

Gardner-Webb University

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RHA wins School of the Year

Shane Kohns
Pilot co-editor

So you think Gardner-Webb is a small, private school that could never compete with mammoth institutions such as UNC and NC State? Well, think again, because even before the Bulldog athletic teams challenge the best of the ACC, Gardner-Webb's Residence Hall Association (RHA) is proving the critics wrong.

At the North Carolina Association of Residence Halls (NCARH) annual conference held last weekend at Appalachian State University (ASU), Gardner-Webb's RHA chapter took home the coveted title of School of the Year, beating out UNC, ASU and NC State.

"School of the Year is the highest award at the NCARH level," said GWU sophomore Antwan Campbell, who serves as the National

Communications Coordinator for GWU's RHA.

"This recognition really proves that Gardner-Webb belongs with the best colleges in North Carolina."

NCARH consists of 16 colleges and universities from across the state, and is affiliated with NACURH, the National Association of Colleges and University Residence Halls.

"NACURH is the largest student-led organization in the U.S. In the South Atlantic Region, the NCARH is the biggest and most active region," said Summer Jeffcoat, president of Gardner-Webb's RHA. "So, to be School of the Year in North Carolina is important because of the size of the region and the schools we were up against."

To be eligible for the School of the Year voting each RHA chapter submits a bid explaining their accomplishments throughout the year on

their individual campus.

"A bid basically consists of: programs, conferences attended, awards, summary of budget, and letters of recommendation," explained Jeffcoat.

UNC, NC State and ASU also submitted bids for School of the Year, and what makes GWU's School of the Year selection even more remarkable was the level of competition. Gardner-Webb's RHA chapter has an annual budget of approximately \$7,000 and involves about 20-25 students and advisors. By contrast, NC State's RHA budget exceeds \$76,000, and UNC's RHA delegation consists of over 150 people.

"[Other schools] have bigger budgets, larger students bases, and longer tenures in NCARH," said Jeffcoat, "so this award really demonstrates the hard work and dedication of our chapter."

The School of the Year bid was also Gardner-Webb's first ever entry for a state-wide award.

"This was our first conference bid," said Campbell. "Achieving this kind of success on our first try is definitely remarkable."

Despite the tremendous state and regional success, RHA members feel that students on campus do not understand the purpose and function of the RHA.

According to the Student Handbook, the Gardner-Webb RHA is comprised of all students on campus, with each residence hall providing a representative to communicate building needs as well as coordinate student activities.

Some of the duties of RHA include: working directly with the Student Activities office to organize Homecoming events

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GWU hosts Gospel Fest

Glynnece "Gigi" Campbell
Special to the Pilot

On Saturday, February 17, the Gardner-Webb University E. Jerome Scott Gospel Choir will host Gospel Fest 2001.

In addition to GWU's own choir, Gospel Fest 2001 will feature performances by UNC-Charlotte and Appalachian State University, as well as two touring gospel acts, Simply Praise and the Palmer Grove Praise Team.

However, performance is not what makes this program unique. According to Hamal Strayhorn, chaplain of the E. Jerome Scott choir, "this is a great opportunity to minister to the students of Gardner-Webb University and win souls for Christ. It's not about performing, it's about giving Christ the glory through our God-given

talents."

Gospel Fest is just one way that the choir continues to use their God-given talents to honor the memory of E. Jerome Scott.

Scott was the Dean of Student Development and also

Strayhorn as "a combination of separate performances with a group effort to win souls for Christ" is Scott's commemorative celebration service, and another way the choir gives honor to his memory.

Although the members of

"It's not about performing, it's about giving Christ the glory through our God-given talents."

Hamal Strayhorn, Gospel Choir Chaplain

the advisor of the choir for many years. After he passed away, the choir was renamed the E. Jerome Scott Gospel Choir in honor of all the help and dedication he gave to the choir.

Gospel Fest, described by

the current choir did not know Scott personally, they continue to sing in the name of Jesus, showing the dedication that Scott would have expected.

The 2001 Gospel Fest will be held in Blanton Auditorium in Hamrick Hall at 7:00 p.m.

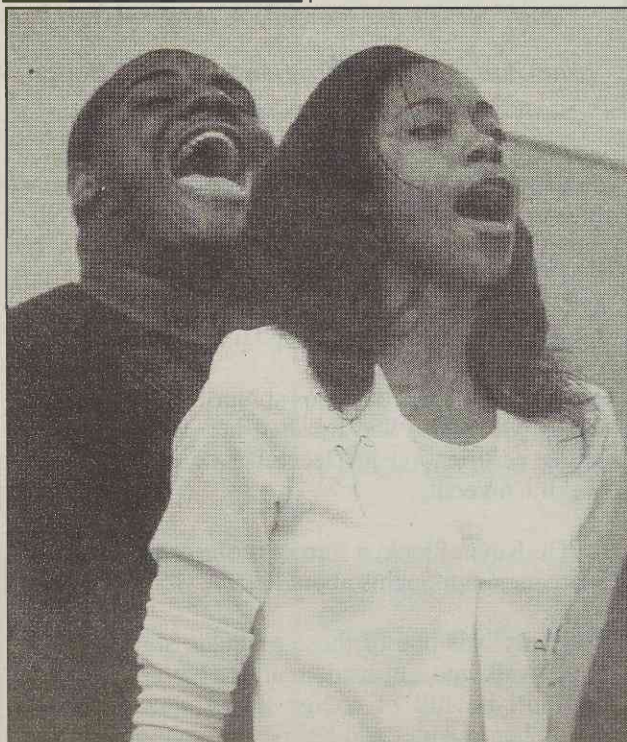


Photo by Joy Marinelli

Hamal Strayhorn and Keisha McClain sing during a fall concert.