

4-25-90

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12/98

# THE PILOT



## GARDNER-WEBB COLLEGE

Wednesday, April 25, 1990 No. 12

BOILING SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA

### Senior Class Gift

By Kathy Henson  
Co-Editor

"Timeless Beginnings" is the theme of the 1990 Senior Class Gift Campaign to endow a GW student scholarship. It will be the first of its kind and will provide financial assistance to worth returning full-time students who need aid.

Senior senator Christy Hambright says, "...in the middle of your freshman or sophomore year, you look around and see people [who say] 'I'm having a problem...at home...and I don't know if I can come back.' These are people that already like GW, and they want to stay here...we want to give them a chance to come back."

The goal of \$10,000 will come from student pledges. The president and four vice-presidents have made a challenge pledge of \$1,000 if the goal is reached.

Tracy Jessup, Assistant to the President, is optimistic: "I think there are enough seniors who care about the school, and...that will cause them to want to become a part of this, because it is a historic gift and it's going to be unique to the class of 1990."

To make it easy on students just out of

college, a five-year pledge has been established. Participating students will donate \$10 before graduation, then \$10 each year for the next four years. Then, at the five-year reunion, students will donate \$50, for an overall total of \$100. Hambright said, "We see it as students giving back to students, and it just happens that we can do it this way."

The first partial scholarship is set to be awarded in 1995, and hopefully the endowment will grow to eventually provide a full scholarship. It will be awarded to a student with at least a 2.5 GPA, who would not be able to return to GW without financial aid. Hambright said, "It's a timeless gift that gives new beginnings to individuals each year." Jessup added, "If they can make the load a little easier on someone else, then they've left their mark. As long as there's a Gardner-Webb College, there will be a 1990 Senior Class Scholarship."

Interested students should fill out a pledge card and return it, along with the \$10 gift, to the Office of the President by April 27, 1990. Pledges may be given in honor of people and, if indicated on the pledge card, a card acknowledging the gift will be sent to that person.

For more information, contact senior class officers or senators or Tracy Jessup.

### Franklin Update

By Kathy Henson  
Co-Editor

Dick Franklin has resigned from his position as Dean of Academic Affairs at Gardner-Webb. He came here in June of 1988 and will leave some time after graduation at the end of this semester. He will be taking a new post at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, which has 3,800 undergraduate students and is committed to becoming the last word in Baptist higher education. He says, "Since I've been in Christian higher education, I've had an interest in working at an institution of that stature...it's an opportunity to be...at a university that wants to maintain its commitment to Baptist and Christian higher education. So it [leaving] has nothing to do with being unhappy. It's just an opportunity that I felt I could not turn down."

Franklin feels he has accomplished a lot in his two years at Gardner-Webb, but he stresses that he can't take all of the credit for it. "We've put together a good team of folks that work together," he says. Some changes that have been made include making security available 24 hours a day; putting up swings and benches; remodeling residence halls and the DCC; reformatting orientation; and increasing visitation. "There's a lot of excitement here about what's taking place and that's part of my reservations in leaving. There's so much good going on. I had to sit down and decide...what's best for Dick Franklin at this point."

Franklin emphasizes that he's enjoyed his time at GWC. He says, "I've enjoyed my relationship with the students here...I've tried to keep an open-door policy. I've tried to make myself accessible to students. That's the only reason there's a need for this job...to try to be responsive to students."

### CONGRATULATIONS GRADS



### Observatory Grand Opening Delayed

By Dawn E. Camp  
Co-Editor

Attention would-be stargazers! The grand opening of the Craven E. Williams Observatory has been rescheduled for early next semester (probably September).

The opening, originally scheduled for April 28, was postponed due to the recent rains and construction problems. According to Tom English, GWC Astronomy professor, a group of volunteers works every Saturday (weather permitting) on the building. "We put the dome on this past Saturday (April 7). That should have been done a month ago."

The final blow to the April opening came when the contractor who will put in the sheet-rock could not come until April 16. "The observatory could be ready by the end of May," English said, "but we decided to hold the opening until the fall so that students would be here. This way we have all

summer to get ready. We can align the telescope and get the accessories in. It will look nice and be fully operational.

"The observatory will be relatively small. Our telescope has a 14-inch mirror inside." The diameter of the largest telescopic mirror in North Carolina is 36 inches. The larger, national facilities have 90- to 200-inch diameter mirrors.

In time the observatory will have another obstacle to overcome--light pollution. English said, "There are not many light-free areas left in the world today. That has taken a lot of the romance out of astronomy and out of the sky. People haven't been that responsible about lighting. For example, you can stand at the observatory and read from the lights at the LYCC. We need to come up with a plan for adequate lighting that will not be so imposing."

Possible solutions to the light problem include using lights which can be filtered through the telescope (such as low pressure sodium lights), planting a barrier of trees, and redirecting or shielding existing lights. "Light pollution is sort of a second problem that only a small group is concerned about. It's not quite like the ozone layer."



### Exam Week

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