



# Gardner-Webb University

# THE PILOT

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## Students participate in Broad River Greenway cleanup

by **Richie Ellison**  
staff writer

Close your eyes, forget your school-work and imagine yourself taking a relaxing, refreshing swim in the river. Stepping into the cool water, you wince in pain as a thick sliver of glass deeply embeds itself into your foot.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, students and faculty, along with community members and several Boy Scout troops, participated in the Big Sweep cleanup project at the Broad River Greenway to avoid these circumstances in the future.

The National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) of Gardner Webb, a service organization with the goal of bringing together the school and community, saw the opportunity to help in this community project organized and run by First Citizens Bank.

From 9 to 11:30 a.m. groups spread out to various parts of the river to pick up cups, plastic, bottles, boxes and tires. After the work was done, First Citizens Bank held a cookout for those involved. Although the river and highway may look perfectly clean as one drives by, up close it was in big need of cleaning.

Dr. Chris Austin, a missionary-in-residence who teaches environmental

science commented, "It was an eye-opener to see the dirty and polluted conditions of the highway as we walked (on) them. There are hidden dumps directly on the highway that are filled with trash and need to be removed."

"People do not understand that just one piece of litter does make a difference," said junior Maria Carswell. "It only stays there and continues to add up with all the other one pieces of trash thrown," she said.

Carswell and Mark Dougherty founded the NRHH last year and lead the club's activities.

The greenway cleanup project brought together about 100 community members. The NRHH, which brought a group of 12, collected over 20 bags of trash.

"It was great to see the project go through successfully," Carswell said. "We tackled a tough part of the highway and it was pleasing to see our hard work pay off. I also learned not to stick my hand in dark holes," she said. Carswell accidentally pulled out a snake while collecting trash.

"It felt good to clear out some of the dangerous glass, especially with all the kids who visit the river," Dougherty said.



RICHEL ELLISON/staff

Maria Carswell, Shawn Montgomery and Mark Dougherty pick up a plastic bottle left on the banks of the Broad River. The Big Sweep was held Saturday, Sept. 20 at the greenway.

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## Regional artist's paintings to benefit School of Divinity



courtesy of MATT WEBBER

Robert W. Wilson discusses his version of "The Last Supper" at a press conference last month. Part of the proceeds from Wilson's "The Agony of Christ" series will benefit the Divinity School.

by **Karen Brower**  
editor

A significant portion of the proceeds from a campaign to promote Robert W. Wilson's series of 11 paintings, "The Agony of Christ," will benefit the School of Divinity, according to Director of Public Relations Matt Webber.

Earl Owensby recently purchased Wilson's "Agony of Christ" series, and along with investors, he plans to market a video, CD and coffee-table book about the paintings, Webber said.

Wilson, who lives in Woodruff, S.C., is a self-taught artist known internationally for his Civil War prints.

"The Agony of Christ" series depicts Jesus's last hours on earth, from the sentencing by Pontius Pilate to the Resurrection.

Each painting in Wilson's series of 11 is six and a half by five feet in size.

The series was unveiled for President

Jimmy Carter in 1978 at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

Two of Wilson's paintings, "Battle of Kings Mountain" and "Battle of Cowpens," are on permanent display in the State House in Columbia, S.C.

Wilson's "Agony of Christ" series will be displayed on tour, and the video, CD and coffee-table book will be marketed to churches and consumers across the country. The CD features selections by GWU's Concert Choir.

Noel Manning, 1994 GWU graduate and producer at Shelby Headline News, produced the video about the series of paintings.

Wilson has been commissioned by investors to produce a new series of 11 paintings called "The Life of Christ," featuring significant events in Jesus's life.

Wilson displayed the first painting of his new series at a ceremony on Earl Owensby Studios on Thursday, Sept. 18.

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