

Satellite campus receives new building

Margaret O'Driscoll
Pilot staff

Twenty years ago Dr. Craven Williams, former President of Gardner-Webb, had a noble vision for this university: satellite campuses. His plan was to provide the possibility for students to get a four-year degree rather than the traditional two-year degree at a small community college.

Since the late '70s, Gardner-Webb University has facilitated 16 satellite campuses across North Carolina. Previously the university has had to locate churches and community colleges to provide rooms for classes to meet for this program.

However, for the Statesville campus this is no longer a concern. Gardner-Webb University at Statesville had its open house August 31, 2001.

"The Statesville campus is significant because it is our own," said Matt Webber, Director of University Communications.

Before the new campus, the Davis School of Nursing in Statesville was used. The building was old, unsafe and in an area of high crime.

Directors felt that it was time to make the students in Statesville feel like

they were at college.

GWU at Statesville is the only four-year institution present in Iredell County. It is the hub of GWU for distance learning activities because of its central location in North Carolina.

Later this semester, a GWU campus in Charlotte will be unveiled as well. "We've only just begun," commented Webber on the growing status of future satellite campuses.

Presently there are 300 students enrolled at the GWU Statesville campus with more expected each year.

Currently, the campus is offering 15-20 undergraduate programs including nursing and teacher education, both of which are occupations in high demand in that area. The campus also offers graduate programs, such as the MBA.

The fact that students are enrolling for these programs, said Webber, is an affirmation to Gardner-Webb that people want to be there. He is confident that the satellite campuses will raise GWU's reputation, thus making the school more widely known.

At this time the Statesville campus has ten full-time faculty and staff members with more additions expected soon. Some GWU's professors are driving



Photo courtesy Public Relations
Gardner-Webb's new building houses 300 students during classes in Statesville. The Statesville satellite campus is the only four-year institution present in Iredell County.

one and a half hours to teach night classes out of support for the campus.

Students should see that the satellite campuses of Gardner-Webb University are broadening and diversifying our community. The patrons of the Boiling Springs campus can anticipate being affected in an intangible way said Webber.

Most people don't know about the

Gardner-Webb in Boiling Springs, said Webber, but if you introduce them to a satellite campuses located in a major metropolitan area, the name will gain recognition.

The satellite campuses help add to Gardner-Webb's credibility, value and identity said Webber, "We are increasing our exposure to rise in status as an institution."

Day of Caring successful

LaDonna Beeker
Pilot staff

United Way's annual Day of Caring was held at Gardner-Webb on Sept. 15. Children from ages seven to 17 participated, while GWU students volunteered to help run the games, activities, face painting and crafts.

"Running the big group games was great! It was fun watching the kids have fun," exclaimed Jay Denton, a freshman. This is the second year that Gardner-Webb has held this event on campus.

The Day of Caring was part of United Way's mentor program, which gives kids positive role models. The program is open to volunteers over 18 years of age. After the application process, volunteers are set up with a child that matches their interests.

A volunteer for the program has to spend at least 16 hours a month for one year with the child they are matched with. The volunteer, child and the parent of the child can choose an activity that they agree on.

Such activities may include going to a movie, washing their cars, going shopping or out to eat. Once a month, United Way provides 8 percent of the needs for the mentor program which enables an activity to be put together once a month for the volunteer and child to spend time together free of charge.

Governor Jim Hunt started this mentor program in 1982. Cleveland County was ranked 14th, the highest in the state on Juvenile Delinquency. Since the program has started, the directors of the program are proud to say that they have accomplished an 87 percent success rate. This percentage includes children without contact with juvenile court and suspension from school.

Pam Greene, the director of the Youth Assistant Program is a graduate from Gardner-Webb with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Masters Degree in School Counseling.

"The children give the Gardner-Webb students automatic respect because of their ages being so close together," she said.

"The kids respect you because you respect them," said Denton.

Amanda Mauldwin graduated from GWU last year with a double major in Psychology and Sociology. She has been volunteering for the mentor program for the past four years.

"Volunteering is fun and the most rewarding because you really make a difference in the lives of the children. These activities keep the kids busy and it gives them hope for the future. They make a lot of friends and do better in school," Mauldwin explained.

Kelly Brame and Sarah Shong helped on Gardner-Webb's behalf as they coordinated the activities.

The mentor program is thankful for everything that Gardner-Webb University has done for them.

"We have come to basketball games, football games, received tennis lessons and time to swim in the pool for the children," said Pam Greene.

"Gardner-Webb has always helped on anything that we have asked for," said Greene.

New concentration in Youth Ministry added

Monica Houser
Pilot staff

The Department of Religious Studies has introduced a new concentration this fall. Youth Education Studies (YES) is geared towards students interested in youth ministry. The concentration requires 30 hours to major and 15 hours to minor.

In planning since last fall, this new concentration had to be worked through the Religion department as a whole, presented to the curriculum committee, voted on by the faculty and incorporated into the catalog.

"I am excited about this new concentration. We as a department want to be on the cutting edge of preparing students, able to sense their needs, as well as provide a tremendous amount of flexibility," said Ron Williams, Chair of the Religion Department.

Junior Jonathan Spangler,

a Religious Studies major, is happy to be a part of this new program in the department.

"It's great to have classes specifically geared to preparing me for every aspect of youth ministry. I'm excited to have a specific part in the Religion department."

This concentration is the fourth to be offered by the Religion Department. The others concentrations include Religious Education, Religious Studies and Biblical Languages and Literature.

The department is also offering other new programs, including a Religious Studies major for GOAL students and the Tri-State School of Theology for the Deaf at Ridgecrest Baptist Retreat Center near Asheville.

In the works for next fall is an online program, DEAF.com, offering courses online for American Sign Language, as well as a Christian Missions concentration.