

# Gardner-Webb University

# The Pilot

Local moviemaker to  
offer class  
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Trustees vote to consider NCAA change

## GWU considers Division I move

Carla Catoe  
Pilot news editor

Move over Wingate. Gardner-Webb could soon be looking for a new rival. The university Board of Trustees has given its approval to consider moving from classification as NCAA Division II to NCAA Division I.

This move will mean that Gardner-Webb will no longer be a part of NCAA Division II's South Atlantic Conference (SAC).

If all goes well in finding a new athletic conference affilia-

tion, and settling implementation plans and facility and budget issues, Gardner-Webb will be able to announce the plans this fall. Currently, GWU is short just ten scholarships of being eligible for classification as a Division I school.

President Christopher White believes that the re-classification will effect more than just the athletics program.

"The impact of Division I status on Gardner-Webb would be felt throughout our university. The quality of life at our institution would improve in all facets, from academics to facili-

ties to athletics," said White.

Gardner-Webb is already experiencing changes in the Athletics Department with the addition of three new sports for the 1999-2000 school

year. The new sports will be men's and women's track and field and women's swimming.

GWU Athletic Director, Chuck Burch, said the move will add to the prestige of the school. "It brings you a tremendous amount of exposure. The

Big South conference had at least one basketball game on regional television and the

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championship game on national television.

"The change to Division I would also impact our academic requirements. An incoming athlete with a 2.0 g.p.a. would have to score at least 1,010 on the SAT compared to the 820

required now for Division II," said Burch.

Two conferences have been suggested as possibilities for GWU to align with. The first is the Big South which currently has eight members: Charleston Southern, Coastal Carolina, Elon, High Point, Liberty, UNC Asheville, Radford and Winthrop. The second is the Southern Conference which currently, has 12 member schools and is considered less of a possibility by some observers.

Despite traumatic escape ten years ago, she returns to minister

## GWU student returns home to Vietnam

Carla Catoe  
Pilot news editor

"I felt like I was escaping all over again," said Hanh Tran, recalling the boat ride she took while she was in Vietnam in late January. Tran and her family escaped from the Vietcong by boat about ten years ago.

"It was scary. When we tried to escape the first time, we were caught by the Vietcong and we had to stay in jail for two months. The second time we successfully escaped to a refugee camp in Thailand," said Tran.

Tran has lived with a passion in her heart since then to return to her native country to help the people there.

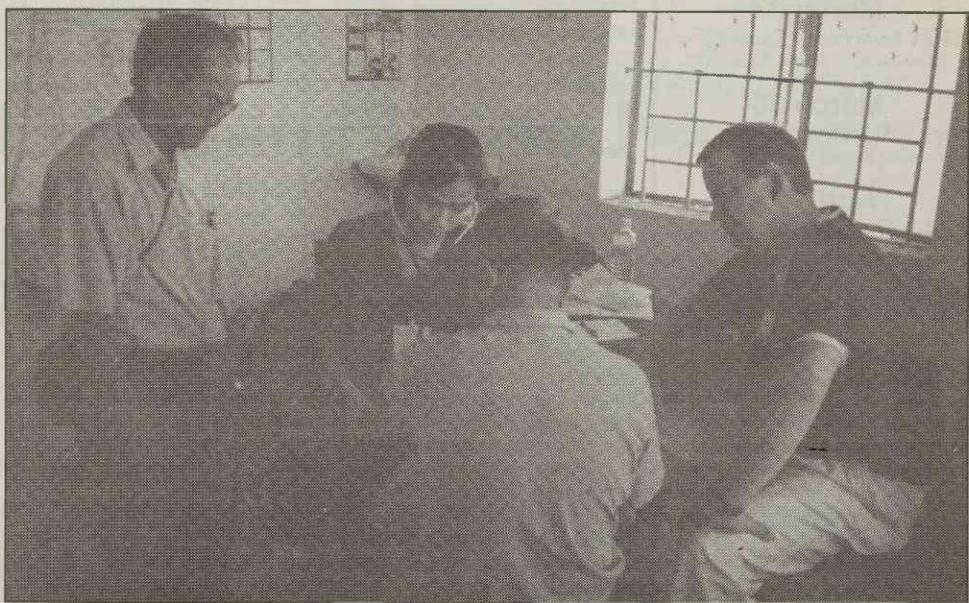
"I've always wanted to go, so when my brother told me

about a medical mission trip that he was going on to Vietnam that needed one more nurse, I thought, 'Are you kidding?' It turned out that I would have to leave for the trip the day after classes started here," said Tran.

After much prayer and thought, Tran decided to take the sacrifice for the glory of God.

"I prayed and prayed about it. I asked my brother and he said sometimes you have to take a risk for the Lord. After that, I decided to go," said Tran.

Tran left on January 14 with 18 other volunteer medical workers and translators to spend 20 days in Vietnam. Tran was one of only two college students who went on the trip



Hanh Tran (c) assists Dr. Jim Hoover (r) in Viet nam with medical missions. Tran spent 20 days in Vietnam, her first time back since fleeing the country ten years ago with her family. Photo courtesy Han Tran

along with doctors, nurses, prescription-filers, helpers and a photographer.

"We went to five different clinics including a blind home, a nursing home, and an orphan-

age. I translated for the doctors and got to do some nursing work too. I didn't really want to do the interpreting at first, but it allowed me to work with Dr. Jim Hoover, an awesome

Christian doctor.," said Tran.

With this team, thousands of lives were touched by the love of God.

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