



Gardner-Webb University THE PILOT

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Homecoming '96:
Celebrating 90 Years**

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Admissions standards rise

by Melody Cannon
contributing writer

Gardner-Webb has stretched itself this year, both in quality and in numbers, as departments all over campus can testify. The school's new crop of students means higher standards for all, according to Ray Hardee, director of admissions.

The school has gradually raised its admissions standards over several years, Hardee said. This year's group of freshmen and transfers had SAT scores averaging nearly 1000. Raising of standards as well as re-centering of SAT scores has brought that average up from around 800 where it was a few years ago.

New students also boast ACT scores around 20 and high school GPA's of at least 3.0. Thirty-eight percent of the Gardner-Webb student body this year is students that were in the top ten percent of their high school class, Dr. Gil Blackburn, dean of academic affairs, said.

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Year of the Scholar



Coffee House Committee member Matt Norman enjoys a cup of coffee in front of the Morgue, the prospective site of the new on-campus coffee house being planned as part of the Year of the Scholar emphasis.

(Photo by Karen Brower)

CD-ROM allows GWU students to orbit Saturn

by Julie Gibson
staff writer

Six Gardner-Webb students have been given the opportunity to orbit Saturn aboard the Cassini Space Probe late next year.

Professor Tom English and his honors astronomy class put their signatures on an index card and sent it to a lab that is going to scan the signatures onto a CD-ROM. The Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, California is going to place the CD somewhere on the Cassini spacecraft during the final assembly stage.

The six students who will participate in this journey are Kime Lawson, Jacob Norris, Linda Sain, Christina Visalli, Amy Willis and Michelle Wood. GWU President Chris White and Dr. Tom Jones, Honors Program Director, also get to include their signatures on the CD-ROM.

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Jock to scholar:

GWU's Dean of Academic Affairs
wins prestigious Fulbright award

by Janet Jones
Editor

"This may sound strange for the academic dean, but I only came to Gardner-Webb because it had a football team."

These are words from none other than Gardner-Webb's own academic dean, Gil Blackburn.

Blackburn grew up on a tobacco farm in Surry County, North Carolina. He said that he had not had a lot of intellectual stimulation before going to college. However, after gradu-

GWU's year action-packed

by Karen Brower
staff writer

From an on-campus coffee house to a year-long film festival, the "Year of the Scholar" is bringing some exciting changes to GWU. "Scholarship" is the campus buzzword of the year.

According to Dr. Les Brown, a GWU biology professor who first proposed the emphasis for the year, the Year of the Scholar is intended to "ratchet up the scholarship level on campus." It began as an idea during Writing Center Director Dr. Gayle Price's annual Writing Across the Curriculum faculty seminar, and has developed into a year-long theme for Gardner-Webb University.

Several faculty-student committees formed last spring to develop ways to carry out the Year of the Scholar theme. Many of their plans are already underway.

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ating from then two-year Gardner-Webb, Blackburn went on to get bachelor's and master's degrees from Wake Forest and was on the dean's list every semester but one.



"I did read a lot--reading's been one of my passions," Blackburn said. "The highest grade I ever made in high school was a B minus."

"I had these illusions (when I was in high school) that Duke or Wake Forest

(See "Blackburn" on page 7)