



The Pilot



GARDNER-WEBB COLLEGE

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Gardner-Webb College community*

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A Million to Improve Campus

By Dawn E. Camp

Editor

One Gardner-Webb alumnus has returned to make a million dollar splash on campus.

The gift has been made by a couple who have asked not to be identified at this time. The gift, made in the form of a pledge over a period of several years, begins with a \$200,000 initial grant. According to GWC President Chris White, it is the wish of the donors that the money be used to build a lake and a bell tower.

White said that this pledge is the first gift the couple has ever made to the college. It is also only the second million dollar gift that GWC has received during its history. (The other was the Dover Foundation's contribution to the renovation of the campus center last year.)

He added that the couple "wanted to do something that would be of lasting influence, that would not be done otherwise and something that will draw attention to the college."

"I am pleased with the gift. I am somewhat surprised that we were able to get such a significant amount as the first gift."

A lake and a bell tower, White said, have been in the college's long-range plan for

over 4 years. This master plan, commissioned by the Board of Trustees, is a working, comprehensive campus design that allows for systematic growth and development.

Several areas on campus were identified in this plan as good places for the addition of "water features," White said. He added that these features are attractive elements on many college campuses.

**"... Donors have in mind
an idyllic setting."**

--President Chris White

The proposed five acre lake will cover an area about the size of 6 football fields, stretching from the Boiling Spring garden area to the north side of Spangler Stadium.

"The donors have in mind an idyllic setting," White said. The total project, he said, would include building the lake, bell tower, walking trails, picnic shelter, and, eventual-

ly, a perimeter road on the far side of the lake.

Even now that the pledge has been made, there are some obstacles which may stand in the way of the lake. The Boiling Springs town sewer line, which runs beside the creek bed, must be rerouted, White said. He added that, at this point, the cost of moving the line is unknown.

Another potential problem is getting governmental permission to build the lake. "It will take some time to get all of the permits," White said.

It may be a long time before this lake becomes reality. "We are not in the business of borrowing money for this project," said White. "We will build as much as money allows and then wait until more comes."

When asked about the importance of a lake in relation to other needs on campus, White pointed out that gifts of this size often lead to other contributions.

"I fully expect the next major gifts to be in the area of scholarships," he added. He also indicated his optimism about the efforts of the development staff to increase endowed scholarships and other programatic funds.

Noel Hall to be Constructed

Special to The Pilot

A donation given to the college recently will enable GWC to begin construction of an additional academic building.

Noel Hall, named in memory of the late Dr. George T. Noel and in honor of Mrs. Marguerite Warren Noel, who made the \$300,000 pledge, will be adjacent to the Lindsay Building.

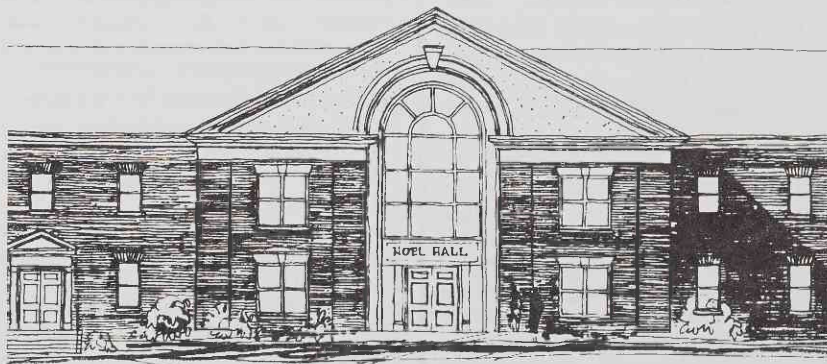
The wing will be designed to contain both classrooms and faculty offices.

Dr. Gil Blackburn, dean of academic affairs, is currently reviewing proposals to decide which department(s) will be housed in the building, which will replace the blank wall on the east-side of Lindsay.

Lindsay was acquired from the Boiling Springs Baptist Church, which used the building as a Sunday School annex. A blank wall was left where the church hoped to construct a new sanctuary. After GWC bought the property and the church moved, the wall was left.

According to Gardner-Webb President Chris White, the addition of this building will make the area one of the most prominent areas of the campus.

"It is with much gratitude that we acknowledge this gift to Gardner-Webb," said Presi-



dent Chris White. "Noel Hall will forever represent the love and dedication of this family for Gardner-Webb and will serve as a reminder of the dedication to Christian education that Marguerite Noel has exhibited in many ways."

Noel Hall is one of many donations made to the college by the Noel family.

In 1983, Mrs. Noel established the Dr. George T. Noel Memorial Fund for Visual-

ly Impaired Students. She named the scholarship in honor of her late husband, who was an ophthalmologist in Kannapolis for nearly 30 years.

Mrs. Noel also provided a permanent home, the Noel House, for the college's programs for handicapped students.

The Noels' daughter, Marylene, established the Marylene Noel Scholarship for Handicapped Students.