



The Pilot



GARDNER-WEBB COLLEGE

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BOILING SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA

Gil Blackburn: Dean of Academic Affairs

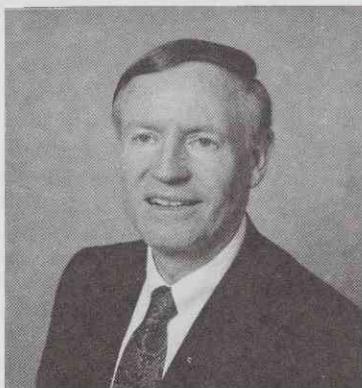
By Dawn E. Camp
Managing Editor

When Vice President for Student Development Richard Franklin resigned last April, some restructuring took place in the administrative ranks. This vice presidency was combined with Dr. Frank Bonner's role as vice president for academic affairs. Bonner, who is now vice president of academic and student affairs, is still responsible for long-range planning, over-all design, administrative budgeting, and evaluation. The position of dean of student affairs was filled by Jerome Scott. In the September 6 edition of *The Pilot*, Dean Scott indicated his impressions of his role in student affairs.

The duties of dean of academics were assumed by then Associate Dean Gil Blackburn. He said, "What I do is handle the routine, day-to-day problems which get to the dean's office, and I assist academic departments in their work."

Blackburn, who attended GWC from 1958-60, credits the school with helping him begin to appreciate the academic life. As a student, Blackburn was a member of the football team. He said, "I came to Gardner-Webb still hoping to be discovered and hoping to get a football scholarship to a larger school." In 1960, he was a member of SGA serving as president of Decker dormitory. These days as a student at GWC have given Blackburn a large base of experiences to draw from in his attempt to work with and understand students. He said, "I want to establish a rapport with students because it's hard for students to identify with an academic dean...I am an advocate of the students."

In 1968, he returned to GWC as an instructor of history. In addition to his duties as professor, he taught in the GOAL program. In 1982, he was promoted to full professor of history and director of the master of arts program. In 1983, Blackburn was named Teacher of the Year in recogni-



tion of his outstanding teaching abilities. "I probably enjoyed being a professor more than anything else. I regret the loss of daily contact with students. [This daily contact] has given me insight into what we need."

Blackburn is also involved in community activities. He is currently a deacon at Boiling Springs Baptist Church where he has served as chairman of the deacons on two separate occasions. He is actively involved with the Boy Scouts as well. He served as scout master for 10 years. During that time, 10 members of his troop reached the level of Eagle Scout.

As dean, Blackburn speaks of renewing the Gardner-Webb spirit which he describes as "taking [the] resources we have at hand and getting the absolute maximum benefit from them. We need to work on becoming more mature as a senior college. We must work on establishing an identity and work on attracting the best students and the best faculty."

"The Gardner-Webb that I graduated from was a 'poor-man's college,' yet it did the job that needed doing. We can still take eager students, dedicated professors, and books and work miracles. We have worked miracles before, and we can do it again."

Blackburn stresses the importance of "making sure that students take something away from Gardner-Webb that will remain

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Changes Come to GWC Athletics

By Dawn E. Camp
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, October 2, GWC head football coach Woody Fish stepped down as athletic director in order to concentrate his efforts on coaching the team, off to a disappointing 0-5 start this season.

"I certainly enjoyed being athletic director," Fish said. "However, with the move to a comprehensive all-sports conference and, more recently, the move to the NCAA Division II, I cannot devote the time that is necessary to my chosen career, that of being a football coach. It [his resignation] will give me more time to spend with the team."

President Chris White, who accepted Fish's resignation, said, "Woody has made a completely unselfish decision displaying an incredible amount of wisdom. He has provided valuable leadership to our athletic program during his tenure as athletic director, and the college is extremely grateful. In accepting his resignation as athletic director, I wish to affirm my faith in Woody Fish as our football coach."

Baseball coach Clyde Miller has been named interim athletic director, an acknowledgement of Miller's experience and leadership ability. The process has already begun to seek a permanent athletic director, but it is not known, at this time, if the position will be separate or linked with a coaching position on campus.

Another football-related change was the October 1 dismissal of the Bulldogs' defensive coordinator Greg Taylor, who said, "I was told my release had to do with philosophical differences with the head coach" and with "lack of support for the head coach."

Taylor said he had never been confronted before the time of his firing. "I was never

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Symposium Held

By David Bridges
Special to *The Pilot*

The third annual high school business symposium, held on Oct. 4, brought students from 7 area high schools together for a day of lectures and discussions on business and educational issues that affect us today.

The symposium, sponsored by The Broyhill Academy, The Broyhill School of Management, and Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), included lectures from Carolyn Mints (WBTV), James Butner (Cone Mills), and Tom Smith (Food Lion).

There was also a question-and-answer session with a panel consisting of Mints, Butner, Drs. Glen Bottoms, and Don Kemerait.

Butner, vice president in charge on Personnel and Human Resources at Cone Mills, spoke on today's textile industry. Mints, community affairs director for WBTV, spoke on the importance of making a good impression.

When the lectures were through, the students went to the OMG music building for lunch. Tom Smith, president and CEO of Food Lion spoke about his company and the kind of people that make good employees. Most interesting was his description of a profit-sharing plan that Food Lion has developed to increase the in-

centives for its employees to achieve efficiency. Under the plan, a meat-cutter, for example, can accumulate nearly one-half million dollars in retirement funds after a 20-year career.

Directors for this year's symposium were Dr. Stan Smedley and professor Jim Hartman. Smedley said, "I think the symposium provides an opportunity for area high school students to learn about the free enterprise system and to expose themselves to the Gardner-Webb campus."

Hartman said, "I think the symposium was the best we've ever had. Carolyn Mints and Jim Butner related especially well to the students. My only regret in that more students didn't have a chance to come and listen to them."