

GWU students work at the Carolina Panthers opening game

by Karen Brower
staff writer

The Carolina Panthers opened their first regular season at Ericsson Stadium on Sunday, Sept. 1, and Gardner-Webb was there to see it all.

Scott Briskin, Karen Brower, Garry Eller, James Julian and Amanda Williams, students; Matt Webber and Shannon Kennedy, public relations staff, and Noel Manning, 1994 GWU graduate spent Labor Day weekend in Charlotte.

These GWU representatives worked with 15 world-renowned photographers (including two Pulitzer Prize winners) in putting together a collector's book of the Panthers' first regular season game in Ericsson Stadium.

Carolina Panther Sunday will be a 136-page picture book published by Pachyderm Press and TCI Companies, featuring all of the day's football action, from sunrise to sunset.

Gardner-Webb's participants acted as photographers' assistants, and attended training sessions on Friday, August 30 and Saturday, August 31. Assistants were paired up with photographers for Sunday's game, and received all-access passes to Ericsson

Stadium.

Each photographer received an assignment for the day, and these assignments ranged from capturing moments in the locker rooms, private suites and on the sidelines to shooting behind-the-scenes action, including food preparation and traffic control.

Photographers for the collector's book included such names as Joe McNally (Life), Ben Van Hook (Sports Illustrated), David Roark (Walt Disney World), Art Meripol (Southern Living), Lynn Johnson and Joel Sartore (National Geographic), Jim Gensheimer (San Jose Mercury News), Scott Wiseman (Palm Beach Post) and Scott Cunningham and Les Riggins (Carolina Panthers Team Photographers).

Gardner-Webb was asked to participate in this event. The U.S. Olympic Cycling Trials held in Boiling Springs this June "got the word out" about Gardner-Webb University. Matt Webber and Shannon Kennedy were contacted late this summer by TCI Companies and Pachyderm Press, who then asked GWU to supply photographers' assistants to aid in the completion of the Carolina Panther Sunday book.

GWU students go to Graham crusades

by Jenny Rogers
staff writer

Revival swept through the Carolinas as long-time evangelist Billy Graham returned to his home territory for the crusade Sept. 26-29. The crusade met at Ericsson Stadium in Charlotte and featured well-known speakers and musicians, according to a flier promoting the event:

*Thursday featured the Maranatha! Praise Band with Crystal Lewis, the Charlie Daniels Band, and testimony by Joe Gibbs.

*Friday featured guest singer Gary Chapman, the Brooklyn Tabernacle Singers, and testimony by author Joni E. Tada.

*Saturday at 11 a.m. a children's crusade was held, followed by an evening service which began with the rock band dc Talk and singer Michael W. Smith.

*Sunday featured the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the Gaither Vocal Band, and a special appearance by famous contry singer Johnny Cash.

Billy Graham spoke at every program except the children's crusade.

Thursday, Friday and Sunday services

also included speakers Cliff Barrows and George Beverly Shea and a 5,000 voice choir.

The ministry was translated into 10 foreign languages. Outreach programs included evangelical rallies in local prisons and Love-in-Action for children.

All seats were free.

Gardner-Webb took van-loads of students free of charge each night to the crusades.

"I loved it," said senior Justin Ham. "What struck me was that Billy Graham has been around for years and still ministers to so many people."

Junior Joseph Ramirez said he was "surprised how such a simple message could generate such a large response." Even though it rained the night he attended, Ramirez was amazed at the number of people that stayed.

Ham said he thinks that Graham has been true to his calling.

"When thousands of people come forward (to accept Christ), there's still a reason," he said.

Students attend Panthers game: A first-hand account of a GWU student's experiences

James Julians' story

I had the opportunity to work with Joe McNally (National Geographic and Life). We were assigned a variety of shoots throughout the day. Our first job was to check the remote cameras located in the lights of Ericsson Stadium.

We climbed to the top of the lights and made sure they were in working condition. The view was breathtaking. I brought a camera and took shots throughout the day, but none would be as spectacular as the sunrise above the stadium with the Charlotte skyline in the background.

That morning I got to meet Jerry Richardson (owner of the Panthers), when Joe took pictures of him for the book. I was surprised to see him so "down-to-earth" and approachable. Joe had been assigned two assignments at once: he had to photograph the team entering the field prior to kickoff, and to take pictures of the marching band's warm-up. Since he could not be at both places at once, he asked me if I could work the cameras at the tunnel AND get the team entering the field.

Fear of failure gripped me the entire hour before the team was supposed to enter the field so I tried to relax by walking around the stadium. I tested my press pass at every location I could. I walked onto the field and no one stopped me. I went to the locker rooms, and again, no one stopped me. I went to the Press Elevator and no hassle. I guess this feeling of importance replaced the fear of failure, and I was able to snap the pictures without any trouble.

After halftime, Joe needed to take some pictures from the top of the NationsBank sign on the West end of the field. The climb up the ladders was steep and tiring. I thought the sound from the speakers was going to blow my eardrums out, but when the hatch door was unlocked and the wind hit my face, I knew I was in for another great view.

The stadium was packed, and even though I was eleven stories above the field, I could still feel the intensity of the game. Joe had some pictures to snap and while he was using one of the five cameras we brought with us, he allowed me to finish up the few pictures that were left on the other cameras. I snapped some great pictures that I hoped turned out well.

Our job was no over after the game was. We still had to remove the remote cameras and get all of Joe's gear packed up and ready for his flight to New York the next day. We finally arrived at headquarters about 7:30 p.m. We were invited to a free dinner at the Lone Star Steakhouse, but exhaustion and aching muscles convinced me to call it a day.

Interested in step-aerobics?

Join the Gardner-Webb cheerleaders every Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 6:45-7:30 a.m. in the LYCC gym and every Tues. and Thurs. from 5:15-6:15 p.m. on the third floor of Lindsay Hall. Cost is \$1 per student per class and \$2 per faculty/staff per class. Please bring your own step, towel and water. For more information, call Deborah at ext. 4375.