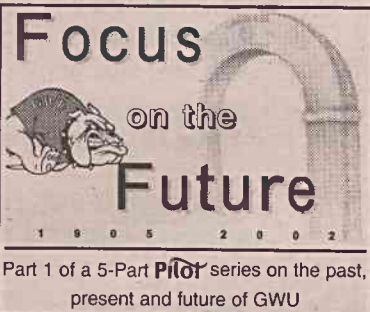




A look at Gardner-Webb's beginning



Christi Hallis
Pilot copy editor

You might have picked up this paper in a barn. You may be reading it in the middle of a cornfield or in a cow pasture. Of course, that is a *former* barn, *former* cornfield or *former* cow pasture.

Gardner-Webb has come a long way from Boiling Springs High School in 1907, Boiling Springs Junior College in 1928, Gardner-Webb Junior College in 1942, and finally, the four-year institution it became in 1971 and still is today. The physical changes are evident, but do the changes run deeper? Is Gardner-Webb University in 2002 the one the founders envisioned?

Gardner-Webb Junior College experienced more than a 400% increase in enrollment between 1943 and 1948, prompting then President Elliot to mention the possibility of becoming a four-year college as early as 1951. It was 20 years before his dream would be realized.

According to Landsford Jolley in his book, *Dreaming, Daring, Doing: The History of Gardner-Webb*, the college has always been, unabashedly, a "church college," with the purpose of offering "sound training in Christian belief and character," and the institution depended heavily on support from area churches.

In 1961, E. Eugene Poston was inaugurated as the new president of the University and included in his "Decade of Advance" plan the goal of reaching senior college status by 1971. He listed many ideals of the University, including the fostering of a Christian environment where "Jesus can feel completely at home," expressing concern for all individuals

as people "made in the image of God," supporting American principles of free enterprise and patriotism, loving and appreciating the Baptist Churches and the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as living by a campus code that provided for "decent living and a goodly appearance."

A year later, at his inaugural ceremony, Poston explained that the purpose of the college was to "give the highest academic program within the deepest possible spiritual atmosphere." Later that year in *The Gardner-Webb Quarterly*, he went on to say that a Christian college is one characterized by "Christian convictions in the minds and hearts of the staff and faculty," explaining that faculty and staff without such convictions had no place at Gardner-Webb.

Gardner-Webb continued to grow, achieving nearly all of Poston's goals, including the construction of a gym and pool, four new dorms and a classroom building. In 1963, after a debate between what was "expedient" for the college and



Originally known as the Memorial Building in honor of students who died in World War I, Hamrick Hall was later named after E.B. Hamrick. He was a local merchant who wrote off debts for the school in tough times. The building has been destroyed twice by fire and sat unused for a decade before a local group, the Dover Foundation, funded remodeling in 1994.

what was "morally right," Gardner-Webb admitted its first black students.

In 1969, at the dedication of Lindsay, a representative from the Southern Baptist Convention stated that "Gardner-Webb is worthy to live and too tough to die because God's hand is clearly on this school."

In 1971, the year that Gardner-Webb finally became an accredited four year institution, Poston explained the purpose of the college as follows: to develop "quality Christian students who think for themselves and who will dedicate themselves to a Christian way of life in a vocation of their choice."

Economic crunch results in 'reduction in force'

Jessica Webb
Pilot photo editor

The effects of the economy have finally reached Gardner-Webb.

On Friday, Feb. 15, President Christopher White told the faculty and staff that there was a "reduction in force" being administered, with some reductions taking place immediately. Those people who were affected were told on Thursday or right before the meeting on Friday.

However, this action does not show that the University is in great financial trouble because the senior staff voted to give raises to all employees noted Matt Webber, director of university communications.

The term "reduction in force" was given to clarify that the action is not a "layoff," which means telling people that they no longer have a job, said Webber.

He said the senior staff was told they had to find a position in their areas that could be reduced with the work load being absorbed by other employees in their area.

Webber also said that, in some cases, the people whose positions were phased out were offered new positions that the University wanted to fill. For example, the webmaster position was eliminated, but the employee was offered another job in alumni relations.

"The positions are not people—this was not about people

not performing adequately. Those people were just unfortunately caught in those positions," he said.

Although no one would officially comment, there are six positions known so far that have been eliminated. These positions are the northside area director, campus ministry intern, campus ministry secretary, academic advising secretary, director of academic advising and the webmaster.

"This [RIF] has a minimal impact on students because the value of instruction or the quality of the degree has not been affected," said Webber.

Although cutbacks are understandable, students say the changes will affect them.

The advising center, which

with the reduction of two people is moving under the umbrella of the counseling center, keeps up with all incoming freshmen, transfers and their schedules. They also track majors and minors, work with students in academic difficulties, track absences, host a major showcase each fall, hold workshops for faculty advisors and counsel students who are undecided majors or who have general questions.

Senior Kristin Sanders is a peer advisor for the center and had to use the office herself when she declared a double major.

"I think the academic advising office is important and I think it's important to have people who are trained in

advising because faculty advisors are not always well-informed on all the school policies and academic regulations," she said.

Another area that will affect students are the cutbacks in campus ministries.

"One thing that people don't realize is the process that goes into everything involved with campus ministry," said LeAnne Spruill, coordinator of GaP ministries.

"For example, with GaP, the intern helps me with publicity and making flyers and getting the materials needed. That's not counting work done for Amy [Armstrong] or any of the other ministries," said Spruill.

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