

AROUND CAMPUS

Guest lecturer announces age of universe

by Ryan West
staff writer

On February 20, the Williams Observatory hosted Dr. Bruce W. Carney, professor of Physics & Astronomy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who spoke on the "Age of the Universe." This visit was made possible by the Harlow-Shapley Visiting Lectureship Program of the American Astronomical Society. Gardner-Webb Physics professor Tom English provided the introduction followed by Dr. Carney's presentation, including a slide-show.

Dr. Carney presented some information to prove that the universe is not infinitely old and to give an approximate date of its birth. First, Dr. Carney discussed the Hubble Law, which is used to determine the age of the universe. Using the equation: distance = velocity X time, scientists can determine the approximate age of the universe.

But, as Dr. Carney pointed out, the major problem of the equation is the initial distance between earth and other celestial bodies. The universe is constantly expanding;

objects are continually moving away from each other. Also, very bright light wavelengths are necessary in order to determine distance.

One very good source of such light is supplied by supernovae, produced by the detonation and incineration of two dead stars that collide. The explosion of a supernova emits ten billion suns of visible light, which is detectable up to three billion light years away. Another useful form of light comes from Cepheids, the glowing, pulsating outer layer of live stars.

Using the calculations of the Hubble Law, many scientists have concluded that the Universe is eight-twelve billion years old.

Dr. Carney is the third visiting lecturer that G-W has hosted since the opening of the Williams Observatory.

"I think that this has been the most successful one we've had," says English. "I've heard nothing but rave reviews of his talks."

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about astronomy, you may attend a public observation night on Monday night, March 6 at the Williams Observatory at 8:00.

People Who Care at Gardner-Webb!

by Jill Self

Gardner-Webb's motto, "People Who Care," is on admission applications, student handbooks, school envelopes, and so much more. Who and what does this motto stand for? Could it be students caring for other students, or clubs and organizations that care for the school? Though the motto stands for both of these, most students would agree that professors care the most.

"Dr. Partain lives up to the University motto, 'People Who Care.' One day when I was down, he took the time to ask what was bothering me," says student Amy Armstrong. Even though professors are busy with their own private lives, most are willing to stop and ask a student how their day is going, while some will frequently offer a cup of coffee.

Senior Michelle Hill feels Dr. Vaughn cares the most. "Not only is he willing to help students out with work concerning his classes, but he is genuinely interested in the students learning. He is available outside of class and aids students in whatever way possible in other classes." Professors at Gardner-Webb have office hours that are used for students to receive extra help, discuss a problem, etc. Not only do professors remember faces from classes, but most will remember names as well.

While professors are willing to provide help, staff members are also here for students. "I think library staff member Bruce Wilson lives up to the universities motto, "People Who Care." He is always available to help in any way he can," says Chris V. Bridges.

Whether it is a janitor, a member of the cafeteria staff, or admissions counselor, Gardner-Webb cares!

Students support athletics, but so do GWU faculty. Take a look at football or basketball games. Oz Prim and Bonnie Wright are at almost every game cheering on the team. This is their own time they spend supporting their students. From academics, to sports, to leisure activities, Gardner-Webb faculty are "People Who Care."

Crossroads presents variety of personalities

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The choir performs at many local churches as well as at various activities around campus. The members of the Gospel Choir all desire to serve God and let their voices be a witness to others.

Crossroads is another musical group with its home base at Gardner-Webb. Its name is derived from Jeremiah 6:16. This trio, composed of Scott Elliott, Jennifer Hileman, and Jennifer Kennedy, travels across the state to perform youth-related ministries. They definitely present a wide variety of personalities on and off stage and do their best to represent a positive view of youth to many adults, singing anything from "I'll Fly Away" to newer

contemporary style music.

No matter what size the audience, the members of Crossroads put their hearts and souls into their ministry.

"We have sung for small groups of 10 and larger groups of up to 210," said Hileman. "We're not just a singing group. We do counseling, outreach, retreats, Bible studies, and much more. We'll get together with the youth at their houses and just hang out with them."

The trio has recently begun writing a few songs of their own in hopes of someday making a demo.

"We use the gifts God gave us to help others," states Hileman.

