



# Gardner-Webb University

# THE PILOT

3/97

March 21, 1997

Issue #8

The Official Campus Newspaper

Boiling Springs, NC

## A Look Inside...

Pages 2-3

Editorials and Opinions

Pages 4-5

GWU Sports

Page 7

For Your Information...

A look at  
candidates for the  
upcoming SGA election

See Page 8  
for details



Gardner-Webb President Chris White and various dignitaries break ground on March 19 at the future site of the University Commons Apartments. The apartments will be completed by August.

(Photo by Karen Brower)

## GWU graduate shares stories and poetry

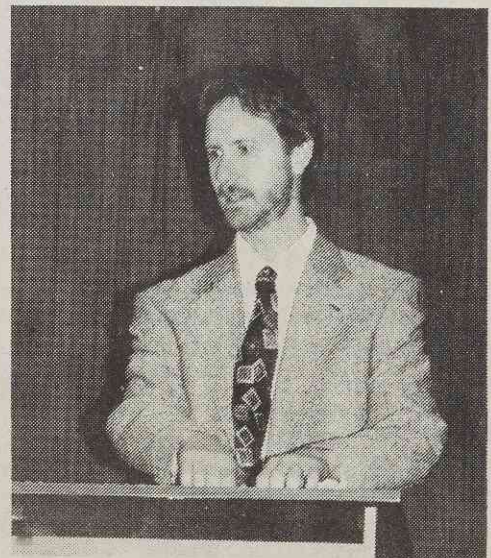
by Julie Gibson  
staff writer

Ripples of laughter along with melancholy oh's spilled out of Ritch Banquet Hall on the evening of March 6 as award-winning poet/author Ron Rash read from his poems and short stories.

The audience was entranced with GWU alumnus and local native Rash's depictions of life in a small southern town, a town they knew to be their own. The stories and poems ranged from his grandfather's quest to find his own home when all the houses looked the same, to the first time his parents met. Other stories involved Rash himself and the trials and tribulations of growing up in a small town where word travels fast. The captivated audience hung on every word.

His first book is "When the New Jesus Fell to Earth" and it is a collection of short stories. "My Father's Cadillacs" was one of the stories in the collection Rash read during his program that kept the audience rolling and tearing up at the same time.

Rash tells vividly of a traumatic time in his life when his father bought a cadillac from a funeral home. His teenage troubles hit an all-time high on the night of his prom. He and his



Ron Rash reads "My Father's Cadillacs" from his collection of short stories.

(Photo by Karen Brower)

date were on their way to the prom when they noticed cars pulling off the side of the road. His date, a girl that he was trying hard to impress, burst out in hysterical laughter when she realized everyone thought they were a funeral procession.

See "Rash" on page 6

## Gardner-Webb's retention on the rise

an analysis by Jenny Rogers  
staff writer

You might find the campus crowded with familiar faces this spring.

Retention for Spring Semester 1997 is 94%, according to newly-released figures compiled by Eric Brewton in Data Processing. This rate is higher than for any of the last four years, all for which figures were available.

Out of a total of 1,239 regular students, 1,162 students returned to school from last semester.

High retention can be positive by suggesting quality education and a good standard of living at a college. If a sizeable number of students find the college good enough to come back to, it bodes well for the future, experts agree.

Retention is typically higher in the spring than in the fall at Gardner-Webb. However, recent fall retention trends also look encouraging. Fall retention has risen steadily over the last four years, also, revealing an increase of approximately 7% for that period.

Of course, a problem may develop if administrators plan space on campus based on the number of students they expect to retain based on past years' retention. If more students continue to stay, space could run short. Presumably college officials are planning for such a possibility.

So far the numbers have not proved to be a significant problem. If enrollment and retention rates both continue to increase, however, students could find future semesters to be a little more crowded than expected.