

## News

# Students' project goes up in smoke

Katie Main  
Pilot Staff

Paula Qualls's "Studies in the Pentateuch" class brought three fire trucks to the bottom of the Dover Campus Center on Nov. 11 after a simulated tabernacle — set up in the Ritch Banquet Hall — caught fire.

"Our assignment was to create the experience of being in the tabernacle," Junior Cody Sanders said. "We'd been working on it for several weeks, and we were very excited about our plans. We'd been setting up since 9:15 that morning and our presentation was at 1:15."

The group included students Sanders, Reid Austin, Hans Koschmann, Laura Manning, Amanda Miller, Megan Miller, Natalie Murphy, Megan Temple and Nathaniel White. The students had constructed a life-size (16 ft. by 6.5

ft.) version of the Hebrew tabernacle they had studied in class, following meticulous plans to ensure accuracy.

"When you entered the Ritch Banquet Hall, you were in the outer court of the tabernacle, complete with the altar of sacrifice and bronze basin," Sanders said. "In the back, the actual tabernacle was constructed from drop-cloths hanging from the ceiling tops."

At 1:15, Qualls and the rest of the class waited outside the door as the group made last-minute preparations.

"Our plans were to give the class a tour of the entire tabernacle and let them see the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place and look at the furniture inside," Sanders said, "One of those pieces of furniture being the lamp stand."

In keeping with the theme, the group members wore traditional Hebrew robes they had sewn themselves. The group lit

the candles inside the curtained area and turned out all the electric lights in the banquet hall "for dramatic effect."

"We were literally one minute away from letting the class in when a back wall of the tabernacle fell down," Sanders said.

As several students reattached the sheet to the ceiling, "all of the movement in and out of the tabernacle caused the side sheet to sway back and forth, and it grazed the top of the lamp stand."

The sheet caught fire and rapidly spread to the surrounding sheets. Sanders heard classmate Amanda Miller yell, "Oh no!" and turned to look back at the tabernacle.

"I looked back and I could see the bright orange flame flickering through the Holy of Holies," he said.

Sanders began leaping to the ceiling in an effort to tear down the sheets. "As fast as I

could get the sheets down, the fire was spreading to the ceiling, and the sheets were falling apart," he said.

Junior Hans Koschmann was across the room when the fire started.

"Ironically, I was in charge of the burnt sacrifices," he said, "so I was over by the table getting my presentation together."

After seeing the fire, he was making his way toward the door when a visiting parent handed him a fire extinguisher.

"He said, 'Go use it,'" Koschmann said.

The RA training he received this summer aided him in effectively wielding the extinguisher.

"I kept saying in my mind, 'Don't shoot at the flames; shoot at the base of the fire!'"

Two cafeteria workers then ran out of the kitchen beside the banquet hall to help.

Qualls, whose 5-year-old daughter Emily was with her,

stayed calm throughout the ordeal.

"I just kept thinking, 'How much damage? How much damage?'" Qualls said.

The fire alarm sounded about five minutes after the fire was put out, and Campus Police Chief Barry Johnson arrived soon after.

About 20 minutes later, three fire trucks pulled up, and the firefighters helped clear the smoke from the building. Eight burned ceiling tiles were replaced, the tabletop holding the lamp stand was scorched and burn marks were left on the floor. Though the fire alarm went off, the group was able to put the fire out before the sprinkler system went into effect.

"It was a fun experience — I can say that 'cause nobody got hurt," Koschmann said. "Kinda disappointing, though, cause we put a lot of work into the project and we didn't get to present it at all."

## Tichenor granted award

Sean Hubbard  
Pilot staff

Charles Tichenor, business professor at Gardner-Webb University, has recently added to his collection of accomplishments.

The recently retired Chairman of the Board of the Champale Sparkling Beverage Company was awarded the Service Excellence Award from the business department. The professors in the department grant this award to a business faculty member in recognition of exemplary service to the school of business.

Over the past year, Tichenor has been involved in many things that made him eligible for the award. He taught at least four courses with different preparations each semester and donated time and money to the business department. In June 2003, Tichenor directed a tour to Switzerland for the Graduates in Executive Management (GEM) program to lecture and provide 17 GWU

students a nine-day international trip.

Tichenor has many accomplishments both inside and outside the realm of business.

At age 19, he became a U.S. Naval Air Corps officer and was ordered to a combat area in China. He is also the holder of two gold and one silver United States championship medals in tennis and racquet competition.

Tichenor didn't become a teacher until Duke University reviewed his doctoral dissertation and Berne University conferred his degree at age 70.

Tichenor gladly accepts his newest award of excellence from the GWU business department.

"I am very pleased," said Tichenor. "The faculty here work as a team and I'm happy to be a part of the team."

The former CEO has also brought many speakers into his classroom this semester to expand student academic breadth and quality.

"He brings to the classroom not only textbook experi-

tise, but also real life experiences," said Jim Maxwell, one of Tichenor's students. "He has really done a lot for the business program."

One of the reasons behind his being awarded the honor is the GEM program, which Tichenor created at GWU just two years ago. This program gives students a chance to be instructed by former CEOs and Superior Court judges who have been long-time members of the business world. GEM has expanded, after only two years to include both GOAL and MBA students.

The program requires more out of students than being just business majors. Students must carry a 3.0 grade-point-average, write three extra case papers per semester and pay a one-time fee of \$2,750 to take a 10-day trip to a Swiss University. Prior to graduation, the GEM students receive the opportunity to meet current CEO's at a two-day retreat at a resort in North Carolina.

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