

# New professor speaks the language

Angela D. Sanders  
*special to the Pilot*

Gardner-Webb University has a new faculty member that had to learn English as a foreign language.

Nathalie Davaut, the new french professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, is from Issy-les-Moulineaux, a town of about 50,000 people just outside of Paris, France.

When asked what attract-

ed her to Gardner-Webb University, she said that the "nice, Christian atmosphere" was an important contributing factor. Her previous job was at a school which was "quite secular."

"I was looking for a more

religious atmosphere," Davaut said.

She has taught in both small and large universities and likes the small university setting better because "you get to have a more personal relationship with your students."

Ms. Davaut uses a teaching style which has been used for years at other universities. It is called the communicative approach. This technique involves frequent use of the target language. English is rarely spoken in Davaut's class discussions except to possibly explain a concept. This encourages the students to learn quickly because of the frequent use of the language.

Interaction among the students is very important to Davaut. She tries to communicate with her students by asking them to "relate things to their personal lives." Ms. Davaut believes the fact that she is from France is a definite plus for her students. Because she is familiar with the area and the culture, "it helps make the learning process more exciting for students."

"Teaching is not just a job to me, it's a passion," Davaut said.

Students' studies at school and their development as people is important to her. "I realize that college is a huge transition for most students."

Family and friends are very important to her, also. Her parents and brother are home in Issy-les-Moulineaux. "It's always a pleasure to visit them. It's not enough to just talk on the phone or write."

She loves to travel but noted that she doesn't have as much time to travel as she would like. She's seen many places in the United States, but wishes she had more time to travel abroad. She also likes to listen to music in her spare time. However, her favorite hobby is reading. She said, "if I don't read for more than a week, I'll get sick."

Davaut wants her students to know that she's available if they need to talk to her. Students can receive help both inside and outside the classroom. She said, "I love helping people out."

## Blevins offers international view for Gardner-Webb

Suzanna Saadi  
*Pilot staff*

Re-entering American culture again for the first time in the past 15 years, new religion professor Dr. Kent Blevins and his family face new challenges, goals and environment.

Before coming to Gardner-Webb, Blevins was a professor for three years at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague in the Czech Republic. Prior to that he was a professor in Portugal at the Portuguese Baptist

Theological Seminary.

In addition to his teaching position in Portugal, Blevins also pastored two Portuguese-speaking churches during his 12-year stay, which began in 1983.

Blevins earned a B.A. at Wake Forest University. He received a M.Div. and a Ph.D. in ethics from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

According to Blevins, he loves, "seeing new places, new sights, new cultures - it's interesting."

Blevins' wife, Debbie, shares his view in that she,

"loves contacts with students and people" as she and their three children Nicholas, 14, Jessica, 12, and Timothy, 7, have traveled with him internationally.

Debbie currently works for Melvin Lutz in the office of academic advising.

In light of the change of scene and challenge of being a professor at Gardner-Webb, Blevins likes the area and people of his new workplace and hopes to "open windows and different perspectives" for students from what he has learned both in study and abroad.

# YOTS

Presents

# Apocalypse Now

A Francis Ford Coppola. movie

Featuring:  
Martin Sheen  
Dennis Hopper  
Harrison Ford

October 7

7:30 p.m.

111 Communication Studies Hall

## YOTS lecture to feature Parker

Brooke Buchanan  
*Pilot staff*

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Hamrick auditorium, Dr. David Parker will be conducting a Year of the Scholar lecture concerning medieval London and his upcoming academic book *Commonplace*.

*Commonplace* is about books written in England during the Middle Ages and Renaissance period by common people. These books contained things such as recipes, religious stories and prayers. Sometimes there were even books on opinions

of politics, religion and also on what was happening at the time.

Along with the description and literary analysis of the text, Dr. Parker looks at what the authors reveal about the people, places and times of the 1400-1500.

Since the books were written before the printing press was invented, people had to make and print the book themselves or pay a large sum of money to do it for them. Either way, all of the books were done by hand.

Dr. Parker received special training on how to read these hard-to-read texts during graduate school that would help him in his research for *Commonplace*.

*Commonplace* is scheduled to be published by March 1999. It will only be available to college libraries and to certain medievalist who are interested in the subject.

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