, he studied books and went to Little Rock, Ark., where he took and passed the Arkansas State Veterinarian Examination.

At just 16 years old, his call into ministry was apparent, and he was ordained as a Baptist preacher. Although he graduated with a teaching degree from Ouachita College (Arkadelphia, Ark.) in 1944, he enrolled in Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he met his wife, Mary Evelyn Garrison, who was a native of Lincolnton, N.C. There, he also added to his already impressive education with a Bachelor of Divinity degree plus his master's degree. He continued on to earn a Doctorate in Church History there, where he minored in Old Testament and Historical Theology.

Allen had several teaching experiences prior to arriving at Gardner-Webb College. In addition to teaching at Southern Baptist Junior College—now Williams College—in Walnut Ridge, Ark., he also taught English and history in Millington Public High School near Memphis, Tenn. While living in that area, he attended Memphis State University and earned a Master of Arts in European History.

His tenure at Gardner-Webb began in 1961 and continued beyond his retirement through participation in the Bulldog Club.



Allen once said personal relationships with both students and faculty through the years have brought him much satisfaction and enjoyment. He firmly believed the reason for his golf teams' success was personal relationships among the players, a quality he stressed.

The legendary Allen set the bar very high during his tenure as Gardner-Webb's head golf coach, directing the program to nine appearances in the NAIA National Tournament.

The crowning moment came during a two-season stretch in the 1970s—with Gardner-Webb capturing NAIA National Championships in 1976 and again in 1977.



The Bulldogs held off rival Elon (N.C.) in 1976, firing a score of 1193 at the Alamance Country Club in Burlington, N.C., to beat the Fighting Christians by one stroke. The following season, Gardner-Webb cruised to a 10-stroke win over Sam Houston State, shooting an 1190 at the Bay Valley Country Club in Bay City, Mich.

Allen was honored as NAIA Coach of the Year in 1976 and 1977, and was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame on Nov. 6, 1993. Also a professor emeritus of religion and history, Allen retired from Gardner-Webb in 1989.

Soon after, the Garland H. Allen Golf Scholarship was established by the Gardner-Webb Bulldog Club in his honor.

A testament to Allen's prowess as a coach, his golfers were named NAIA All-America nine times. Five of his former golfers – Terry Florence (1998), Jimmy Franklin (2000), Wayne Myers (2004), Steve Sherman (2001) and Zim Zimmerman (1991) – joined Allen in the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame.

In 1990, he was named Professor Emeritus, the year after he retired from Gardner-Webb. "I never regretted being in education—never for a minute," he once shared. "This is a challenging time. One of the reasons I managed to stay young was because of continuing my association with like-minded people who are genuinely dedicated to the welfare of the students."

Allen leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Evelyn Garrison Allen; two children Susan and William Henry; and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The couple has resided in Boiling Springs for more than a half-century and have served actively at Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

GWU Mourns Loss of School of Business Dean Emeritus Jim Crawley

Written by Matthew Tessnear



Jim Crawley

Gardner-Webb University Dean Emeritus Jim Crawley, instrumental in the successful growth and national recognition of the University's business school, passed away June 21, 2014, at the age of 84.

Crawley began his tenure at Gardner-Webb in 1994, after retiring from Dupont, Inc. He served as the first dean of the University's business school—during which the school moved into its current home in E.B. Hamrick Hall—as well as chairman of GWU's undergraduate business program.

According to current GWU President Frank Bonner, Crawley will be remembered as one of the great administrative and academic leaders in the University's history. "Jim had the special ability to bring his business experience into the academic world with great success," Bonner said. "He was a man of strong character and integrity, as well as an engaging personality. Jim Crawley was everything that an administrator and leader should be, and his place in the history of this University is secure."

Among many accomplishments under Crawley's leadership, the business school's enrollment increased significantly, the school increased the number of doctorates on its faculty, and the Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) program expanded to additional satellite campuses. Upon his retirement

from the University in 1998, Crawley was conferred the status of dean emeritus.

National accolades crowned the business school during Crawley's tenure, including recognition by Executive Forum as an "emerging school." In the two decades since Crawley's leadership, the business school has garnered numerous honors for its graduate, online and other various programs.

"He was a great friend and one of my mentors," said Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, dean of the GWU Godbold School of Business. "He was very astute in management, and I learned a great deal from him. He is responsible for many of the successes we have in the business school."

Born and raised in Rutherford County, N.C., Crawley served four years in the U.S. Navy and later worked as a civilian trainer for the U.S. Air Force. Following his military service, he completed a degree in mechanical engineering at Clemson University. Crawley then joined Dupont for a career that transported him to many locations in United States and Germany.

Crawley also served as a Cleveland County (N.C.) commissioner from 1994 to 2000. His community service also included work with the United Way, Cleveland Regional Medical Center, Communities In Schools, Cleveland Tomorrow and Executive Roundtable.

Following his career, Crawley retired with his wife, Marcie, to Summerville, S.C. He continued to serve his community, including membership on the board of the Habitat for Humanities Chapter of Dorchester County, at Summerville Presbyterian Church, and in other organizations. He is survived by his son, Steve; daughter, Sharon; and four grandchildren.

HARRY GRANT ROGERS '50 AA

passed away Feb. 8, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, taught for more than 20 years and served as a personnel manager for both Lees Carpets and Blue Bell Industries. He was a member, a deacon, and Sunday school teacher at Robbinsville First Baptist Church, and served his church's prison and bus ministries. He was survived by four children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

SARAH BUSH '53 AA

passed away Dec. 28, 2013. She retired as a teacher from Tri-Community Elementary School, after spending 20 years as a teacher. She served on the Rutherford County (N.C.) Board of Education and, in 2005, was selected as an Honor Member of the Gardner-Webb Gallery of Distinguished Graduates. She was survived by her husband, Bobby, two daughters, and one grandson.

ED SCRUGGS '56 AA

passed away March 1, 2014. He was a retired insurance agent and realtor. He played baseball at Gardner-Webb and at Wake Forest University. He was a member of the American Legion and former member of the Altavista (Va.) Exchange Club.

Alumnus, Army Special Forces Serviceman Passes Away

Staff Sgt. Jerry Gass '03 Posthumously Awarded Medals



Staff Sgt. Jerry Gass

Jerry Gass, a 2003 Gardner-Webb University alumnus and U.S. Army Green Berets staff sergeant, passed away Aug. 3 in Afghanistan.

Gass, 33, served his country as a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group and was stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C. He passed away following a non-combat incident while on patrol, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. He was posthumously awarded his second Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Gass enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2008 and served with the Special Forces since 2011.

A highly decorated serviceman, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with valor device, Army Achievement Medal, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one campaign star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 2), Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Special Forces Tab.



Gass graduated from Gardner-Webb in 2003 with a degree in business administration and minor in management information systems. Wearing jersey No. 68, he played 32 football games at

Gardner-Webb during one of the program's most successful stretches. After a redshirt season in 1999, he played as a redshirt freshman on GWU's first Division I team and was a part of 30 wins over his four seasons with the Runnin' Bulldogs.

That success included back-to-back Big South Conference championships in 2002 and 2003, with a combined 17-5 overall record and an unblemished conference mark. As a starter at left guard in 2003, Gass helped GWU to an 8-4 record and helped pave the way for an offense that averaged 27.8 points per game and 414.9 yards of total offense per game. He was a preseason All-Big South Conference selection heading into his senior season.

PAUL CLINE '58

passed away May 23, 2014. He was a member of the Gardner-Webb football team. He retired as a transportation dispatcher with Burlington Industries and Cone Mills. He was survived by his wife of 55 years, Maxine, and two children.

SUZANNE HUNSUCKER '58 AA

passed away Feb. 2, 2014. She retired from Crepaco in Charlotte, N.C., where she was an office manager. She was a former member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. She was survived by her husband of 56 years, Mike, three children, and seven grandchildren.

BILL BYERS '59

passed away May 13, 2014. He retired as vice president of operations with National Freight Brokers in Charlotte, N.C., with

more than 45 years in the trucking industry. He was a member of Long Creek Presbyterian Church in Kings Mountain, N.C. He was survived by two children and five grandchildren.

The 1960s

JAMES EDGAR LOHR JR. '60

passed away April 9, 2014. He retired from DuPont after 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Hawkins Lohr '60, four children, and 10 grandchildren.

FRED ENSLEY JR. '60

passed away Jan. 24, 2014. He attended Gardner-Webb on a football scholarship. He joined Aflac in 1978 and was a state and companywide sales and management leader for 35 years. He enjoyed spending

time with his family and friends, as well as traveling. He was survived by his wife of 54 years, Yvonne, two children and five grandchildren.

LINDA COLLINS '64

passed away Jan. 16, 2014. She and her husband, Ted, owned and operated Southeastern Diamond and Gift, she was active in her church, and she enjoyed gardening. She was survived by her husband and two children.

NEAL CRAIG '64

passed away May 19, 2014. He was retired from Duke Energy, and he worked in textiles for many years. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and three children.

WAYNE ROCK ‘68
passed away June 2, 2014. He was co-owner of Elmo L. Rock Oil Company in Boykins, Va. He retired from Foothills Correctional Institution in Morganton, N.C. He is survived by his wife, Jane, three daughters, and two grandchildren.

The 1970s

ROBERT BLANKS III ‘72
passed away March 2, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, and he served as a Spec-5 during the Berlin Crisis. He was a retired school art teacher and member of First Baptist Church of Chester, S.C.

REV. JERRY LAUGHTER ‘72
passed away Nov. 26, 2013. He served 37 years in ministry. He also graduated from Kings Mountain (N.C.) High School and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was active in his church following his retirement. He was survived by his wife of 54 years, Frances, and his daughter, Renee.

RONALD “RUDY” RUDISILL ‘72
passed away Dec. 3, 2013. He was a teacher and coached middle school football for more than 30 years. He coached Tuttle Middle School in Maiden, N.C., to eight football championships. He was survived by his daughter and grandson.

FRED MARTIN JR. ‘73
passed away Nov. 29, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War. After a 23-year career with architectural and engineering firm J.E. Serrine, he owned and operated a photography business. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed restoring classic cars. He was survived by his wife, Barbara, three children, and four grandchildren.

SAMUEL MATTISON ‘73
passed away May 19, 2014. He played on the Gardner-Webb golf team for Garland Allen, who also recently passed away. He is survived by four sons and his wife, Martha Wright Mattison ‘74.

WILLIAM GARDNER ‘74 BS
passed away April 12, 2014. He worked for J.W. Davis Company prior to opening his own business, Bill Gardner Construction Inc. in 1984. He also served as past president of the Rutherford County Homebuilders Association. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. He was survived by his wife of 40 years, Denise, and two children.

ISABELL SETZER ‘76 BS, MA
passed away March 27, 2014. She worked and later retired from Crest Middle School and Kings Mountain Middle School (N.C.) after 30 years of teaching. She was a member of Boiling Springs Baptist Church. She was survived by her husband of 55 years, Manuel, three children, and two grandchildren.

The 1980s

TOM A. FRIDY III ‘83 BS
passed away Dec. 8, 2013. He was an engineer consultant, primarily in the soil and concrete industry. Early in his career, he was one of 16 original employees of Spartanburg County (S.C.) Emergency Medical Services. He served in a variety of roles in his church, performed in a number of bands, and he was an active Mason. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

BEATRICE BARBER ‘92 BS
passed away Feb. 14, 2014. She was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church. She worked in the Department of Social Services in Shelby, N.C., for 32 years as a child support enforcement agent. She was also employed part time as an adjunct instructor in Office Systems Technology at Cleveland Community College. She was survived by her husband, Elton, and daughter.

The 2000s

ROBIN LYNN MORRIS ‘06 BS, ‘07 AAS
passed away Dec. 4, 2013. She lived in Tryon, N.C., and was an accountant at J.F. Floyd Mortuary. She was survived by three children.



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ONCE UPON A TIME, WAS A STUDENT AT GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY.

(ALUMNUS NAME)

..... GRADUATED IN

(ALUMNUS NAME) (YEAR)

WITH A DEGREE IN AFTER GRADUATION,

(MAJOR) (ALUMNUS NAME)

MOVED TO AND NOW WORKS AT

(CITY/STATE) (EMPLOYMENT)

WHERE (HE/SHE) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LIFE HAS BEEN A(N)

(DUTIES) (ADJECTIVE)

..... (HE/SHE) ENJOYS A MULTITUDE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING

(HOBBIES)

..... AND SAYS (HIS/HER) EXPERIENCE AT GARDNER-WEBB WAS

(ADJECTIVE)


.....

.....

.....

THE END.

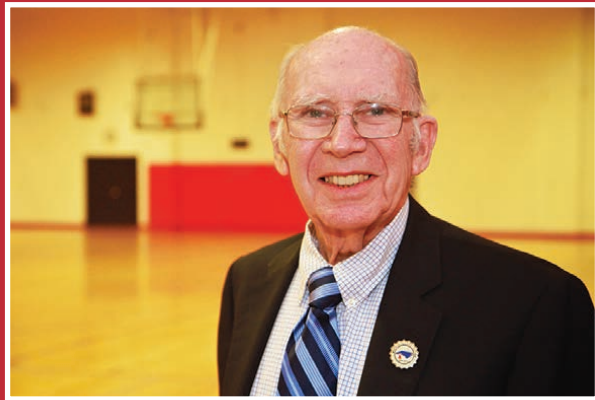
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GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI

Taking Care of People

Retired GWU Leader Still a Health Advocate

Written by Matthew Tessnear



Dr. Bob Blackburn

Dr. Bob Blackburn helped establish Gardner-Webb's undergraduate and master's programs in physical education. Now, almost 20 years after retiring from the University, he continues to champion the importance of physical fitness.

"Exercise has always been important," Blackburn reflected. "It was in 1969 during a speech that I started referring to the three S's—Sitting, Stuffing and Smoking—as things that could damage the body. Today, just like then, we must educate the public and deal with these types of issues."

Still a resident of Boiling Springs, the Mooresboro native has continued to serve the public in a variety of health-conscious roles following his retirement from GWU in 1995. That includes service as an American Heart Association volunteer, a position he has maintained for more than 40 years. He also stepped up his volunteer efforts with organizations like the YMCA, where he served on an advisory board that helped bring a YMCA presence to Gardner-Webb's campus.

Dr. Dee Hunt, now GWU vice president and dean of student development, recalls being hired by Blackburn in the late 1970s to work at the University. "I will always be grateful to Dr. Bob for affording me the opportunity to be a part of the Gardner-Webb family," she offered. "He was the voice and face of Health and Physical Education for many years in his role as department chair, and his influence on students has roots because he always displayed a passion for his content."

Blackburn, now in his 80s, served Gardner-Webb for 30 years, including 19 as chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education and as a professor in the department. He also carried Gardner-Webb's name locally and nationally as he served organizations that included the Cleveland County (N.C.) Board of Health and a long list of national health organizations. Blackburn still participates in health advocacy work with several organizations.

"I am convinced that the progress made in health programs on the state, regional and national level are a result of his passion, dedication, and leadership in furthering the profound importance of a healthy lifestyle," Hunt said. "In my view and experience, Dr. Bob is one of the personal and professional pillars of the University."

Dr. Philip Elliott, president of Gardner-Webb from 1943-1961, stressed the importance of community service, Blackburn said, recalling the influence that had on his life. "That impressed me as a young student," Blackburn said. "I tried to do that my whole life."

Sharing with others the importance of healthy life choices continues to be a top priority for Blackburn, who also holds an associate of arts degree from Gardner-Webb. He attended the University as a student from 1950-52. "Taking better care of yourself has a similarity with this University," he shared. "It's an evolving process that matures over time. Gardner-Webb matured into a university with amazing leadership. Only we can take leadership over our bodies."

Where
are they
Now?

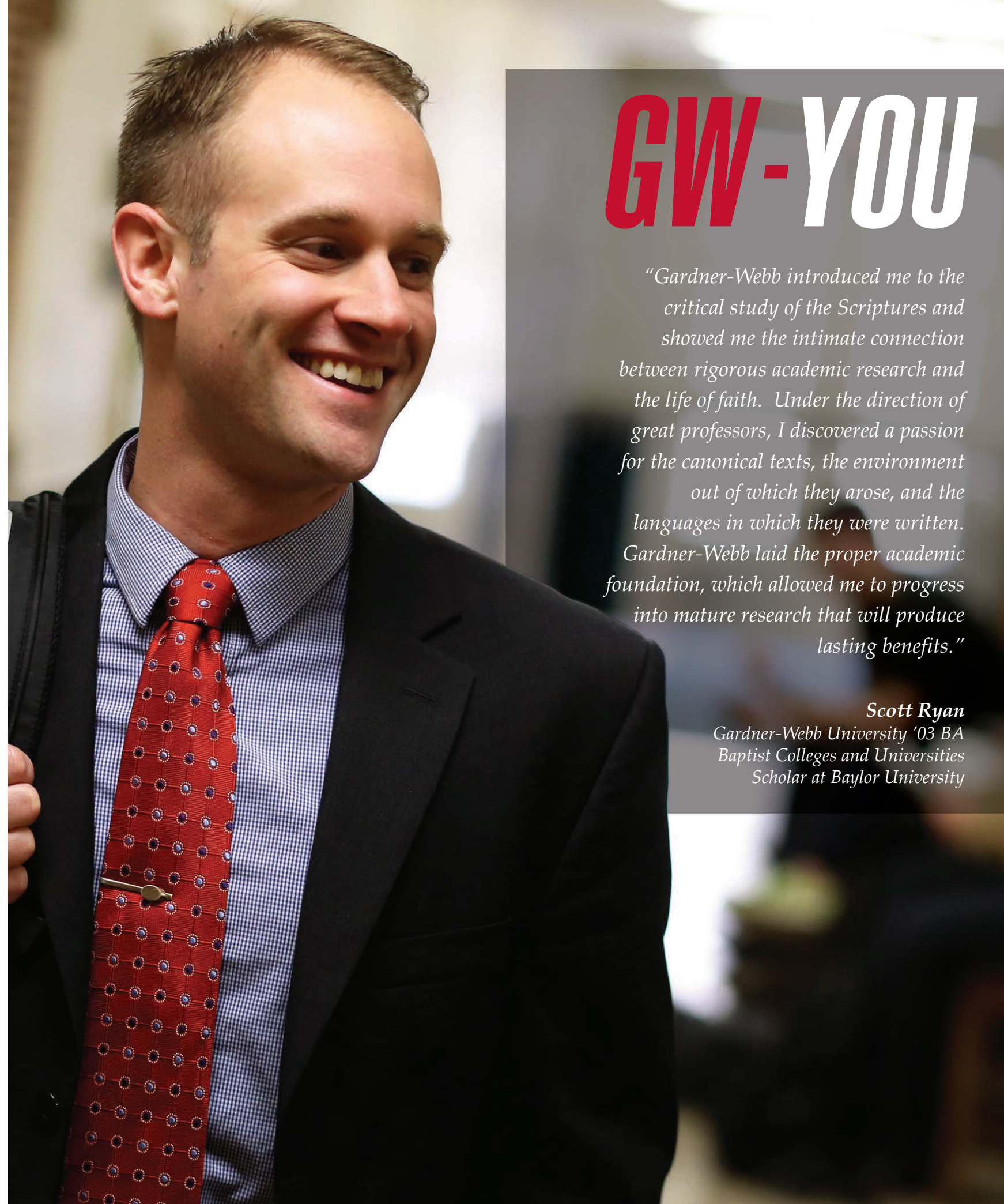


GW-YOU

"Gardner-Webb introduced me to the critical study of the Scriptures and showed me the intimate connection between rigorous academic research and the life of faith. Under the direction of great professors, I discovered a passion for the canonical texts, the environment out of which they arose, and the languages in which they were written. Gardner-Webb laid the proper academic foundation, which allowed me to progress into mature research that will produce lasting benefits."

Scott Ryan

*Gardner-Webb University '03 BA
Baptist Colleges and Universities
Scholar at Baylor University*





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