



The Pilot

Gardner-Webb University



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Back in the swing of things

GWU by the numbers

- 600 new freshmen
- 80 Big Brothers and Sisters
- 1,000 residents on campus
- 2,200 total enrolled at GWU
- 128 full-time teaching faculty



Photo by Christina Tyler

Christina Parkins(left) and Amanda Longmire welcome arriving freshmen and scope for cute guys at the same time.

Senior: take advantage of time at GWU

Erin Boyd
Pilot editor

As I pulled out of my parent's driveway to head back to Boiling Springs the other day, I couldn't help but think back to the fall of 1999—when it had taken hours to pack my family's Dodge Caravan. All five of us made the trek to the Webb to move me in my freshman year.

As I drove back to GW for my last year here, I thought about how much has changed since I was a freshman. I thought about what I have learned. And I thought about how fast my time here has gone.

I thought back to how nervous and fearful and excited I was all at the same time. And how I reeled with newfound freedom, though I didn't know all the responsibility that would entail. I couldn't wait to face the "real world."

Four years at college...it seemed like it would last forever. But now my senior year has come and these have been the fastest years of my life.

Freshmen, grasp hold of this year and these next years to come. Meet as many people as you can and make the most

of every opportunity. Yes—study. Study hard or you won't make it. But also make time for Waffle House runs at 2 a.m., trips to Wal-Mart at midnight and late-night talks with your roommate.

Pull pranks on your hallmates and roll the Quad together at Homecoming. Develop your character by volunteering at a nursing home and spend time in spiritual discussions, on your quest to form your *own* convictions.

Make friends with your hallmates and classmates, the Physical Plant staff and cafeteria workers. These people will be your "family" for the next four years.

Some of the people you meet today will be your friends for life. Four years ago I would have never imagined the girl sitting next to me in Spanish class would ask me to be in her wedding (I was this past spring.) or the person I was too afraid to talk to would become a close friend. These are the people you will laugh with, mourn with and share your hearts and lives with.

Hold on tight—these four years will fly.



Photo by Christina Tyler

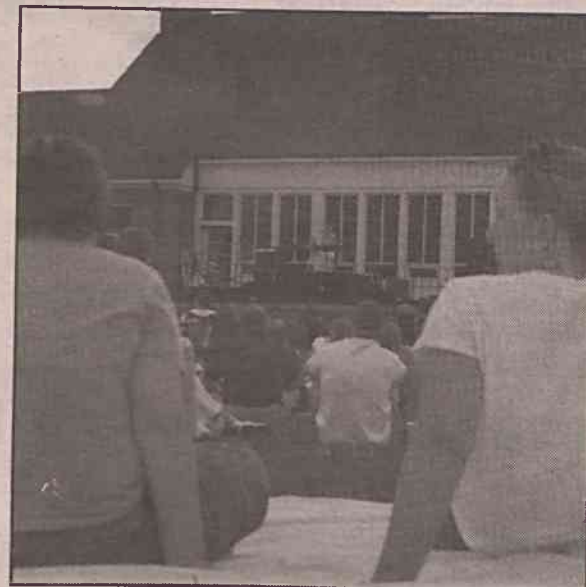


Photo by Margaret O'Driscoll

(left) Buddy Jackson 'warns' freshmen as they arrive last Friday and (right) two girls enjoy the concert on Tuesday night.

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