

# Staff connection brings \$1M gift to div school

By Nancy-Pat Dire  
Pilot advisor

The Gardner-Webb University divinity school has an answer to the question, "How far can a million dollars go?"

For some students in the Master of Divinity program, it can go to Israel, Greece, Turkey, or other countries with biblical sites. For others, it can go as far as South America or Africa.

The destination depends on the needs of the recipients of new scholarships created by a gift of more than \$1 million from the estate of Joyce Earnhardt to the M. Christopher White School of Divinity.

"It's really a tremendous legacy to leave," said Steve Varley, as-

sistant to the president for development, of the gift from a woman with no outright connection to GWU.

Earnhardt, who died last year, became interested in Gardner-Webb because of Dr. Bob Shepherd, who served as a pastor of her church, First Baptist of Mooresville. Shepherd had served as director of development at Gardner-Webb. There is an endowed chair in his name in the divinity school.

Her association with Shepherd gave Earnhardt, a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College, a desire to assist the School of Divinity, said Varley. She was particularly interested in missions, perhaps because of her love of travel. She had visited places all over the world, he said.

When Tony Houston, executor of Earnhardt's estate, approached the divinity school about setting up the William Arthur and Cora Honeycutt/Joyce Ann Earnhardt Endowed Scholarship, it was offered as a typical scholarship. However, Dr. Charles Bugg saw it as an opportunity to revive a dormant opportunity for students, and suggested an alternative way to use the fund, he said.

Bugg, dean of the divinity school, believed it was important to bring back two courses offered in the catalog: Bible Travel and Experience, and Mission Immersion Experience. The former is a trip of 10 to 12 days to Israel and other nations mentioned in the Bible. Students have lectures while overseas.

The latter will provide stu-

dents with the opportunity to live in another country, thus becoming quite familiar with the people, language and culture. Students complete formal studies before and after the trip. Dr. Donald Berry will be the faculty coordinator for these courses.

These had not been offered for approximately five years, said Bugg, because of a lack of funds to assist students. The Earnhardt scholarships will permit the divinity school to pay for half the cost of the BTE class, and for a portion of the MIE fee.

"This is a tremendous benefit to our students, to have the experience of living in different cultures around the world," said Bugg.

He said students have told him that the Bible has greater meaning when they return from a BTE trip.

"Instead of reading about the road to Jericho, they've been on it," he said.

Varley believes the Earnhardt gift will have a positive impact on the quality of ministers who graduate from the divinity school. More than that, he said, it will eventually lift the quality of ministry throughout the world.

The exact amount of the gift isn't known yet, because the estate has not been fully settled.

"We expect it to be well over \$1 million," said Varley.

Specifics about applying for and disbursement of scholarships has not been settled yet, he said. But that hasn't stopped travel plans from moving forward. There will be a two-week mission experience in Belize during Christmas break, said Bugg.

## Colleagues, have chance to bid Brown fond farewell

By Ali Cunningham  
Pilot staff writer

Les Brown, a biology professor at Gardner-Webb University, has retired after teaching for 40 years at the school, one of the longest careers at GWU.

His wife, Dr. Joyce Brown, recently retired from the English department. Between the two, they taught for almost 80 years at GWU.

Brown will be missed here, especially by colleague and friend, Dr. Tom Jones. Together, the two professors not only shared an interest in natural science and biology, but they also shared in providing new experiences to students.

"It's just incredible," said Jones. "Whether it was the class we taught in the Southwest desert, or one of the many hikes around the river, there were some experience that was new to someone."

It took a while for Jones to come up with his favorite story about Brown, because there are so many. One of his favorite memories is golf.

Both are right handed, but Brown hits the ball to the left, said Jones, adding that he hits the ball to the right.

"So we would see each other at the tee and on the green," said Jones. "Other than that, we were in the woods."

Students will miss Brown's dry sense of humor.

Brown will now have more time to enjoy things like golf.

"I will be reading a lot, and pursuing interests in pottery and creative writing," he said.

Brown and his wife will also spend more time in their cottage, where they hope to look more into the history, culture and people of the Appalachian Mountains.

There will be a retirement dinner for him tonight at 6:00 in Ritch Banquet Hall.

### We want you.

It's not too late to join the Pilot staff as a reporter or photographer.

See your name in print and build your portfolio! Stop by the Pilot office (CHS) at noon MWF.

## GWU hires marching band director

By Ali Cunningham  
Pilot staff writer

Next year, the Gardner-Webb University community will hear the sounds of the first marching band at a GWU football game since the 1980s.

Sid Haton was hired last summer as the athletic band director. He had been working as the director of music industry at South Carolina State University.

Haton is not new to marching bands, and has experience in starting up a marching band from the ground up. He is confident that the band will

sound and look great, even though it will come together in a short period of time.

"It may be our first year," said Haton, "but when we come out of that tunnel, no one will know it."

His office in Hamrick Hall, but don't expect to find him there too often. He is spending this year recruiting students for the new marching band.

In addition to new band members, there will be a new band uniform. Haton said the uniforms will be a basic black. White uniforms get dirty too easily, he said, and the black uniforms will

give the band a menacing, dark, strong feel and look.

"Visual identity will set you apart," said Haton. "What good are little details that can't be seen from a hundred yards away? It is like when you look at a prop on the stage; if you are close up to it then you can see how bad the paint job is, but from the audience it looks great."

Naturally, there are a few bugs to be worked out, such as uniform and instrument storage, as well as a practice facility and time. But those issues will all be hashed out by next August.

## Charlotte Bobcats now provides opportunity for students seeking marketing experience

By Rebecca Clark  
Pilot staff writer

Attention students! Interested in free tickets, CDs and a great experience?

Then look no farther than Charlotte Bobcats Arena.

Cornelius Wright, marketing manager for Bobcats Sports & Entertainment, is looking for people to join the arena's street

marketing team.

Students would be involved in grass-roots marketing for upcoming events and concerts, and hand out fliers, posters and other promotional materials.

In return, team members receive exclusive rewards, such as tickets to arena events, and glean valuable work experience. Anyone can participate, but it would be particularly useful to stu-

dents in the business program.

"Street team members are able to share their marketing ideas and gain experience in grass-roots marketing and promotions," said Wright.

He explained that it is not an internship in the traditional sense, but it still offers students many opportunities and benefits.

For more information, contact at [cwright@bobcats.com](mailto:cwright@bobcats.com).



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Family

The Lindsay family, from left, Susan, Christina, Tyler, Ryan and Paul will perform Sept. 14.

## Musical family to share gifts in Blanton Auditorium show

Rebecca Clark  
Pilot Staff Writer

For some, music is a way of life, and the Lindsay family is an example of that. The musically gifted group of five seems to have stepped straight from the classic movie "The Sound of Music" and will perform at Gardner-Webb University on Thursday, Sept. 14.

The family consists of parents Susan and Paul, and three children: Tyler, 11, who plays the trumpet and piano; Ryan, 9, on the trombone and bass; and 6-year-old Christina on tuba and drums. Paul plays the trumpet and Susan is on the French horn and piano.

The family pays a wide repertoire of music consisting of a brass quintet, jazz quintet and a kids' jazz trio.

The Lindsays will appear in the HBO special "The Music in Me" this fall. It will feature Tyler on the trumpet.

He has played with musicians such as Wynton Marsalis, Chick Corea and John Faddis.

This unique musical group will perform in Blanton Auditorium at 8 p.m. The show will be free and open to the public. A with a good-will offering taken.

For more information about the Lindsay Family, check out [www.lindsay-jazz.com](http://www.lindsay-jazz.com)

## Two GWU officials die over summer

By Sheyhsh Littledeave  
Pilot Copy Editor

Gardner-Webb University suffered the loss of two staff members in June when Bruce Rabon and David Boan died within a week of each other.

Both men were active at Gardner-Webb and served to make it better for the community, faculty and students.

Boan passed away after being seriously injured in an automobile accident, according to a GWU press release.

Boan, who was promoted to vice president of development in March, was a GWU graduate and held a bachelor of arts degree in religion.

He earned a master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry from Drew University.



David Boan



Bruce Rabon

Boan's involvement in community and civic activities included Hospice, Boiling Springs Rotary Club, Habitat for Humanity and the United Way.

Rabon, assistant vice president for development in Religious Studies, died after a battle with cancer. Rabon worked at Gardner-Webb since 1993.

Other information provided by the university said that he was a member of First Baptist Church of Shelby, and director of Christian Service Organization of Gardner-Webb University. He had served as a trustee of Meredith University and Gardner-Webb.

Rabon had been on the nominations committee for the North Carolina Baptist Convention, and served on a number of committees for the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association.

## Claims of accuracy 'Da Vinci Code' major fault

By Maira Garcia  
The University Star (Texas State U.-San Marcos)

(U-WIRE) SAN MARCOS, Texas - Truths in Dan Brown's best-selling novel, "The Da Vinci Code," may be more difficult to find, especially with a misleading preface according to Alan Pizer.

Pizer, a lecturer in the art and design department at Texas State University, gave a lecture titled "An Art Historian Searches for Truth" at the San Marcos Activity Center Wednesday night to an audience of about 70 people.

In his lecture, Pizer examined the connections between early Christian art and paganism, and how they were related in Brown's book.

"That's part of the paganism issue -- where there's this hidden 'sinister' about paganism," Pizer said. "But hopefully I communicated that this was the prime vehicle for which Christianity could be communicated visually."

Pizer noted what he considered to be inaccuracies in the book concerning Christianity and its development.

"Christianity did absorb a vocabulary of images that spoke to an audience, which initially, (the Roman Empire) dearly wanted to convert," Pizer said in his lecture.

An inaccuracy that Pizer emphasized concerned Constantine, the emperor who made Christianity legal in

the Roman Empire in 313 AD. Pizer said that Brown essentially used Constantine as a "whipping boy" for wiping out the sacred feminine, which is at the center of Brown's book.

"There were multiple main points and that's why I did the quotations, because I recognized I had to break it up," Pizer said.

Pizer felt that Brown's preface, which states that all descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in the novel were accurate, was the major fault in the book. Although the book is labeled as fiction, Pizer said that the preface is what is troublesome because there are many inaccuracies, despite what it says.

"Part of it was recognizing the power of images and the danger of making bland or generic associations that you don't substantiate," Pizer said.

Studio art senior Shelly Nottingham felt that the disproving of facts in the book was informative.

"I like when he came right out and said ... that the Priory of Zion did not exist, because I didn't know that before," Nottingham said. "I think what was really good was how Dan Brown tried to accuse Constantine and Christians of hijacking the sacred feminine. (Pizer) pointed out the historical facts."

However, some such as Shelby Stewart, an an-

thropology sophomore, felt Pizer should have stressed the art more.

"I thought he spent too much (time) on the book," Stewart said. "He should have highlighted the art. I felt he kind of stuck with ... disproving the book, but it was still very informative."

The event was sponsored by the San Marcos Unitarian Universalist Church, which wanted to provide a dialogue for discovering truth. CC Liedecke, the director of religious education for the Unitarian Universalists, said the organization believes in having a basis or starting point for such discussions.

"We have seven principles and one of the principles is that we believe in the reasonable search for truth and meaning in our lives," Liedecke said. "And that's where this comes in. (The lecture) plays off that principle where we want others to be able to search for truth and meaning in their lives."

While some people in the audience may have shared different views from those expressed by Pizer, he felt that the dialogue was constructive. "I thought they were very congenial," Pizer said. "I didn't get a sense that I really tread over anyone's beliefs, but those that disagreed with me -- some of whom disagreed strongly -- were very respectful and recognized that there was more than one way to see the equation."