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Noel T. Manning II  
*Gardner-Webb University*

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# Gardner Webb

THE MAGAZINE

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 3



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GWU CELEBRATES  
**THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE**

GWU REACHES NEARLY 5,000 STUDENTS IN  
**RECORD ENROLLMENT**

OFFICIAL OPENING OF  
**TUCKER STUDENT CENTER**

STUDENTS GAIN CAREER EXPERIENCE IN  
**ATHLETIC TRAINING**

# Gardner-Webb

## THE MAGAZINE

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### Gardner-Webb–The Magazine

Volume 47, Number 3, 2012

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**On the Cover:** This issue of the Gardner-Webb Magazine is dedicated to the Health Services field. You will find out more about the future College of Health Sciences, and the Physician Assistant and Family Nurse Practitioner programs. You will also meet students and staff members combining sports medicine and missions, and meet an alumnus reflecting on his years of serving as a family doctor. This issue the Gardner-Webb Magazine will explore what the University is doing for the future of medicine.

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## ENROLLMENT RECORDS, NEW FACILITIES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The 2012-13 academic year has begun with a high level of excitement. We have welcomed our largest and academically best-prepared first-year class in the University's history, as well as 18 new members of our outstanding faculty. Two new major campus facilities have opened—the Tucker Student Center and the science Laboratory Center. Exciting new programs are underway or under development, and our students continue to distinguish themselves in Faith, Service, and Leadership.

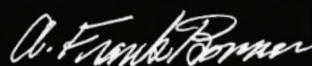
Hundreds of guests joined students, faculty and staff for the formal opening and dedication of the Tucker Student Center on Aug. 28, and we continue to receive rave reviews. The formal ceremonies were topped off with Mr. Robert Tucker's surprise announcement of an additional gift of one-half million dollars. We are deeply grateful to the Tucker family and to the Frank Stewart family, as well as many other generous donors. While the Tucker Student Center enriches student life on campus, the new Laboratory Center—in spite of some minor construction delays—is dramatically enhancing our science program with advanced laboratories as well as classrooms, faculty offices and lounge space.

One of our most significant and ambitious new programs, the Physician Assistant (PA) program, is well into development, and we expect to begin enrolling students in January 2014. The PA program will join with our School of Nursing, which will launch the Family Nurse Practitioner program in the spring, in forming the College of Health Sciences. You will find out more on these programs in the issue of Gardner-Webb: The Magazine. Two other new programs are underway or nearly so. The Center for Christian Ethics and Leadership seeks to exemplify the Christian character of Gardner-Webb through a variety of programming as well as its influence on campus. When fully implemented, the Office of Career Development will not only assist students in internships and in finding jobs but will help students identify and prepare for careers and graduate or professional school.

Getting to know our students is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable parts of my job. By the end of the fall semester I will have met with every section of University 111, the class for first-year students. In addition to meeting every two weeks with the president of the Student Government Association, I will begin a series of monthly lunch meetings with the newly formed President's Student Advisory Council. Our students continue to distinguish themselves not only academically and as citizens but also for their commitment to service. This fall's "Water Week," which included a variety of activities to raise awareness and funds for clean water in Africa, is only the most recent example.

I hope you will read more in this issue of Gardner-Webb: The Magazine about the continuing excitement at Gardner-Webb University.

Yours in Faith, Service, and Leadership,



Frank Bonner, President

Follow Dr. Bonner on Twitter @GardnerWebbpres



## TUCKER STUDENT CENTER NOW A REALITY

In 2010, Gardner-Webb received the largest donation in the University's history when the Robert and Carolyn Tucker family gave a \$5 million gift toward the construction of a new student center. Over two years later, GWU welcomed the Tuckers and other notable guests to the ribbon cutting and open house of the Tucker Student Center as it was unveiled to the community. And Robert Tucker took everyone by surprise when, at the conclusion of the dedication ceremony, he announced his intent to donate even more money to the University.

"I remember once being in New York, and I crossed the street and saw a homeless man. I gave him \$5 or \$10. I'll never forget his face and I always wondered if I gave enough. So I'm going to give another half-million dollars in honor of Dr. Dee Hunt," he announced as the crowd broke into applause and Hunt's face crumpled with emotion. Hunt is vice-president and dean of student development for GWU, and she served as a coach, teacher, and mentor for Lisa Tucker (Robert and Carolyn's daughter) during her time at the University.

The ceremony and dedication included remarks from GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner, key donors, and community leaders. Dignitaries and special guests gathered in Stewart Hall (the Tucker Student Center's signature event hall) and commemorated the completion of the center with the official ribbon cutting. "We thank all of you for praying and giving and working tirelessly to make this day possible," Bonner said as he acknowledged the efforts of all involved in the project.

On March 30, 2010, Bonner stood alongside Robert and Carolyn Tucker and their daughter, Lisa, and announced the largest donation in Gardner-Webb history. The Tucker family shared personal experiences that led them to such monumental support of this worthy project. "I want to be on board with an organization that is changing lives," Carolyn Tucker said at the time. "I've seen so many instances of young people, including my daughter, who went to Gardner-Webb, and they were changed by being here."



The Tuckers' donation marked the beginning of many other sizable contributions towards the project from individuals and businesses including the Frank Stewart family, Duke Energy, the Cannon Foundation, Shelby Savings Bank and others. Building plans were drawn, and construction was soon underway. Over the past two years, noteworthy moments included the "Topping Off" ceremony last November, in which the final rooftop truss was signed by students, faculty, staff, and donors, and then placed above the center's main entrance.

The 110,000 square-foot building offers stunning views of the Lake Hollifield Complex from porches that feature double-sided fireplaces, giving students an outdoor lounging option even during chilly fall and spring evenings. Indoors, Stewart Hall can be combined into one extra-large auditorium, or separated into three smaller venues. Intimate workspaces line the main floor, giving students, study groups, clubs, and other users a place to launch and complete their projects.

Entertainment options include a multi-story rock climbing wall, a movie theater and screening room, pool tables, air hockey, lounge areas, and more. The campus store and post office are also located in the center along with a variety of other university offices and departments. An art gallery, three restaurants and a coffee shop round out the amenities available in the new facility.

Hunt hopes students realize that the Tucker Student Center is the product of an effort to give them a transformational gathering place. "We are about students. That's who we serve," said Hunt. "We wouldn't be here if it weren't for students. This is their building and it was built with them in mind."

## A SPECIAL SURPRISE AT SUMMER COMMENCEMENT

Hundreds of supporters gathered at the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center to celebrate the accomplishments of over 400 students during the summer commencement ceremonies. One central theme resonated among graduates and attendees alike: "family."

For these graduates, the common tie that binds them together is Gardner-Webb University. "Gardner-Webb is not an institution, a campus, or a degree," said Emmabeth Wingate (Gastonia, N.C.) in her commencement address. "Gardner-Webb is a family."

Continued on next page



From left to right: Dr. Frank Bonner, Frank Stewart, Michele Stewart, Carolyn Tucker and Robert Tucker



The morning ceremony for 167 undergraduates featured spouses Todd and Emily Houser (Dallas, N.C.), two GOAL graduates who earned Bachelor of Science degrees while working full-time and raising their young son. During her commencement address, Emily reminded her class of the importance of never giving up, no matter how difficult the circumstances.

“Trust in God and know if He brought you to it, He will bring you through it,” Houser shared. “Live your lives now and in the future leading by example and always know that you are a person of influence to someone even if you cannot see it.”

The University awarded 235 master’s degrees and 19 doctorate degrees during the afternoon graduate programs ceremony. Nineteen students received the Master of Science in Nursing degree, including Dolly Wilson.

Wilson raised four children as a single mom and adopted a fifth child. Two of her sons serve in the U. S. Air Force; one is stationed in Alaska, the other in Arizona. Both recently returned from tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, and both attended their mom’s graduation. The best part? She had no idea they were there until she stepped onto the stage to receive her diploma.

“My mom sacrificed for us and we never went without,” said oldest son Joshua Wilson. “She is an amazing woman, an amazing mother, and she has now accomplished one more thing, her Master of Science in Nursing. There’s none greater.”



Dolly Wilson and her two sons



## GWU ANNOUNCES RECORD FALL ENROLLMENT

Enrollment at Gardner-Webb this fall is up more than four percent over last year, totaling a record 4,970 students in all university programs. Last year, a total of 4,768 students were enrolled at the University. The University also welcomed the largest freshmen class in history with 494 students.

“We have met goals for new traditional undergraduates, although we lost some ground in returning students,” said Vice President and Provost Dr. Ben Leslie. “Graduate programs, on the other hand, have far exceeded expectations.”

Several programs and areas broke records including the Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies, which logged a 36.33 percent jump in enrollment to 1291 students. The Master of Nursing program generated an all-time high with 145 students for a total increase of nearly seven percent over 2011. For the first time in Gardner-Webb history, the School of Divinity is above the 200-student

mark, enrolling a total of 238 this fall.

“We are ecstatic to have enrolled the largest number of new students in the traditional undergraduate program,” said Debra Hintz, vice president for enrollment management. “We are extremely fortunate and blessed to work with a community of dedicated faculty and staff that have enabled our success.”

## OLYMPIC SILVER-MEDALIST MANTEO MITCHELL VISITS GWU

Gardner-Webb University recently welcomed 2012 Olympic Silver Medalist and professional Nike athlete Manteo Mitchell to campus. He spoke to student groups, spent time with select donors and signed autographs for fans.

Mitchell earned international praise for his heroic efforts in the 4X400 meter relay preliminaries during the 2012 London Olympic Games, finishing his run despite suffering a broken bone in his leg at the 200-meter mark. He still managed to clock a time of 46.1 seconds, which landed Team USA in the finals where they finished second behind the Bahamas. He said most people wonder how he was able to finish that lap on a broken leg. “I put aside all the fears, all the pain, and just made it through,” he shared. “When you show fear, that’s when you show weakness. I just happened to make it through and I know God had a lot to do with that. I give him all the credit.”

Gardner-Webb may have unknowingly played a role in his journey to the Olympics. “When I was at home during breaks from school, I would train at Gardner-Webb,” Mitchell said. “I would go by myself



Manteo Mitchell

or with my high school coach. So I definitely give credit to Gardner-Webb for allowing me to use their athletic facilities for training when I was away from my normal routine.”

Mitchell believes there are a few things that have contributed to his success both personally and professionally. His words of wisdom carry special meaning in light of his recent experiences. “Integrity, honesty, faith, focus, finish,” he shared. “That’ll get you through.”



GWU freshmen prepare meal packages

## GWU FRESHMEN PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS DURING ORIENTATION WEEK

Gloves. Plastic caps. Garbage bags. Food prep. Assembly lines. Clean up. Yard work. Helping others. The aforementioned items may not typically bring to mind elements of one’s first college experiences, but for members of the Gardner-Webb class of 2016, the two are now synonymous. Around 400 first-year students took part in community service projects during orientation week, both on the GWU campus and in other locations around Cleveland County.

The students were separated into smaller groups and given specific tasks. Projects ranged from writing notes of appreciation to key university staff members (cafeteria workers, maintenance crews, and custodians), to assembling

food-pantry backpacks for local school children in need, to putting together over 14,000 meal packages for hungry people all over the world. Participants gathered up trash and overgrown brush at the Broad River Greenway, while other students got their hands dirty by harvesting sweet potatoes for the Cleveland County Potato Project and working in the community garden.

Stephanie Capps is the GWU community engagement coordinator, and she believes the community service day helps instill qualities that are extremely important. “At Gardner-Webb, we’re about faith, service, and leadership,” Capps said. “We want to show the freshmen before they even start with classes that we want them committed to service.”

While many of the projects will have an immediate impact at a local level, one service area will have long-lasting effects around the world. Dozens of GWU freshmen helped assemble food packs for the international hunger relief organization Stop Hunger Now (SHN). The SHN assembly process taught students how to combine rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix including 21 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packets. Officials say the food stores easily, has a shelf life of five years and transports quickly for delivery to remote areas for school lunch feeding programs and crisis situations. Brandon Faulkner, the program manager for SHN’s Charlotte, N.C., Share House, said the GWU freshmen have made a tremendous difference for over 14,000 people through their efforts.

“I’ve actually met the kids whose lives these meals are going to save,” Faulkner explained. “So it is very personal to me. The next time these meals are opened, they’re actually going to be in the hands of someone whose life is going to be saved because of it.”



Cleaning up the Broad River Greenway

## THE SCIENCE OF EXERCISE COMES ALIVE

Gardner-Webb University has officially launched a new Exercise Science (EXSI) major this semester. It is designed to prepare undergraduate students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to work as professionals in various health professions.

“Exercise science professionals can perform what they learn in medical, commercial, university, corporate, or community settings where their clients participate in health promotion, fitness, and rehabilitation activities,” said Jeff Hartman, program director and intern supervisor for Exercise Science at GWU. “These professionals are skilled in evaluating health behaviors and risks factors, conducting fitness assessments, developing and implementing safe and effective exercise prescriptions, and motivating individuals to modify negative health habits for positive lifestyle behaviors.”

The EXSI Bachelor of Science major has two tracks or concentrations – Health Fitness and Pre-Professional. The Health Fitness track is intended to prepare entry-level professionals for careers in such areas as cardiac or pulmonary rehabilitation, strength and conditioning, public health, and corporate wellness. The Pre-Professional track is intended to prepare students for clinical careers as exercise



physiologists, nutritionists, sports medicine practitioners, motor behaviorists and more, or for further graduate study in fields like medical, dental, chiropractic, and physical and occupational therapy.

Dr. David Granniss will serve as assistant professor and laboratory coordinator for EXSI. Hartman and Granniss will be responsible for teaching the EXSI curriculum, while other departments on campus teach required and elective courses within the major but outside the EXSI prefix, such as biology, chemistry, math, and sociology.

More information is available for prospective students and the general public by contacting Hartman at [jhartman@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:jhartman@gardner-webb.edu) or [exsi@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:exsi@gardner-webb.edu), as well as [facebook.com/gwu.exsi.info](https://www.facebook.com/gwu.exsi.info).

## GARDNER-WEBB HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Gardner-Webb recently held its third annual Summer Leadership Conference, titled “Embracing and Institutionalizing Reform: Bringing Out the Change Agent in Each of Us.” This year’s conference featured distinguished keynote speakers as well as a new executive track. Held in the new Tucker Student Center, the conference was co-sponsored by the School of Education’s Center for Innovative Leadership Development (CILD) and the Godbold School of Business’s Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship (CEE).

The conference focused on empowering leaders in the academic and professional sectors to be intentional about creating positive, proactive change. Four main topics were presented at the event: curriculum transformation, administrative focus, executive leadership, and transformational research. Dr. Doug Eury, dean of the GWU School of Education and an organizer for the conference, said the partnership between the School of Education and the Godbold School of Business helped make the conference even more relevant for both newcomers and annual participants.

“There was a natural move to collaborate with the Godbold School of Business in the executive area,” said Eury. “It brings in a wider range of expertise that ultimately benefits both groups.”



## GRADUATE SCHOOL NAMED IN MEMORY OF DR. GAYLE BOLT PRICE

The Gardner-Webb University Graduate School now has a new name. The accomplishments of a beloved professor, colleague and friend were celebrated during the Summer Commencement Ceremonies at Gardner-Webb University.

“Be it resolved that from this day forth,” said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner, reading from a resolution endorsed by the Board of Trustees, “the graduate school at Gardner-Webb University will be known as the Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies.”

Price passed away on March 6 at her home in Greenville, S.C., after a courageous battle with cancer. The loss was felt throughout the Gardner-Webb family due to her many years of service as a professor, dean, associate provost, mentor and friend.

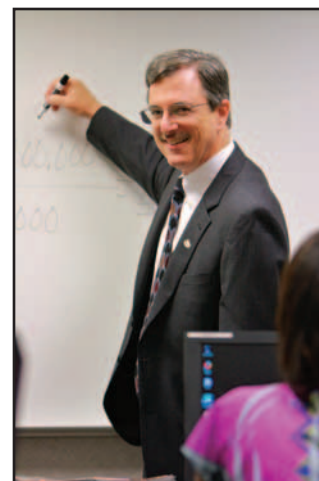
“Over the years, Gayle influenced not only the policies and procedures, but more importantly the very heart of the graduate school,” said longtime friend and colleague Dr. Franki Burch, associate provost for professional and graduate studies. “She set high expectations and standards coupled with a sense of dignity, grace and fairness. We love her and miss her every day.”

A native of Greenwood, S.C., Price joined the Gardner-Webb faculty in 1991 as a professor of English, eventually serving as chair of that department. She founded and directed both the Learning Assistance Program and the Writing Center, coordinated the Writing Across the Curriculum Program, and served as dean of the Graduate School. In 2007, she was named associate provost for graduate and professional studies, the position in which she worked tirelessly until her death.

Dr. June Hobbs, current chair of the English department, said that Price was one of her closest friends and that she lived life with a passion and intensity that is not easily replicated. Hobbs said, “We as a community and I personally will be drinking from wells she dug for a long time.”



Gayle Bolt Price



## GWU ONLINE MBA RANKED NINTH IN WORLD

Gardner-Webb’s online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is ninth best in the world according to BusinessMBA.org’s list of the “Top 50 MBA Programs for 2012.” The program is one of several graduate business degrees offered by Gardner-Webb’s Godbold School of Business.

As part of BusinessMBA.org’s mission to inform and educate prospective MBA students, the ranking highlights the top 10 business schools in each of five categories, including campus-based MBA, Executive MBA, Online MBA, and Marketing and Finance concentrations. Gardner-Webb emerged in the ninth position in the Online MBA category.

According to James Harrity, the site’s executive director, the rankings were compiled without regard to cost of tuition. “With this ranking, we were interested in finding the best of the best, the highest quality MBA schools on the planet,” he said.

In the site’s news release announcing the rankings, Hannity mentioned Gardner-Webb specifically as among the “up-and-coming programs” that are “making their mark in the highly competitive online arena.” Gardner-Webb’s presence on the list, he said, is “exciting to see.”

“This ranking reflects the outstanding dedication of our faculty, the outstanding work of our students, and the outstanding leadership of our president, Dr. Frank Bonner,” said Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, dean of the Godbold School of Business. “It is deeply gratifying to see our name listed among the world’s best business programs, especially since our mission—to honor God and serve humanity through business—is truly one of the world’s most unique.”

This was BusinessMBA.org’s first annual edition of this ranking, which was developed based on public information including accreditation, placement rates, and honors in other major rankings. More information is available at BusinessMBA.org.

## FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED FOR SERVICE AND COMMITMENT

Gardner-Webb University recently honored faculty and staff members for outstanding service at the annual “Apples and Accolades” awards ceremony.

The Gardner-Webb Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Jim Morgan, professor of psychology, for his generous spirit and his willingness to sacrifice time and energy to help students succeed. Morgan was especially praised for his work as an undergraduate research advisor. Recently, one of his students earned a prestigious national scholarship for work on postpartum depression, and another worked alongside Morgan in a project on children’s bereavement counseling and has since written a children’s book about coping with loss.

Two Community Engagement Awards were also given to recognize faculty and staff members who have furthered Gardner-Webb’s motto “Pro Deo et Humanitate” (For God and Humanity) through extensive service in the community. The staff recipient was Registrar Lou Ann Scates, selected for her leadership in several recent initiatives to benefit disadvantaged children in Cleveland County. She also helped coordinate the “Sports Star Spectacular,” a fundraiser that raised over \$20,000 to support local middle school student Seth Strickland’s fight against cancer.

The faculty recipient of the Community Engagement Award was Dr. Don Caudill, professor of marketing in the Godbold School of Business. Caudill is known for extensive civic service and leadership, and for translating that passion into innovative service-learning projects. In a recent semester, Caudill’s students contributed over 1,000 service hours to 23 area non-profits.

The University also recognizes one male and one female staff member who consistently excel in their duties and who stand out for their commitment to the University and its students. This year’s Outstanding Female Staff Member is Karissa Weir, director of student activities, campus recreation and new student orientation. Weir was praised for setting the tone for students’ Gardner-Webb experience from their very first days on campus, and for her diligence in mentoring first-year students.

The 2012 Outstanding Male Staff Member is Noel T. Manning, II, chief communications officer for GWU. In presenting the award, GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner said, “Noel has, for years, stood on the front lines as the University’s mouthpiece and spokesperson, giving voice to our institutional uniqueness and sharing the news of our University’s various accomplishments with the greater community.”



Dr. Jim Morgan



Lou Ann Scates



Dr. Don Caudill



Karissa Weir



Noel T. Manning II



## DR. JIM LAWRENCE ADAPTS EDGAR ALLAN POE (IN SCOTTISH-GAELIC)

Dr. Jim Lawrence, professor in the Department of Communications Studies at Gardner-Webb University, has produced a unique Scottish-Gaelic short film based on Edgar Allan Poe's classic American short story "An Cridhe Cabaireach" ("The Tell-Tale Heart"), a tale of madness and murder. The DVD is available for purchase in three versions: Gaelic narration only, Gaelic narration with English subtitles, and English narration with Gaelic subtitles.

"I first became acquainted with Scottish-Gaelic through music," said Lawrence. "At some point I decided I would like to try and learn the language so I could pronounce the words correctly. About four years ago, I began taking a class online from the Atlantic Gaelic Academy via Skype. Though I have officially studied for four years now, I find the language very difficult, especially to speak."

The video, shot in April, was directed by Lawrence and stars Angus MacLeod, along with GWU Professor of Journalism Dr. Joseph Webb and Matthew Hand, a recent GWU graduate and freelance photographer. Webb not only appears in the video, but he also recorded the English language narration.

So far, the film has been entered in several film festivals and could be showing in numerous countries around the world in the near future. "Its creativity and sheer audience appeal could well win accolades for Dr. Lawrence," said Webb.

Lawrence added, "My purpose in producing this DVD was to make something that was creative and entertaining, while providing a valuable teaching/learning tool for anyone interested in the Gaelic language. I see this as my contribution to providing a resource that will help keep Scottish-Gaelic alive."

The DVD is available online through amazon.com and createspace.com as well as the Gardner-Webb Campus Shop.



Dr. Doug Eury

## EDUCATION PROFESSOR RECEIVES STATE RECOGNITION FOR SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF CLEVELAND COUNTY

The long partnership between Gardner-Webb University and Communities In Schools (CIS) of Cleveland County, N.C., has proven to be instrumental in helping students from elementary schools to high schools perform better in the classroom. One of the leaders in this cause has been Dr. Doug Eury, who was recently named a 2012 H. Glenn Williams Power of One Award recipient for his outstanding efforts. Eury, dean of the School of Education and director of the Center for Innovative Leadership Development at GWU, was one of only two winners for the Williams award, given each year by CIS of North Carolina. This prestigious award is given to individuals who have made a difference in the lives of children, and have demonstrated contributions of time and/or resources to the educational efforts aiding children in the state of North Carolina.

"Gardner-Webb University and its Center for Innovative Leadership Development helps us achieve our mission," said CIS of Cleveland County Director Phillis White. "This makes us a better organization and community partner."

Eury echoed White's sentiments. "Our focus at the Center is to aid organizations in their pursuit of being best in class," he said. "We aim to help leaders transform or re-invent their organization in order to take it to the next level."

## GWU STUDENTS EXPLORE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS IN SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE

For many students, "sightseeing" and "travel" top the summer to-do list. But how many manage to travel across Switzerland and France, let alone secure college credit while doing so?

That's precisely what a group of Gardner-Webb business students did through Gardner-Webb's Graduates in Executive Management Program (GEM), sponsored by the Godbold School of Business. In total, 16 students, faculty and staff spent time in Switzerland, France and Germany, discovering firsthand what distinguishes European marketing and business practices from those in the U.S.

Open to undergraduate and graduate students of all disciplines, the GEM Program presents a unique opportunity to learn meaningful business experience in and out of the classroom. One of those opportunities is the annual Europe trip, for which the GEM program has become known.



According to Dr. Don Caudill, professor of marketing and a co-leader of the trip, the group visited a variety of businesses in both France and Switzerland, like the Swiss glass manufacturer Glasi Hergiswil and the international headquarters of Steelcase AG, a global leader in the office furniture industry. They also spent time at the German concentration camp Struthof near Strasbourg, and a small group of students spent a free day in Strasbourg itself.

During the excursion, students earned course credit by attending lectures and keeping journals of their experiences and reflections. One of the student participants was Erica Morrow of Boiling Springs, N.C., a senior healthcare management major. "I really

learned a lot by going to Europe. I saw firsthand how international business works and how it is different from America," Morrow said. "In my major of study, I've been learning about international healthcare. Being in Europe put a lot of things I had learned into perspective for me."



## STUDENT BRINGS MEMORIES TO LIFE THROUGH ART

A memory is a tricky thing. Though grounded in real experience, a memory is changed—fragmented, filtered, colored and shaped—by the very process of remembering. A memory is therefore both old and new, both known and powerfully mysterious. Indeed, memory is art—and the images we remember can produce life's masterpieces.

Just ask Gardner-Webb's Elisa Beekman. The senior art education major won a prestigious Nolle Scholarship at the Alpha Chi National Honor Society conference in Baltimore, Md., for a collection of collages, acrylic paintings and watercolors inspired by memories from her childhood—a childhood most Americans can't even imagine.

Beekman grew up in Papua, Indonesia, an archipelago nation of 13,000 islands full of tropical rainforests and volcanic mountains, teeming cities and tribal villages, where more than 170 million people speak over 250 languages. Though technically an American (Beekman's parents are American missionaries in Indonesia), Beekman was born in Papua and lived there almost exclusively until she moved to the U.S. as a 19-year-old to attend Gardner-Webb, where she is preparing to teach art in the North Carolina schools and, eventually, in an international school for missionary kids.

"Sometimes I forget that most Americans just don't understand my childhood," she says. "It's not their fault. They just don't know what Papua looks like. With my artwork, my motivation is really to share those experiences and help others better understand who I am. Hopefully, as they look at my art, they'll get a little glimpse of what I've seen, and they'll see the glory of God in it."



Elisa Beekman

# EXPANDING the Healing Gifts

*Exploring a College of Health Sciences*

*Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll*



Pro Deo et Humanitate. Within these four Latin words lies the mission and purpose of Gardner-Webb University and the backbone of Christ-centered faith. Pro Deo et Humanitate: For God and Humanity. This call to service – this divinely inspired quest to impact a world that desperately needs a healing touch both spiritually and physically – is a key motivator behind the eventual establishment of the College of Health Sciences at Gardner-Webb University.

As the concern over healthcare options for citizens continues to rise, university officials are working on solutions to better meet the needs of an underserved rural population and increase the number of primary care physicians and physician extenders entering and providing services in the rural marketplace. Laying the groundwork for academic infrastructure that addresses these concerns is the next logical step, which leaders say builds on an already exceptional series of health-focused degree programs at GWU.

“The idea behind a College of Health Sciences and the programs within it emanates from the mission of our University,” said Matt Walters, director of executive communications and special initiatives. “We will intentionally recruit students with a passion for primary care and then place those students in rural, inner city, and underdeveloped country clinical rotations, and many of them will choose to serve in those communities after graduation.”

Initially, both new and existing health-focused degree programs would be included within a future College of Health Sciences. The stellar reputation of the GWU School of Nursing and the excitement surrounding the launch of the new Physician Assistant (PA) and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) programs are elements that officials say will aid in establishing the new college. Additionally, the door remains open for other training opportunities including speech, physical and occupational therapy programs.



Dr. Gregory Davenport

Dr. Gregory Davenport will direct the GWU Physician Assistant (PA) program, which will train medical professionals for the primary care field. As a physician assistant with a doctorate in health science, his approach will teach the fundamentals of the PA profession—diagnosing and treating common medical conditions under physician supervision.

“Our goal is to get PAs back into that primary care arena, and help close that gap between access to care and patient demand,” Davenport said. “We aim to expand the healing gifts that Gardner-Webb students already possess.”

The GWU Nursing program is one of the most comprehensive in the region. The School of Nursing offers six nursing degree and certificate options and plans are underway to add a seventh, the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) curriculum. Dr. Susie Beck-Little is the dean of the School of Nursing and believes the addition of the FNP degree positions the University to meet the growing needs of the underserved rural community.

“The prospect of offering the Family Nurse Practitioner Program as a part of our existing Master of Science in Nursing Program is truly exciting,” said Beck-Little. “We strive to meet community needs for healthcare providers and the FNP graduate will extend nursing services to our community at a new and much-needed level.”



Dr. Susie Beck-Little

The impact of the eventual College of Health Sciences will be measurable through an increase in preventative primary care, which officials believe will ultimately lead to a decrease in premature death rates from a variety of maladies. “Greater access to preventative care has been linked to lower mortality rates from cancer, heart disease, stroke, and a number of chronic diseases,” said Walters. “That means our graduates won’t just be healthcare providers. They will save lives.”

“The idea behind a College of Health Sciences and the programs within it absolutely emanates the mission of our university.”



Dr. Susie Beck-Little



# SURVIVING

## *to Serve*

*Wilderness Survival Expert and Doctor of Health  
Sciences Named Dean of Gardner-Webb's PA Program*

*Written by Matt Walters*

In his words, leading the new Physician Assistant (PA) Program at Gardner-Webb University is “the most exciting and meaningful thing” that Dr. Gregory Davenport has ever done. And that’s saying something.

After all, by American cultural standards Davenport has already eclipsed the pinnacle of success, and by most 10-year-olds’ standards, he’s a borderline superhero.

A SERE specialist (survival, evasion, resistance and escape) in the United States Air Force, Davenport has survived in every conceivable climate under extremely harsh conditions with little more than a shoestring. As part of his training, which included POW (prisoner of war) simulation, he has endured 72 consecutive hours with no sleep and 120 straight hours with little or no food. As an Air Force combat and non-combat survival instructor, he’s been hypothermic, choked and held underwater to unconsciousness, and severely beaten – somehow surviving it all along the way. He eventually even earned the rank of “supervisor,” or program director, for the SERE program.

After leaving the military, Davenport translated his survival concepts—namely “overcoming preconceived limits”—into platform presentations on topics from wilderness survival to stress abatement and leadership. He’s written six books on survival. His first began as a “Greg’s Tips on Survival” pamphlet for a cost-saving family Christmas present. “Like they really wanted it,” he laughed.

He’s hosted his own History Channel TV show and cohosted or appeared on dozens more, including The Today Show, Good Morning America, CBS Morning News, Primetime Thursday, 48 Hours and NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw.

He’s been invited to speak before enormous audiences in major American and European cities and before handfulls of Boy Scouts in small rural towns. He’s led hardcore wilderness survival trips for civilian groups and government and military organizations. He’s spent days climbing mountains, backpacking, and riding bikes with some of the most famous and influential outdoorsmen of our generation, like Conrad Anker (the man who found English adventurer George Mallory’s body on Everest) and Chris Warner (one of few people to ever summit both Everest and K2).

Still, amidst all his accomplishments, an undeniable void was creeping into Davenport’s life. “My priorities were all out of balance,” he said. “I mean, you talk about narcissism—on these speaking tours, people would come up to me from Europe and want to take their picture with me or want autographs. That attention strokes your ego. It’s so seductive.”

Chasing fame and money, Davenport said he began to lose sight of his ultimate commitments to God, to his family, and to service. “When you’re doing those things for the wrong reasons,” he said, “you walk away from it totally empty. It means nothing. That’s why, for me, it’s far more exhilarating to be here. My past life has been too focused on vanity and ego, but my decision to come to Gardner-Webb is about putting my stamp on earth and making a difference for Christ.”

His time in the limelight notwithstanding, Davenport’s arrival in Boiling Springs is, in some ways, the perfect culmination of his life’s trajectory. After his military service, which gave him a crucial foundation as a healthcare practitioner, teacher and program administrator, Davenport enrolled in the PA Program at the University of Washington and began his “fantasy” career, which was to work in small rural towns. He spent the next decade immersed in the tumultuous world of rural healthcare delivery, inundated by the seemingly insurmountable obstacles facing rural physicians, PAs and practitioners.

“Rural medicine can really eat you up,” Davenport said. Rural healthcare professionals often work longer hours and have a fraction of the resources their urban counterparts enjoy, and yet their patient populations tend to be older, more highly disabled, and more economically challenged—all indicators of increased need for primary care.

Still, Davenport’s survival background has made him an expert at overcoming preconceived limitations, and he’s thrilled about the opportunities available to Gardner-Webb’s PA Program.

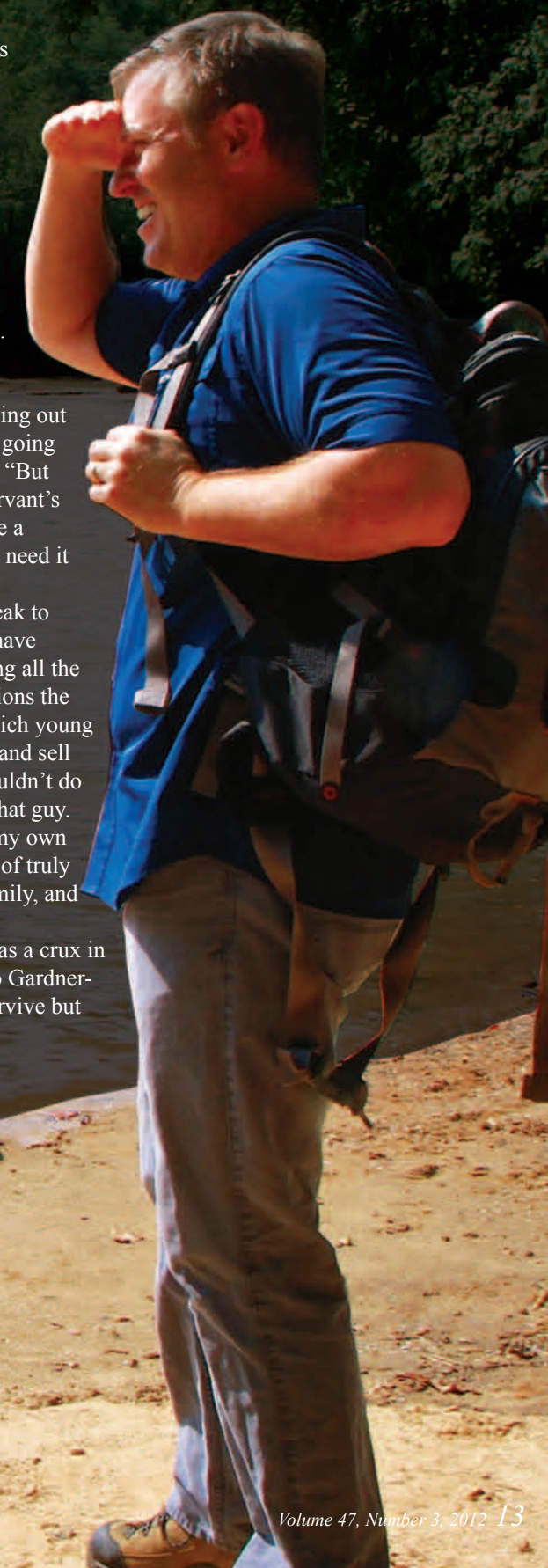
“The thing that drew my interest about Gardner-Webb is that it’s a Christian university. I don’t want to create just another PA Program. Gardner-Webb doesn’t need that, our students don’t need it, and our patients certainly don’t need it. I’m here to create a Christ-centered program that has specific goals about how we’re going to make a difference in the primary care setting.”

One of those goals is to focus especially on addressing the glaring and growing need for greater access to primary care in rural communities like those surrounding Gardner-Webb. Another is to find students who want to be PAs for the right reasons.

“If students are interested in just going out and making big money, they’re never going to find contentment,” Davenport said. “But if they come to the program with a servant’s heart, because they truly want to make a difference in the lives of patients who need it most, that’s where they’ll find joy.”

Davenport is still often asked to speak to groups, but he said his presentations have changed a bit. Rather than emphasizing all the gritty things he’s done, he often mentions the story in Matthew’s Gospel about the rich young man. “Jesus told this guy to go home and sell everything and follow him, and he couldn’t do it. One day, I realized I was just like that guy. I had something that I worshipped—my own ego—and that was getting in the way of truly following Christ, truly serving my family, and being the person I was created to be.”

That realization, Davenport said, was a crux in his life, a turning point that led him to Gardner-Webb, where he intends not just to survive but to thrive.



*Scenic Impressions*

*"There was never a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope." - Bern Williams*



# Embracing the Healthcare Crisis

Written by Dr. Greg Davenport

The Emergency Room is full. A woman sits coughing, knees to her chest, wrapped in a blanket. Her two kids – still wearing their Sponge-Bob pajamas – are out of control. As they run past a gray haired wheelchair-bound man, he glares at them, obviously upset. A cloud of desperation hovers in the crowded room. The triage nurse’s shoulders sag as she tells the newest patient, “It will be at least a five-hour wait.”

Of course there are some of the patients you’d expect to see in an ER; the 48-year-old woman battling chest pains and shortness of breath or the panicked family of an unconscious 18-year-old who’s clinging to life after a head-on collision. But there’s also an elderly woman on Medicare whose primary care provider can’t work her in. There’s an uninsured 24-year-old who can’t afford a clinic or urgent care visit, but he knows the ER will treat him regardless of his ability to pay. You see, the emergency room has become the new American primary care office.

Beyond the doors of the crowded waiting room, exhausted emergency medicine providers, nurses, and techs attempt to control the growing crisis. Unfortunately, tonight is just like the night before and the night before that. The waits are long and the patients are angry, unaware that their medical team is working 12-hour shifts void of bathroom breaks, let alone time to eat.

It shouldn’t be this way. But after 20 years of medical practice, I’m increasingly convinced that, without the intervention of institutions like Gardner-Webb, the healthcare crisis will never change. In fact, it might get worse. While the current thrust of healthcare reform – to expand insurance coverage to a greater number of citizens – represents a good first step, taken alone it’s a bit like giving our patients gas without giving them a vehicle. It’s great that patients will enjoy better coverage, but without better access to medical services, what’s the point?

Thankfully, Gardner-Webb University is taking this crisis head-on by adding the Physician Assistant (PA) Studies and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) programs to its curriculum. By partnering with local healthcare providers and recruiting students with a passion particularly for rural primary care, our PA Program will produce service-oriented providers who can finally close the gap between need and access to care in underserved communities, especially those in Western North Carolina. Best of all, our program’s dynamic, proactive, and educational approach will emanate from Gardner-Webb’s Christian commitment to faith, service, and leadership, ensuring our students understand the mission of healing as part of God’s greater project of social and individual redemption.

After all, increasing access to primary care is the key to healthcare reform. The scenario I painted above – one that will sound all too familiar to those of you working in healthcar – is rife with problems. I am excited to help Gardner-Webb’s PA Program become a part of the solution.

*Dr. Greg Davenport is the Dean of the Gardner-Webb Physician Assistant program.*

*The average wait time for a patient in the emergency department in 2010 was four hours and seven minutes.*

*- 2010 Emergency Department Pulse Report by Press Ganey*

# RED AND BLACK

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# Medicine with a Mission

*Gardner-Webb Athletic Trainer Stephenie Stark  
Has a Heart for Sports Medicine*

*Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll*



Preventing and managing sports injuries is all in a day's work for Stephenie Stark. As an athletic trainer for Gardner-Webb's cross country, track and field, and women's basketball programs, she thought she'd seen it all. But when a personal health crisis threatened her life last spring, she knew some things were going to change. She never imagined it would ultimately lead her thousands of miles from home, or that she would find God-given purpose in simply sitting with an orphan girl, chatting and painting fingernails.

"Back at the end of February, I got sick," Stark recalled. "I was hospitalized, and they told me I had cancer." Going through that experience, she said, made her think about things and look at things differently. Fortunately, doctors discovered that she did not have cancer, but that a benign tumor was causing her symptoms. Feeling like she'd received a second chance, she decided to research ways she could use her medical training to help others in the mission field.

That's when she got connected with the Christian



Traveling with an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) boys basketball team, among others, Stark and other volunteers embarked on their week-long adventure into the non-resort areas of the Dominican Republic.

"In the morning, we went and did mission work," said Stark. "We would go out to a sugar cane village, or to an orphanage. In the afternoon, we would go out and play basketball. Our traveling teams would take on teams of Dominican players." She would offer general mission services during the morning hours, and then during the athletic events, would lend her training expertise to both teams. There was also an evangelical component with devotionals led by American athletes between games. The focus was to share the message of the Gospel to people who otherwise may not hear about the love of Christ.

"During the sports events, if anyone needed to be evaluated for an injury, I would help," she said. "I would assess the injury and offer my services and expertise." She recalled a situation in which an American player collided with a Dominican boy, resulting in a serious cut. Stark helped clean the wound, and the player ended up getting stitches because of her treatment recommendation.

Her time at the orphanages had a lasting impact, and her eyes twinkled as she discussed her experience with a particular 10-year-old Dominican orphan. Upon arriving at the orphanage, she was overwhelmed by the response from the children. "A huge group of kids ran up to us, grabbed our hands and pulled us where they wanted us to go," she said. Stark's new little friend refused to leave her side.

"At one point, I asked her if she wanted to join a group that was singing and dancing," Stark shared. "Through the interpreter, she said, 'No, I just want to sit here with you and spend time with you.' I could have cried right there. I couldn't really talk to her, but it didn't matter. Just the fact that I was there, just sitting with her, being together, was enough for her." The girls bonded by braiding each other's hair, painting each other's fingernails, and of course, lots of giggles.

"When it was time to go, she grabbed my hand and said, 'Please don't leave,' and she was holding on so tight," Stark reflected. "I just started crying. It was tough."

The emotional moment was one of several that Stark now treasures from her time in the mission field. Now that she is back at home, she is working to get the word out about the Christian Sports Medicine Alliance so that others can share in similar experiences. "We want to let [sports medicine professionals] know there is this opportunity out there not just for athletic trainers, but for exercise physiologists, conditioning experts, nutritionists, maybe even nurses," she said.

For Stark, her first mission trip will most certainly not be her last. "I feel like I'm being called back to the Dominican Republic," she shared. "I can help get the structure of the program established even more and help with other organizational aspects. And I think about those kids everyday."



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

Sports Medicine Alliance. Their motto is "medicine with a mission," and their goal is to provide sports medicine professionals with opportunities to use their gifts, talents, and training to share the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. In July, as a result of her interest, Stark was invited to go on a week-long summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic, coordinated by the group SCORE International.

Like many mission efforts, the financial requirements can often be prohibitive. Stark said her church, Advent Lutheran in Kings Mountain, N.C., offered her more support than she ever thought possible. "My church was amazing," she said. "I presented the opportunity to our missions team and explained why we were going and what we were going to do, and they said they loved every aspect of it and wanted me to go. They were 100 percent supportive both emotionally and financially."



*Additional information on Christian Sports Medicine Alliance, including their fundraising efforts, is available at [christiansportsmed.org](http://christiansportsmed.org). Stephenie Stark can be reached via email at [stephenies@christiansportsmed.org](mailto:stephenies@christiansportsmed.org).*

*SCORE International was founded in 1984 by Ron Bishop and started out as a sports mission ministry. Today, SCORE has expanded into a full-service mission organization that sends thousands of groups on short-term mission trips all over the world. Their goal is to evangelize, equip & encourage.*

# Aiming for Excellence

*GWU Athletic Training Program Offers Practical Experience for Students*

*Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll*

As a GWU Track and Field athlete, Katie Spiro knows a thing or two about the importance of an athletic trainer. “My track and field season in my freshman year was crippled by a grade-two ankle injury,” Spiro recalled. “I needed rehab and treatment every day before track practice for about four weeks. The athletic trainers at Gardner-Webb were attentive, accommodating, and flexible with my schedule. I had a great experience in spite of my injury.”

The Gardner-Webb University Athletic Training Program aims to produce certified athletic trainers who are actively engaged in injury prevention, recognition and evaluation, management/treatment and disposition, rehabilitation, and education and counseling. Through classroom education and a clinical component that offers hands-on experience, GWU is producing some of the best athletic trainers in the field.

In 1990, the American Medical Association recognized athletic training as an allied health care profession. “Athletic trainers are health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize activity and participation of patients and clients,” according to the National Athletic Trainer’s Association official definition. “The field encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities.”

In the context of the GWU program, the curriculum has two components: classroom education and clinical experience. According to Heather Hartsell, program director for the educational program, the hands-on experience gives students a chance to apply what they may have only learned in theory. “The combination of classroom learning and practice in the clinical environment fosters application of knowledge,” said Hartsell. “Athletic training students going through this process will learn not just how to look at a problem but how to solve a problem.”

With a limited number of candidates accepted, the University’s athletic training program is one of the most competitive on campus. A maximum of 36 individuals can be enrolled at one time, which officials say helps generate an ideal environment where the focus is on education. Once students complete the classroom work, they

begin working with student athletes as part of clinical training, which is coordinated by Kevin Jones, the director of athletic training.

“Students begin working with athletic trainers either here on the Gardner-Webb campus or at other off-site locations, including area high schools,” Hartsell explained. “They have to demonstrate proficiency in several different content areas and they receive practical experience in handling emergencies, establishing injury prevention techniques, evaluating and treating injuries and much more.”

The subject matter is sometimes more difficult than students first realize, but Hartsell believes the support and encouragement from teachers and classmates can help individuals succeed and actually enjoy the challenging material. “We are a caring, close knit group. We’re going to challenge you, but we’re also going to help,” Hartsell shared. “You’re not just a number in our program.

**“WE ARE A CARING CLOSE KNIT GROUP. WE’RE GOING TO CHALLENGE YOU BUT WE’RE ALSO GOING TO HELP.”**

Because we’re smaller in quantity, we excel in quality. Students definitely receive more one-on-one time with their instructors and with other athletic trainers.”

The importance of follow-up and feedback is also discussed as part of ongoing treatment plans for patients. “My athletic trainers still check in on my health two years after my injury,” said Spiro. “I have no fear or hesitation in going to them about an injury or a potential one. The rehabilitation of my left ankle was expedited because of their expertise.”

Graduates of this program have gone on to work with NFL football teams, other professional sports arenas, colleges and universities, and high schools and physical therapy clinics. After Gardner-Webb many of the athletic training graduates choose to pursue their master’s degree while gaining additional experience within the profession.

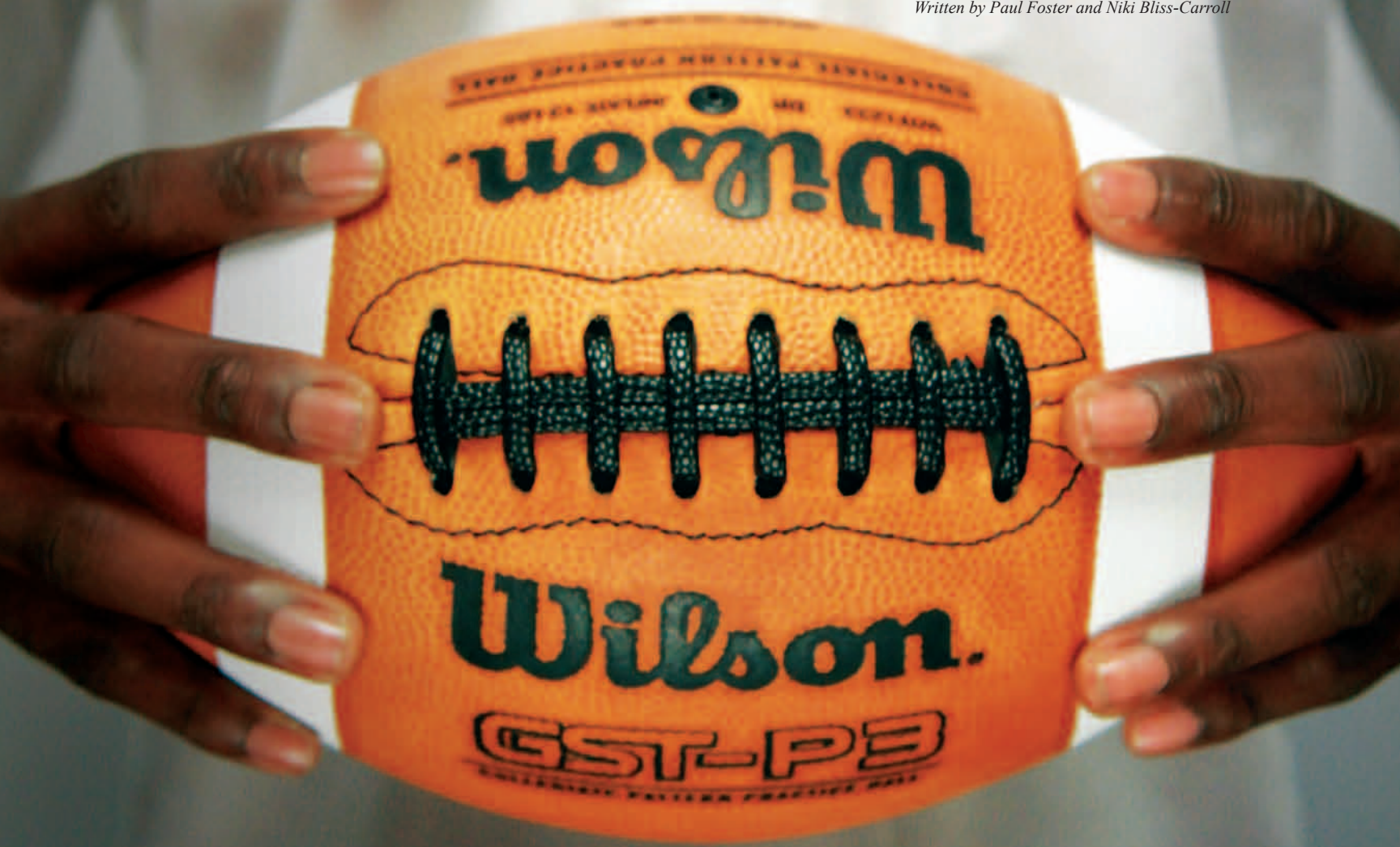
Hartsell is looking forward to the spring semester, when the incoming freshmen that are interested in the athletic training program will be given a chance to apply. “We’ve had some impressive graduates,” Hartsell said. “We want highly-driven, ambitious students.”



# The Gentle Giant

Former GWU Football Player Pursues Medicine

Written by Paul Foster and Niki Bliss-Carroll



If ever a man could be described as a gentle giant, Oluwadamilola “Dami” Teniola would fit the bill. His physical appearance exudes external strength, yet beneath his powerful exterior is a kind and generous heart that desires to care for and serve others. This former Gardner-Webb University football player is following in the footsteps of an entire family of doctors by entering medical school, and he plans to live out the lessons he’s learned from his father that go well beyond medicine.

Teniola and his family are originally from Nigeria, which explains his first—and very long—name. “No one calls me by my whole first name. Not even my parents,” laughed Teniola. “They call me Damilola. My name means ‘God has given me wealth.’ But it is funny how people try so hard to pronounce it right.”

**“I originally didn’t want to become a doctor. I wanted to become an engineer, but I fell in love with anatomy and physiology in my sophomore year at Gardner-Webb.”**

When he was seven years old, Teniola’s father moved him and his three siblings to America. “He felt the greatest opportunity for his children existed

here in the United States, even though he was a very successful doctor in Nigeria,” said Teniola of his father, Samuel. The elder Teniola’s desire was to get relicensed as a doctor in the U.S. After establishing a new home in Pittsburgh, the family moved to New York, and eventually to Stone Mountain, Ga. Samuel Teniola soon achieved his goal and his children acclimated to life in the States.



Teniola during his GWU football days

“My father’s profession actually didn’t influence my footsteps. It was the person he is,” Teniola said. “I admire the way he carries himself among people and his views on life, family, and religion. I really seek to make my father proud.” Teniola’s father is also a pastor of Bethel Fellowship in Ellenwood, Ga.

A degree from the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., is practically a rite of passage for members of this family. His sister and brother, also doctors, attended school there and now Teniola himself is a medical student at the institution. His undergraduate work at Gardner-Webb helped him determine the right career path and his future profession. “I originally didn’t want to become a doctor. I wanted to become an engineer but I fell in love with anatomy and physiology in my sophomore year at Gardner-Webb,” he said. “Science classes I took, as well as the professors, challenged me to think differently.” He credits the mentorship of Dr. Cathleen Ciesielski, GWU assistant professor of biology, for helping to shape his future path. “Dami is a super success story for us in biology,” said Ciesielski.

Beyond the classroom, Teniola was a standout linebacker for the Runnin’ Bulldogs football team. A three-year starter, he earned 172 total career tackles. Being an athlete didn’t slow him down academically and he graduated in just seven semesters with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a cumulative grade point average of nearly 4.0. Teniola was also honored for his outstanding scholastic achievement and service when he was named “Most Outstanding Male Graduate” during his commencement ceremony in December 2010. During his senior year, he was named to the All-Big South Conference Academic Team.

This formidable linebacker-turned-medical student has focus, desire and the character to continue his family’s legacy. His influences on the field, in the classroom and in life have prepared him for future leadership. “I care about others and serving others,” said Teniola. “Being a doctor is a privilege that one day I hope to have.”



Dami Teniola at the Morehouse School of Medicine



Dami following a family tradition



# THE Art OF MEDICINE

Written by Matt Walters

*"I have thought many times that the physical bodies of all my patients will sometimes die regardless of my best efforts as a physician. I hope I can in some way help others to know that Christ is the only way to everlasting life." – Dr. Gene Washburn '52, as quoted in Daring, Dreaming, Doing: The Story of Gardner-Webb University by Lansford Jolley.*

A lot has changed since Dr. Gene Washburn, the longtime Boiling Springs physician and Gardner-Webb trustee known affectionately as "Dr. Gene," began practicing medicine half a century ago. "Most of the changes are for the good," he said, citing advances in pharmaceuticals and medical technology. "Some are not so good."

Besides soaring costs—he remembers charging \$3 for an office visit—Washburn says healthcare providers are beginning to overlook the art of medicine.

"The science of medicine is about treating conditions. You find the problem, and you send something for the problem." But the art of medicine, Washburn says, is about developing real relationships with patients, knowing their names, knowing their families, and treating the person instead of the problem.

"We used to treat people person-to-person," said Washburn. "Doctors used to be their patients' friends. I think that's the way it should be."

Washburn earned his associate's degree from Gardner-Webb in 1952, his bachelor's from Wake Forest, and his M.D. from Wake's Bowman Gray School of Medicine. He then proudly served as a Captain and M.D. in the United States Army, where he was stationed mostly in Germany.

While in Germany, Washburn received just one phone call. It was from Dr. W. Wyan Washburn, Dr. Gene's older brother by 20 years, who was also a longtime physician in Boiling Springs.

"He called to offer me a job in his practice, and I was grateful. In fact, that's why I'm called 'Dr. Gene,' because Wyan was always 'Dr. Washburn.' I certainly enjoyed working with him. He taught me a lot, not just about medicine but about people."

Over the next several decades, Dr. Gene earned a reputation for quiet, humble service in the Boiling Springs and Gardner-Webb community. He served as team physician for numerous Runnin' Bulldog sports, and was named Bulldog Club Member of the Year in 1974. He has also served multiple terms on the Board of Trustees, including several as Chair.



His family connection to Gardner-Webb dates back to the very birth of the institution. His grandfather, W.W. Washburn, was the first person to sign the Boiling Springs High School (predecessor of Gardner-Webb) certificate of incorporation, and served on the Board of Trustees from 1904-1933. He's also had other family members serve the University as faculty, staff, board members, volunteers and students.

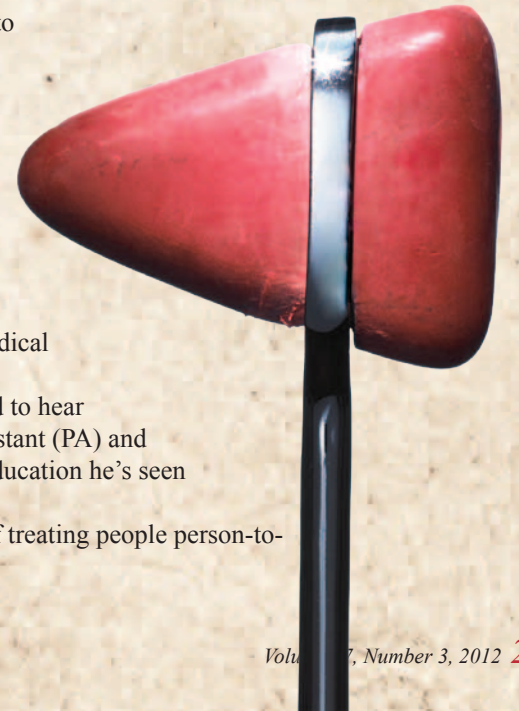
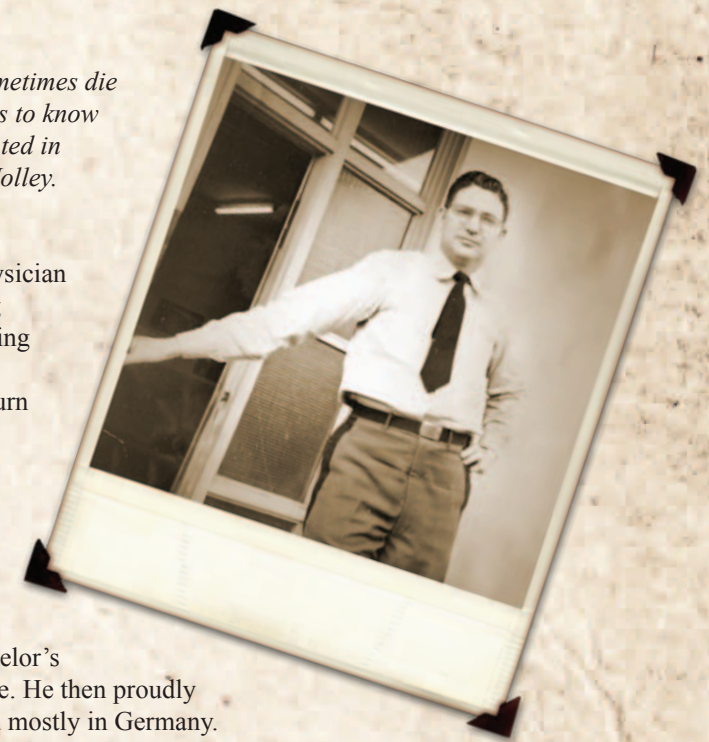
As a small town physician, he also enjoyed numerous opportunities through the years to "get to know patients in a deeper sense. I think people will tell their doctors more than they'll tell their preachers," he jokes.

He's made house calls to the same house to treat individuals, and then their kids, and then their kids' kids. He's even seen a kid of his own, Dr. Rusty Washburn, follow in his footsteps as a family physician in Rutherford County. "Rusty works very hard to make a real difference in his patients' lives," Dr. Gene said, smiling. "He's even made a few house calls of his own."

His daughter Sherry also works in the medical profession, serving as a nurse.

Ultimately, Washburn says he was thrilled to hear of Gardner-Webb's plans to pursue a College of Health Sciences complete with Physician Assistant (PA) and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) programs, remarking on the outstanding growth in medical education he's seen since his days at Gardner-Webb Junior College.

"I just hope the students will come to understand the importance of building relationships, of treating people person-to-person, and of practicing the art of medicine," said Washburn. "I believe they will."



# Motivating by Example

*GOAL MBA Grad Taking the Healthy Approach to Leadership  
Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll*

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself.” In the area of leadership, particularly organizational leadership, there may not be a truer statement. Studies have proven that humble leaders generally lead by example, admit their mistakes, and recognize their followers’ strengths. GWU alumnus Brian Gwyn ’03 is such a leader. As chief executive officer of Cleveland County Healthcare System (CCHS) and manager of dozens of clinical care facilities including two hospitals, Gwyn has proven his ability to engage, inspire, and motivate his staff to achieve their full potential.

“Brian is definitely mindful of his roles and responsibilities,” said Gail McKillop, CCHS director of compliance and privacy. “But he doesn’t see himself as any better than anyone else. He truly defines the term ‘team leader.’” Physicians, nurses, and staff members at the hospital also seem to appreciate his leadership style. As Gwyn makes rounds each morning, he checks in with his employees, colleagues, and patients to see if they need anything or if he can provide assistance with any specific issues they may be facing that day.

“There’s a statement on the back of my business card that I live by,” Gwyn said. “It says, ‘Every patient, every day, always.’ I’m serious about our mission, vision, and values, and I expect the same from the people who work here.”

Gwyn was born and raised in Mount Airy, N.C. and earned a Master of Arts in Food and Nutrition from Appalachian State University in 1998. He has spent more than 15 years in the healthcare field, initially working as a clinical dietician and working his way into departmental oversight. “I really reached a point that to break into administration, I needed to have an MBA or MHA,” Gwyn said. “That’s where I started my research and chose the Gardner-Webb MBA program. It was flexible, and I could still work.”

As he took classes from the GWU Iredell campus, he continued working 60 hours a week at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center, a 117-bed acute care facility in Mooresville, N.C. In addition, he and his wife Stephanie were raising their young son, Alec, and anticipating the birth of their daughter, Bella. “The course work was tough, but I loved my professors,” Gwyn recalled. “They had real-world experience that they brought back to class. They brought knowledge of something bigger than what we could see.”

Dr. Anthony Negbenebor is the dean of the Godbold School of Business and said Gwyn ranks among his all-time best students. “He is one of the most prolific administrators in healthcare that I’ve ever met. He’s visionary, insightful, and forward-thinking. In my

opinion, he has not even scratched the surface of his potential.”

Gwyn graduated with his Master of Business Administration from Gardner-Webb University in 2003 and served in several hospital administrative roles including chief operating officer and chief executive officer at facilities in Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina. In the spring of 2008, he was hired as the chief operating officer for Cleveland County Healthcare System, working with longtime CEO, John Young. Gwyn eventually took over Young’s position as CEO when Young was promoted to Carolinas Healthcare System Western Region Vice President.

In the brief four years at the helm, Gwyn has supervised multiple new projects including a hyperbaric wound care facility, the CCHS Urgent Care, a sleep lab in Kings Mountain, the advanced imaging center, and numerous specialty staff additions, just to name a few. Plans are underway to add at least two more satellite locations in Cleveland County to help offer additional local services.

“A brand new research center is being built in Charlotte. They’re currently recruiting the best and the brightest to come to the area to provide research and conduct clinical trials in order to become the oncology center of the United States,” said Gwyn. “With that, we will have a Levine Cancer Center hub here in Shelby, so we can have the same clinical trials, the same equipment, the same physicians so that people can receive the same excellent treatment here that they would receive in Charlotte.”

In addition to state-of-the-art oncology services, officials are now laying the groundwork for a Levine Children’s Hospital hub in Shelby. While that project is currently in early planning stages, Gwyn believes it will begin gaining momentum in a few months.

“We want to become more tertiary in our scope so that we can provide more cardiac services, oncology, spine surgery, orthopedics, the really big service lines,” Gwyn shared. “We want to make sure that people have those options close to home. That is our main goal.”

Like many healthcare organizations across the country, Gwyn and his staff are bracing for big changes as they prepare to implement healthcare reform. He believes that whether the Affordable Care Act is upheld, or whether a different plan is introduced, some of the new policies are here to stay. “Our projection is that 20 percent of the revenue is going to be cut out of healthcare, which is a huge number,” Gwyn reported. “We’re trying to prepare for that now. We’re a very solid organization today but we are trying to become more efficient and plan to do that while simultaneously improving our quality of care and service.”



Such a task would be daunting for most, but Gwyn takes it in stride. He said his education at Gardner-Webb, combined with his experience in the field, has helped prepare him for nearly any circumstance. “The training you receive—particularly in economics and accounting—is extremely valuable,” Gwyn shared. “Some of the core business classes offer lessons and strategies that one can apply to almost any industry.”

With a leadership style that emphasizes unleashing the expertise, vision, and commitment of his team members, Gwyn is positioned for continued success. “I’m probably more hands on than a lot of leaders,” he admitted. “I’m rounding on the floors every morning. I go out, talk to patients, talk to the physicians, talk to the staff. My priority is to see if there’s anything I can do to help them. But I love what I do. I have a passion for healthcare.”

*“Every patient, every day, always.”*



# Body, Mind and Soul

VERONICA POOLE-ADAMS HAS HEART AND PASSION FOR NURSING

*Written by Niki Bliss-Carroll*

There is a decided twinkle in her eyes, and within moments, one is keenly aware of a caring and compassion that resides deep within the heart of this petite woman. She is authentic and kind, which speaks volumes about both her chosen profession and her continued commitment to the hospital in which she has built a career. Her name is Veronica Poole-Adams and she is a 30-year veteran of the nursing profession.

Poole-Adams graduated with her Associate of Arts in Nursing from Gardner-Webb in 1982. A native of Cleveland County, she was thrilled to find employment at Cleveland Memorial Hospital (now Cleveland Regional Medical Center -CRMC) in Shelby, N.C., as she began her career as a registered nurse. Unlike many in her field who hopped from one post to another, Poole-Adams has remained planted at Cleveland Regional for more than 30 years, initially serving patients as a bedside nurse and now is the chief nursing executive and vice president of patient care services for both CRMC and Kings Mountain Hospital (KMH).

"I decided to be a nurse in high school," she recalled. "I'm a person who believes in being connected to people. All I wanted to do was make a difference and build relationships with my patients. I never really thought about leadership."

Early on, her work ethic and heart was undeniable, and within less than a decade, the vice president of nursing at the hospital began talking to her about opportunities to impact more people. At first, Poole-Adams said she wasn't sure she wanted to take on the added responsibility, but she also could not deny the appeal of helping more patients along with the nurses who were charged with their care. "I'm so proud to be part of a system that really looks for internal growth and opportunity for their employees," she said. "I certainly believe that some people have the heart and the skill to do more, and it just takes the right person to see that potential."

She completed her bachelor's degree and began working at CRMC as a nursing leader, initially helping to manage one unit and eventually found more leadership responsibilities. Whether it was serendipity or providence or a combination of both, she was eventually asked to serve as the interim chief of nursing during a staff change. In early 2000, she was hand-picked by then-CEO John Young to be the permanent chief nurse for the hospital.

"I'll never forget it, I was walking through the administrative offices and John motioned for me to come into his office," she recalled. "He said he wanted me to be our next chief nurse, because he knew I had the heart and passion for it."

While honored by the request and confident in her ability to handle the position, Poole-Adams initially hesitated to accept the post. She remembered a conversation she had years before with her mentor. "I told her that sometimes, when I saw the leaders, they didn't look very happy," she said. "I wasn't sure if this opportunity was for me. Every day when I came to work as a bedside nurse, I looked forward to it, I loved it and I knew that I was going to do something exciting that day. I didn't want to lose my passion."

As a compromise, she asked Young to give her six months in the position to make sure it was a good fit for her and for the administrative team. She also began working on her Master of Business Administration at Gardner-Webb, so that she could strengthen her business and administrative skill set. Within six months she had transitioned from interim status to permanent chief nursing executive. In 2002, Poole-Adams earned her MBA, and within just a few years, she began serving as chief operating officer for the hospital until a restructuring of duties resulted in the assignment of her current post. She now directs all of nursing for CRMC and KMH, as well as pharmacy, radiology, laboratory and other clinical service areas.

"I am a true believer that it takes every member of the team; everybody is so important to the outcome for the patient," she shared. "People come to hospitals for nursing care. I believe nursing is the foundation on which other service areas are built."

With a career spanning more than three decades, numerous promotions, awards, and accolades, Poole-Adams says that the driving force behind her passion remains the same. "Everybody has a story, and you have to get to know their story," she reflected. "Nursing really looks at the patient in a holistic way. It's more than their physical needs; it's when you're able to really build relationships and understand their emotional and spiritual needs. For me, that's what it's about."





# Caring for *Community*

*Darcy Craven '07 Leading Carolina's Hospital System as CEO*

*Written by Paul Foster and Niki Bliss-Carroll*

Becoming a hospital chief executive officer (CEO) wasn't exactly on Darcy Craven's childhood list of career choices. Yet, even as a youngster, he knew he wanted to help take care of people. Recently, he was named head of Carolinas Hospital System (CHS), a 132-hospital network based in Florence, S.C. This Gardner-Webb MBA graduate says he could not be happier to have discovered a path that allows him to improve acute care and clinical health services for CHS patients.

"I never thought about doing anything other than being a therapist," said Craven. Years of service in clinical roles in various hospitals and healthcare organizations helped him develop an interest in the management side of healthcare. "I knew the clinical role in the hospital, but I needed to be knowledgeable about the business aspects of running a hospital in order to be successful," he shared.

Craven decided his best course of action would be to begin working on his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. His research led him to the Godbold School of Business MBA program. "I chose Gardner-Webb for several reasons," he said. "First, I was working full-time as an occupational therapist, so I needed a schedule that was flexible. With a mixture of online and traditional classes, it was a perfect fit for my life. Plus, because the program is smaller, students have more of an opportunity to have a personal relationship with their professors."

In 2007, he graduated with an MBA and was offered a position as the director of rehabilitation at Mary Black Health System in Spartanburg, S.C. He and his wife Tracey, and their two young children, Tyler and Abby, later relocated to Alabama where Craven began working as CEO for DeKalb Regional. During his time in Alabama, he also served as the interim CEO for Cherokee Medical Center.

The family moved back to South Carolina when he was given an opportunity to become the chief operating officer (COO) for CHS in 2010. This summer, he was promoted to chief executive officer. He had served as interim CEO since February and continued to handle his duties as COO at the same time. "He has the full support and confidence of the board," said C. Edward Floyd, M.D., CHS Board of Trustees chairman. "He will be an effective leader in our work to keep CHS the premier source of care in our community."

CHS officials also say his accomplishments have helped modernize and streamline the facility, including updating medical equipment and the recruitment of new physicians. He also successfully implemented the new electrophysiology lab last spring.

Craven credits the Gardner-Webb MBA program with successfully preparing him for his new role. "The (GWU) program was demanding, which I expected," Craven said. "I know I received a high-quality education from a university with a great academic reputation."

Now, he's ready for whatever the future may hold.

# The Best of Both Worlds

By: Matt Walters

If you asked members of the audience what they most enjoyed about Rita Gouveia's commencement address during her recent Gardner-Webb graduation, some would say it was her sincerity in congratulating her classmates on their accomplishments.

Others might remark on her humility. The magna cum laude graduate and 2011 Big South Women's Tennis Co-Scholar Athlete of the Year spent considerable time thanking the professors who had inspired and motivated her.

Her mother would undoubtedly say it was the surprise of seeing her daughter step to the podium. Rita had saved that secret as a graduation present for her family.

For Gouveia herself, it was the thrill of delivering the speech in perfect English.

A native of The Azores, Portugal, Gouveia devoted much of her childhood to tennis, playing in amateur tournaments in South America, Tunisia, Morocco, Sweden, Belgium, and the Czech Republic, to name a few. But according to Gouveia, there is almost no such thing as a student-athlete in Portugal.

"When kids reach the age where they begin college, they are forced to choose. Will you devote your energies to your sport, or will you give up athletics and focus on academics? It cannot be both," she said. Determined to excel as a student-athlete, Gouveia decided to attend college in the U.S., and arrived at Gardner-Webb on a full scholarship having never set foot on campus and knowing only a few words of English.

If you'd told her then, she said, that she would be offering her Class's commencement address in English just a few years later, she'd have never believed you.

"When head women's tennis coach Jim Corn picked me up from the airport that first year, we could barely say a few words to each other. I just had to point at what I wanted. Now, I wonder if he wishes I still couldn't speak English, as much as I talk his ear off," Gouveia said.

Determined to be a doctor, Gouveia intentionally chose an academic track that would be challenging even for native speakers, let alone someone who has no background in English. Somehow, she managed to study the extra hours it took to overcome the language gap and master subjects like Anatomy and Physiology, Biochemistry, and Physics—all while excelling on the tennis courts for Gardner-Webb.

Gouveia said her coaches, professors, teammates and friends were supportive, giving her the necessary time to work through what she was trying to say. "They were patient with me, and I learned to be patient with myself," she said. "I'll always appreciate them for that."

To thank them, Rita included dozens of her friends in a unique graduation tradition. It is customary for Portuguese graduates to order a special folder full of colorful ribbons. As a sign of appreciation, graduates send ribbons to each of the people who have made a difference in their lives. Those people then write personal, encouraging notes on the ribbons, and send them back for inclusion in the graduates' folders, which they carry with them in their walk across the commencement stage. The ribbons are, therefore, a beautiful symbol of reciprocal respect and gratitude.

"I sent ribbons to my professors, to my friends and teammates, my coaches, even the cafeteria workers, who were like my family. Those ribbons went literally all around the world before coming back to me before graduation," Gouveia said.

As she stepped off the commencement stage, Portuguese ribbons and American diploma in hand, Gouveia was greeted by her sister who laid her own graduation cloak on the ground for Rita to step on—another Portuguese tradition. "That's an honor for the graduates in Portugal, to step on the cloak of a significant

family member or friend," Gouveia said. According to the custom, the cloak should never be washed, so that it bears forever the imprint of those who have stepped upon it.

Gouveia says she will bear forever within herself the imprint of her Gardner-Webb experience. But her commencement ceremony, decidedly American and yet enduringly Portuguese, was symbolic of the glamour—and the challenge—of the international student's experience. As citizens of multiple worlds, and proponents of multiple cultures, international students are eventually faced with a pressing decision: in which world will I choose to make my home?

That is precisely the question with which Gouveia is wrestling as a young alumna. Consider, for example, her path(s) toward becoming a doctor.

To make herself a more competitive medical school applicant, Gouveia spent the Spring 2012 semester doing post-graduate work in the sciences at Gardner-Webb. She is also studying for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), a daunting task even for native English speakers.

But medical school in the U.S. costs thousands of dollars, and while taking out student loans is a common practice in the U.S., Gouveia says Portuguese culture frowns on taking out loans for education. She hopes to earn scholarships, but many medical schools don't offer scholarship opportunities until the second year, and some American medical schools don't accept international students at all.

Going back to Portugal, where medical school is much less expensive, is an option. But whereas the American education system saves specialized training until the graduate level, Portuguese undergraduate programs are long and extremely specialized. That means returning home would essentially require starting over at the undergraduate level. Gouveia says that's a step she is reluctant to take.

"I am proud to have earned my degree from Gardner-Webb," she said. "I am proud of what I accomplished here. I want to continue building on that."

Despite the challenges, Gouveia is confident that her future will become clear in time—even if she has to be patient. She recently landed a staff job managing data and analyzing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for University Hospitals Harrington Heart and Vascular Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, a position that may strengthen her application and help her pay for medical school.

But no matter what her professional future holds—in America or Portugal—Gouveia says the true value of her Gardner-Webb experience is much more intangible.

"So many people from my island never leave home, even to travel to the European mainland. But I have seen the world. I mean, here I am giving you this interview in English. I gave a commencement speech in English. I even dream in English now. I never imagined I could do any of this. I wouldn't change a thing."



# Class Acts

## The 1950s

### ALUMNA PASSING

#### **NANCY BOGER TAYLOR '53**

died on Dec. 1, 2011. She taught school in Gastonia, N.C. Woodbridge, Va., Chapel Hill, NC., and Charlotte City schools before she retired. She is survived by two sisters, two sons, and two grandsons.

## The 1960s

### BRUCE BOWERS '68 A.A.

was recently presented the 2012 national media award by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution at the 121st Continental Congress for his documentary film, "The Blue Ridge Parkway: A Long & Winding Road." Other well-known recipients include Tom Brokaw, Ken Burns, and Charles Kuralt.

## The 1970s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### **PHILLIP "KIPPY" KIRKLAND '72**

passed away on Aug. 29, 2011. He worked with the Record Bar Company for over 20 years. He took early retirement from Duke University in Aug. 2009 after 16 years of employment. He successfully fought two brain tumors.

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### **JAMES "PETE" MCCRAW '72**

died on Aug. 17, 2012. McCraw, a U.S. Navy veteran, retired from Cone Mills. He was a Mason, Shriner, and member of Boiling Springs United Methodist Church in Boiling Springs, N.C. He is survived by his wife, son, two daughters, brother, and two grandchildren.

## The 1980s

### ALUMNUS PASSING

#### **PETER L. DECKER '81**

passed away Oct. 27, 2011. He was an accomplished bass player, and played with the GWU Orchestra for several years, including the years the group was directed by his father, Dr. Robert Decker. He is survived by his wife, three children, and four grandchildren.

### CHRIS JOHNSON '81 B.S.

was inducted into Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at its 25th Anniversary induction ceremony on May 12, 2012.

### TIM ADDIS '84 B.S.

was recently named assistant principal at East Montgomery High School (N.C.). He was an exceptional children's teacher at Carroll Middle School in Lumberton, N.C.

### AMANDA THOMAS '88 B.A.

is currently the assistant technical director/scene shop manager for Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Ala. She also is the technical director and scenic and lighting designer for Sanspointe Dance Company and Children's Dance Foundation in Birmingham. Contact Amanda at [m.thomas1402@gmail.com](mailto:m.thomas1402@gmail.com).

### SUSAN NEELEY '89 B.S.

was named the 2011 North Carolina School Nurse Administrator of the Year. She is Gaston County School's director of health services. She previously served as a school nurse and health science teacher and worked for Gaston Memorial Hospital as an emergency services nursing director and supervisor.

## The 1990s

### PAUL PACKARD '92 A.A.

received his doctorate in nurse anesthesia practice from Texas Wesleyan University. He resides in Hickory, N.C. with his wife, Kelly, and two sons, Lucas and Mason.

### HOYT BYNUM, JR. '93 B.S.

was recently appointed to the position of president and chief executive office with Simpsonville Area Chamber of Commerce in Simpsonville, S.C.



## BRIDGES FAMILY ESTABLISHES PLANNED GIFT AS DONATION TO GWU

*Kelly and Brett Bridges' Contribution Results in Lifetime Bulldog Club Membership*

Many couples can't pinpoint the exact moment they fell in love, but most have vivid memories of the first time they met their 'someone special.' For Kelly and Brett Bridges, Gardner-Webb University will forever be the backdrop of their continuing love story as the tender memories of young love have been etched into their hearts and minds for a quarter of a century.

Kelly Sale and Brett Bridges attended Gardner-Webb in the mid-80s, each having developed a unique love for the University. Their separate paths converged when a group of friends went dancing. "Kelly was the original Bulldog mascot and was such a good dancer," Brett recalled. "We met, talked, danced, started dating, and fell in love. We recently celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary."

Brett ('87) played baseball for Gardner-Webb, while Kelly ('85) had grown up watching and supporting Bulldog basketball. "Of course, I was already a basketball fan, but Brett just stole my heart and turned me into the biggest Bulldog baseball fan of that time," Kelly said. "My experiences at Gardner-Webb were priceless. I earned a valuable education from some of the best faculty and staff anywhere, developed friendships that are still strong today, and met my husband. Now, our son enjoys supporting the GWU teams and it's a joy to share in Bulldog Club activities as a family."

The Bridges are now lifetime Bulldog Club members after establishing a planned gift in the form of a life insurance policy in which they named Gardner-Webb as owner and beneficiary. "Gifts like this one help provide a significant contribution to the University with exceptional tax advantages for the donor," said Greg Poe, GWU director of Planned Giving. "The value of the policy enables the family to utilize the benefits of Bulldog Club membership."

The couple believes it is important to give back to their alma mater and encourages others to consider a similar contribution. "It's where we met, earned our degrees, and it will always hold a special place in our hearts," said Brett. "We've been Bulldog Club members for a while, but witnessing the growth and improvements at GWU, we felt it was time to become an even bigger part of the vision for the future."

Kelly wholeheartedly agreed. "We are truly proud to be graduates of Gardner-Webb and involved members of the Bulldog Club," she said. "Supporting our current and future students and student athletes is an honor. I pray that each one is as blessed from their experiences at Gardner-Webb as we were."

For more information on how to participate in planned giving, contact Greg Poe at 704-406-2157 or visit [www.gwugift.org](http://www.gwugift.org). To learn more about the Bulldog Club, contact Woody Fish at 704-406-4254.

**Do you know of a GWU alum who is making a positive contribution to his or her community?**

**If so, then email us at: [alumni@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:alumni@gardner-webb.edu)**





# Going Green

In an effort to promote environmental sustainability, electronic delivery of The Gardner-Webb Magazine is now available. You'll get all the content from the print version, along with exclusive online content, delivered free, straight to your inbox.

To switch to an electronic subscription, email Noel Manning at [ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu).

**CHRISTOPHER TOOMER '93 B.S.** earned a certificate in computer programming from Computer Programmer Training, a training program formerly affiliated with Goodwill Industries in Charlotte in 1994. He also completed a five month programming internship with Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated located in Charlotte. In 1998, Chris was hired by the Treasury Department as a COBOL programmer where he has been employed for the last 14 years. He and his Wife, Cecelia, have been married for nine years and they have one son. They currently reside in Greenbelt, Md. Contact Chris via e-mail at [chris@christoomer.com](mailto:chris@christoomer.com).

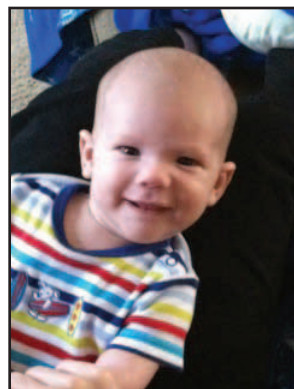
**NOEL T. MANNING II '94 B.A.** has been selected to serve a three-year term on the Cleveland County Arts Council Board of Directors and a one-year term on the State Employees Credit Union Board of Advisors in Boiling Springs, N.C. He is the chief communications officer at Gardner-Webb University, and was recently awarded the male staff member of the year award for 2012. He is married to Beth Lamb Manning '89, and they have two children.

**STEVEN DUNCAN '95 B.A.** has accepted a human resources position in Charleston, S.C. with Scientific Research Corporation. His responsibility will be hiring for the Department of Defense and Department of State. Steve is married to

Yvonne Houston Duncan and he lives in Summerville, S.C., with his family.

**DENISE ADAMS '97 B.A.** and Junhyung Lee welcomed another child into their family. The adoption of Jamin Seth Lee was finalized on Jan. 18, 2012. He was born in South Korea. Jamin is welcomed by his older siblings, Jadon and Arianna.

**JEREMY LEE FERN '99 B.A.** and **GINGER LEE FERN '02 B.A.** are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Colin Thomas Fern, who was born on April 17, 2012. He weighed 8lbs. 5oz. and was 21 in. long. Colin's name means "victory" and his middle name, "Thomas,"



is after Ginger's father, William Thomas Jones. The Ferns' prayer is that Colin will find victory in Jesus Christ, and thus victory in his life and his relationship with others.

**TRAVIS WRIGHT '99 B.S.** was recently appointed as the associate vice president for quality management at Louisiana College in Pineville, La. where he will administer all aspects of accreditation and strategic planning. Dr. Wright and his family reside in Pineville. Read their blog: <http://travisandstephanie.wordpress.com>.

## The 2000s

**AMANDA BRADY '00 B.S.** married Brady Thomas Best on June 16, 2012 at Woodmill Winery in Vale, N.C. She received a master's degree in reading education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2008, and is currently in her second year as the reading intervention specialist at Fallston Elementary School. Her husband is a captain with the City of Gastonia Fire Department. The couple lives in Bessemer City, N.C.

**PATRICIA POWELL '00 B.S.** received her national board certification for professional teaching standards in the area of early childhood through Young Adulthood/School Counseling. She is also a licensed professional counselor and owner of Coral Bridge Counseling Services, P.C. Dr. Powell attributes her success to the foundation in social sciences she received at Gardner-Webb University.

**Share your news** If you have a personal or professional accomplishment to share, such as a new job, birth announcement, or a wedding, we would like to hear from you. Submit your class notes to [klovelace@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:klovelace@gardner-webb.edu).



# WE WANT YOUR DESIGNS!

Do you think you have a great idea for the Gardner-Webb Magazine? Is there a picture, painting or computer design you believe represents Gardner-Webb at its best? Let us see it. We want to feature some of our talented GWU students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends. If your cover is picked, it will be printed on over 20,000 magazines! You will receive a prize pack and gift card for the GWU Campus Shop. If you think you have that special cover, please send it to Noel Manning at [ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu) or mail:

**GWU Magazine Cover Design, Gardner-Webb University, Attn: Noel Manning,  
P.O. Box 876/106 Emily Lane, Boiling Springs, NC 28017**

(Cover must be vertical at 300 dpi and at least 9.125' w x 11.125' h. PDFs, Jeps, Tifs, Eps, Psd, Ai files are preferred.)



## Gardner-Webb College/University Alumni and friends are on Facebook

Haven't heard or seen from your Gardner-Webb classmates in a while? See if they're on Facebook! Sign-up and log on to GWU's Facebook page to keep up with what's going on at Gardner-Webb. Sign-up today!

[www.facebook.com/gardnerwebb](http://www.facebook.com/gardnerwebb)

### **LORI GILBERT DOTSON '01 B.S.**

and her husband, Chad, announce the birth of twins, Emily Rachel and Ethan Robert who were born Jan. 6, 2012. Emily weighed 5 lbs. and 7 and one half oz. Ethan weighed 7 lbs. and one fourth oz.

### **DENISE Q. PATTERSON '02 M.A.**

was named the chief academic officer for Hickory Public Schools (N.C.). She previously served in Lincoln County

Schools and was a teacher of the year, assistant principal of the year, and principal of the year. Most recently, Patterson was the associate superintendent with Union County Public Schools.

### **HOLLY ANN HAMRICK '03 B.A.**

was recently promoted to lead director/shift supervisor at FOX Charlotte TV.

### **CHAD MERRITT '03 B.S.; '04 IMBA and KATIE THRALL MERRITT '04 B.S.**

celebrate the birth of their first child, Cole, who was born on Jan. 28, 2012 and weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. In addition, Katie became a law partner at Coleman, Gledhil, Hargrave, and Merritt.

## GWU ALUM AND HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENT DR. JOHN ROBERTS PASSES AWAY

*Shelby Native was Decorated Army Veteran, Longtime Baptist Courier Editor, and University Friend*

With heavy hearts, the Gardner-Webb community recently bid farewell to a man who claimed that his time at Gardner-Webb guided him to fulfill his life's purpose. Dr. John Roberts, the retired editor of the Baptist Courier and recipient of an honorary doctorate from GWU, died Wednesday, Aug. 15. He was 85.

"It was on these grounds and within association with this institution that I found who I am, and what God would have me to do with my life," Roberts shared during a 1987 GWU commencement address. "No matter where I am or where I serve, Gardner-Webb is and remains a key influence, a major landmark in my life. That is simply who I am."

John Elgin Roberts was born in Shelby in 1926 and spent his formative years in the Kings Mountain community of El Bethel. He graduated from Bethware High School in 1944 and served as a sergeant of intelligence in the United States Army. He was stationed overseas in the Philippines during World War II and in Korea during the post-war U.S. occupation, where he received six medals and commendations.

Following his military service, Roberts began attending Gardner-Webb College, where he served as editor of the student-produced publication *The Pilot*. In 1949, he earned his associate's degree and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Furman University and a master's from Vanderbilt University. Roberts began his career as a teacher in the Gastonia (N.C.) City School district and later became director of promotions and associate director of public relations at Gardner-Webb. In 1965, he joined the staff of the Baptist Courier as associate editor and business manager, and was promoted to the editorial position in 1966. Following a 30-year career as editor, Roberts retired in 1996.

He was awarded honorary doctorates from Charleston Southern University, Furman University, and Gardner-Webb University. The Outstanding Male Graduate Award, given at Gardner-Webb commencement, was named in his honor in 1993. He was a recipient of the award in 1949. Roberts also served as a GWU Alumnus Trustee.

Roberts died at the Rolling Green Retirement Community in Greenville, S.C. following a brief illness. He is survived by his wife, Helen, six children, and eight grandchildren.

"Go from this place today in happy anticipation of finding joy, fulfillment, achievement, and success in life," he told the graduates of 1987. "Hope must never be abandoned. It is the bond that links the shortcomings of yesterday to the bright promise of tomorrow. Hope is the light that drives off despair. It is the healing balm that eases the pain of disappointment. Hold onto hope every day of your life."



### ALUMNUS PASSING

**PAUL "AARON" WILKINS '04 M.A.** passed away Aug. 6, 2012. He was a physical education teacher and athletic director at Flat Rock Middle School. Wilkins was a member of River Oaks Community Church. He is survived by his wife, four sons, parents, one sister, and grandparents.

### **KELLY BYRD-JOHNSON '05 M.A.**

recently began work as principal at Jonesville Elementary School. She previously served as principal at East Bend Elementary School for four years. Prior to that, she was assistant principal at West Yadkin for two years.

### **AUSTIN MORGAN '05 B.S. and ABBIE CRAGO MORGAN '06 B.A.**

moved from Charlotte to Colorado Springs in 2011. Austin opened a State Farm Insurance Agency in October 2011 while Abbie accepted a teaching position at Pikes Peak Community College. In July 2012, they welcomed twin boys, Garrett Thomas and Graham David, who joined their older brother, Max.

### **JESSICA GRIBBLE '06 B.S.**

recently accepted a middle school science teaching position at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind. She obtained a master's degree in teaching at Converse College in Spartanburg. She has deaf education and middle school science teaching certifications.

### **MANDY LOVELACE-GALLO '06 B.S.**

and her husband, Richard, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Sebastian, who was born on Sept. 15, 2011.

### **RYAN SMITH '06 M.A.**

was recently named principal at North Belmont Elementary School. He was a special education teacher with Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools for nine years. He later served as assistant principal at Cherryville Elementary and Southwest Middle Schools.

### **MATT THOMAS '06 B.A., '09 M.Div.**

and his wife, Kristen, welcomed their first child, Sophia Katherine Thomas, who was born on April 19, 2012.

### **JESSICA MICHELLE LANE '07 B.S.**

and J. Alexander Williams-Witzky were united in marriage on Aug. 10, 2012 at the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio. Jessica is employed by Asset Strategies Group, LLC. She also has two coaching positions in the Columbus area. Alex is a special education teacher at Marysville High School.

### **DONALD NORRIS, JR. '07 B.S.**

graduated from Gaston County Police Department's Citizen Police Academy on April 21, 2012. He is an adjunct professor for Gardner-Webb University and Gaston College. Donald is also owner of a tutoring business called Norris Tutoring. Donald

is enrolled in a Ph.D. program in general psychology through Capella University and will begin the dissertation phase in 2013. Contact Donald at [dnorris3@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:dnorris3@gardner-webb.edu).

### **CHERRY DAVIS-ADAMS '09 B.S.**

was recently named Lincoln County's social worker of the year for 2012. She has worked in healthcare for 20 plus years. Cherry is currently working on her master's degree through Liberty University. She is the mother of one son, Thomas Kaelin Adams "TK".

### **JOHN HART '09 M.A.**

was recently named assistant principal and athletic director at Brevard High School. He previously served as teacher, coach, and principal at North Henderson High School.

### **MILLIE HERSHENSON '09 M.DIV**

is program director for the Asheville Buncombe Community Ministry, Steadfast House. Steadfast House is a transitional residential facility for 26 homeless single women as well as seven moms and their children.

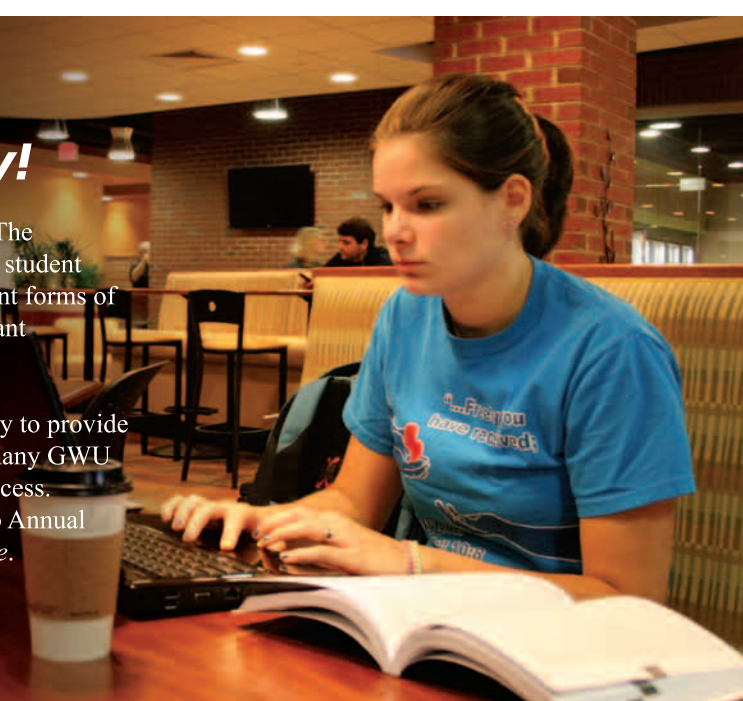
### **EDWARD "EDDIE" SHIFFLETTE, III '09 B.S.**

recently graduated cum laude from Campbell Law and passed the North Carolina bar examination in July.

## Pledge your Gift to the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund Today!

Each year more than 90% of Gardner-Webb's students receive financial aid. The Gardner-Webb Grant provides scholarship money to almost every University student (based on academic merit or financial need). This is one of the most significant forms of financial aid that each student receives...but where does a Gardner-Webb Grant come from?

**It comes from you!** Your gift to the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund goes directly to provide our students academic and need based scholarship assistance. And since so many GWU students take advantage of the grant, your support is vital to our students' success. To make a contribution or if you have any questions about the Gardner-Webb Annual Fund, please call (704) 406-4630 or go online at [www.gardner-webb.edu/give](http://www.gardner-webb.edu/give).



**JAMES HALL '10 M.A.**

was named associate dean of middle and upper schools at Lake Norman Christian School. He will also teach history and Bible classes.

**BLAKE DUDONIS '11 B.A.**

was hired as director of women's basketball operations in June 2012. DuDonis previously served as an assistant women's basketball coach at Merrimack College, located in North Andover, Mass.

**CRAIG S. SMITH '10 M.A.**

and his wife, Melissa, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Payson Lana, who was born on June 19, 2012. She weighed 7 lbs. and 14 oz., and is the first-born child and first grandchild for both families.

**BRIANNA MARIE THOMPSON '10**

and Stephen Bratton Clark were married on March 26, 2012 at Lindsay Plantation in Taylors, S.C. She is a manager with Dick's Sporting Goods and he serves in the United States Marine Corps.

**LEE A. ATWELL '11 MAcc**

was recently hired as a controller for Habitat for Humanity.



**KRISTIAN CHAMPION '11 B.A.**

is Ms. Wheelchair North Carolina 2012. She was also named first runner up at the 2013 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant held Aug. 11, 2012 in Providence, R.I.

# 2013 PASTORS' SCHOOL

MAY 27-29, 2013

**SPEAKERS:**

DR. GUY SAYLES, PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN ASHEVILLE, NC

DR. MITCH SIMPSON, PASTOR OF UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH, CHAPEL HILL, NC

DR. DANNY WEST, GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

**FOCUS:** LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY

To reserve your spot, call John Bridges at 704-406-3008



Watch Gardner-Webb's latest videos at [www.youtube.com/gardnerwebb1905](http://www.youtube.com/gardnerwebb1905).

## GWU Men's Basketball 2012 Schedule

11/9	University of North Carolina	Chapel Hill, NC	7:00 p.m.
11/10	COVENANT COLLEGE	Boiling Springs, NC	7:30 p.m.
11/14	LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY	Boiling Springs, NC	6:00 p.m.
11/15	DePaul University	Chicago, IL	8:30 p.m.
11/17	Iowa	Iowa City, IA	8:00 p.m.
11/20	Howard University	Cancun, MX	4:00 p.m.
11/21	Austin Peay/Western Carolina	Cancun, MX	4:00 p.m.
11/25	University of Illinois	Champaign, IL	4:00 p.m.
12/3	VIRGINIA WISE	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
12/5	Wofford College	Spartanburg, SC	7:00 p.m.
12/8	TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
12/15	THE CITADEL	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
12/18	East Carolina University	Greenville, NC	7:00 p.m.
12/22	SPALDING UNIVERSITY	Boiling Springs, NC	4:00 p.m.
1/5	Campbell University	Buies Creek, NC	3:30 p.m.
1/9	UNC-ASHEVILLE	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
1/12	High Point University	High Point, NC	7:00 p.m.
1/16	COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
1/19	RADFORD UNIVERSITY	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
1/23	Winthrop University	Rock Hill, SC	7:00 p.m.
1/30	Charleston Southern University	North Charleston, SC	7:30 p.m.
2/2	LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
2/6	Presbyterian College	Clinton, SC	7:00 p.m.
2/9	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
2/13	UNC-Asheville	Asheville, NC	7:00 p.m.
2/16	Coastal Carolina University	Conway, SC	7:00 p.m.
2/19	WINTHROP UNIVERSITY	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
2/23	Bracketbusters	TBA	TBA
2/27	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIV.	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
3/2	PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE	Boiling Springs, NC	4:30 p.m.
3/5 - 3/8	Big South Conference Tournament	Conway, SC	TBA

## GWU Women's Basketball 2012 Schedule

11/9	LIPSCOMB	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
11/12	TENESSEE TEMPLE	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
11/14	MONTREAT	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
11/17	UNC-Greensboro	Greensboro, NC	2:00 p.m.
11/20	Appalachian State	Boone, NC	6:00 p.m.
11/24	ASBURY	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
12/1	COASTAL CAROLINA	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
12/9	LONGWOOD	Boiling Springs, NC	3:00 p.m.
12/13	DAVIDSON	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
12/19	Wofford	Spartanburg, SC	3:00 p.m.
12/22	NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	Boiling Springs, NC	3:00 p.m.
12/28	Kennesaw State	Kennesaw, GA	6:00 p.m.
1/3	Longwood	Farmville, VA	7:00 p.m.
1/5	High Point	High Point, NC	3:30 p.m.
1/7	CAMPBELL	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
1/10	RADFORD	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
1/12	WINTHROP	Boiling Springs, NC	3:00 p.m.
1/19	UNC-Asheville	Asheville, NC	2:00 p.m.
1/24	Presbyterian	Clinton, SC	7:00 p.m.
1/26	Charleston Southern	Charleston, SC	2:00 p.m.
1/31	UNC-ASHEVILLE	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
2/7	PRESBYTERIAN	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
2/9	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	Boiling Springs, NC	4:30 p.m.
2/14	Campbell	Buies Creek, NC	7:00 p.m.
2/16	Coastal Carolina	Conway, SC	4:00 p.m.
2/21	HIGH POINT	Boiling Springs, NC	7:00 p.m.
2/23	LIBERTY	Boiling Springs, NC	3:00 p.m.
2/28	Winthrop	Rock Hill, SC	7:00 p.m.
3/2	Radford	Radford, VA	2:00 p.m.
3/5-10	Big South Conference Tournament	Conway, SC	TBD

Follow all the action on

FRANGERS

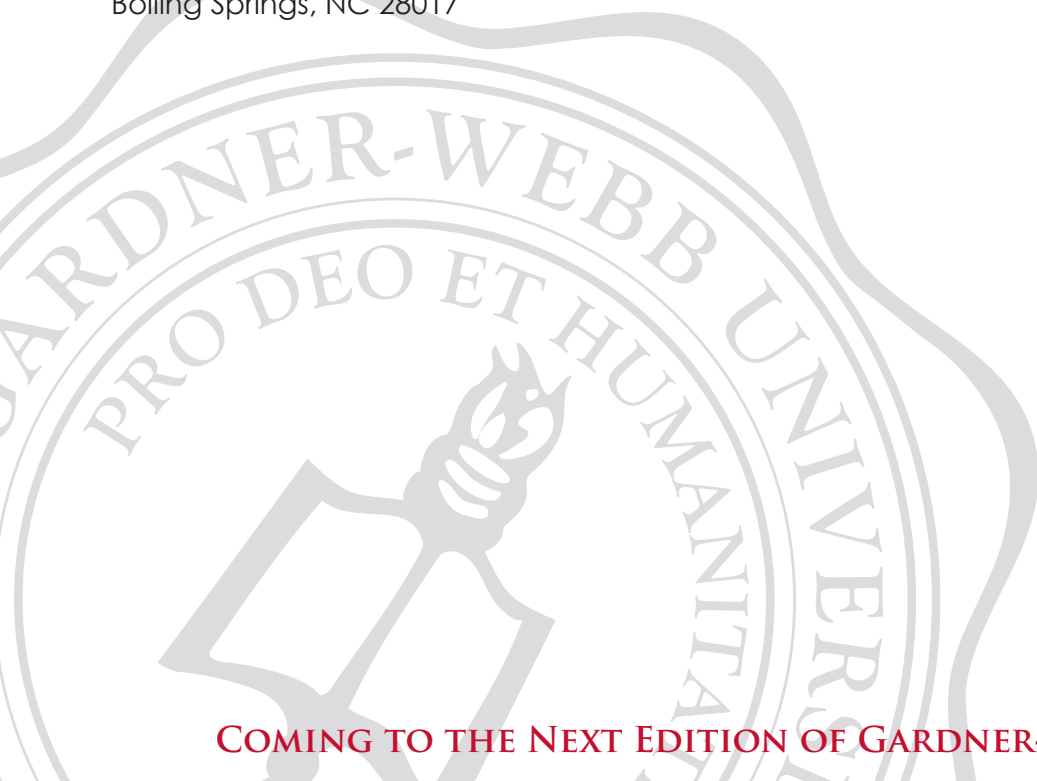
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