



GWU recognizes seniors

Christi Hallis
Pilot staff

Friday night, the gym in the LYCC was transformed into Lindsay Court, the scene of most formal affairs and ceremonies at Gardner-Webb. Over 720 people were present for the annual Senior Pinning Ceremony for the class of 2002.

Vice President for University Relations, Drew Van Horn, told the family members and supporters of the 160 day and 68 GOAL seniors that it was "okay to cry," as the rite of passage got emotional for many.

"Senior pinning has become a very important tradition at Gardner-Webb. The ceremony honors members of the class by presenting them with a specially designed pin," Francine Schau, Assistant Director of Alumni and Parent Relations explained.

According to the evening's program, the purpose of the ceremony is to congratulate the seniors on their accomplishments and to wish them the best for their future.

Van Horn referred to this day as "a lifepoint—a place you will return to in good times and in bad to remember."

He also explained the significance of the pin's design, which contains a cross within an arch. According to Van



Photo courtesy of Public Relations

GOAL student Charise Peebles is pinned by her father, James Wilson, at Friday night's senior pinning ceremony. More than 700 people attended the ceremony which recognized GWU seniors in the undergraduate and GOAL programs.

Horn, the arch "signifies the tradition of walking through the Gardner-Webb arch after graduation. It encourages you to think about your future, but also remember your past."

Van Horn continued, explaining the cross in the middle of the arch: "We hope that, like Jacob, once you leave here, you will have wrestled with God and that you will walk differently because of it."

President Christopher White, encouraged the future graduates to become active alumni. He related "The Webb" to a spider's web—"large, complex, intricate and sticky," meaning that many alumni continue to support their alma mater.

When the actual ceremony took place, seniors were asked to tell those pinning them (usually their parents, family members or significant others)

how much they meant to them. Many cried at this moment, as the reality of this final milestone began to hit them.

Becca Boring, a Spanish Education major from Sigel, Pa. explained why the night was important to her.

"It gave me the opportunity to tell the people I care about why I enjoyed school and what they've meant to me. It's just now setting in that I'm a senior and it's scary...but it's exciting."

Mark Austin, a Management major from St. Augustine, Trinidad, had strong feelings as well, but for different reasons.

"This evening meant more to me than to many others because it was such a struggle for me to finish. This is my fifth year and there were times that I didn't know if I would make it. I have no family here tonight; I pinned myself. Therefore, I feel this is a great accomplishment. Now I can see the end, and I can see that it's worth it."

Neil Brock, a graduating senior of the GOAL program spoke of the many demands that GOAL students face in the process of continuing education. Many of these students balanced full course loads, families and full time jobs. Brock spoke excitedly about the new opportunities his degree would provide him.

He urged the other seniors: "You're only limited if you choose to be."

Student reservists may be called to duty

Erin Boyd
Pilot copy editor

The recent tragedies in New York City and Washington, D.C. and reports of "America's New War" have many Gardner-Webb students questioning what role they may play in the aftermath of the attack. This "new war" may affect several students firsthand.

Junior Johnny Bradley, who is in the National Guard, received a phone call from the Charlotte Guard Base within hours of the attack.

"I was excited they called me. I want to go—I want to do my part," said Bradley.

According to Bradley, the Guard warned that they were on "highest alert," and they told him to expect further phone calls from them.

"They said they didn't know if they would have to send us anywhere, but that there was a good chance of it, and that there had been a lot of talk about it around base," said Bradley in reference to the call.

Bradley clarified that he did not know exactly where he could be sent.

"If we go to war I could be sent to where the war is, to New York to help with the clean-up or to my base where planes fly out," he said.

Junior Dave Parker is

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~Junior Johnny Bradley

another Gardner-Webb student who may be affected firsthand by the United States retaliation of the terrorist attacks. Parker is in the Inactive Ready Reserves (IRR) branch of the United States Army, which, according to him, is often "reactivated in times of emergency."

Parker received a phone call from the reserve center in

Clemson, S.C. two days after the terrorists attacks, but he was not home to answer the call.

"I think they may have been calling me to either secure my location or to reactivate me to serve," Parker speculated about the call.

Parker shared Bradley's enthusiasm and willingness to take a stand for his country.

"I'm ready. I hope they do call me. I hope they do put me back on active," said Parker.

Parker feels it is his duty as an American citizen to preserve the freedom that past generations have fought to attain.

"I think it is the duty of any healthy American within the

right age bracket to serve. I hope everyone feels that way—if they don't, they shouldn't be an American," Parker stated.

"If called, I'll be the first to stand in line. We owe it to the greatest generation—to the men and women who fought and sustained America through World War II, because they made this country what it is today," said Parker.

"If we cop out now, all they did would be for naught—it would be like saying we don't care. That's pretty selfish to me," he said.

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