

## Features

### FIRST ANNIVERSARY



Photo by Josh Benedict

Students stand outside of the Broad River Coffee Company. Since its opening, the coffee house has become a popular spot for many Gardner-Webb students, faculty and staff.

## Celebrating a grande year

**Sarah Olimb**  
*Pilot copy editor*

Nestled into Main Street Boiling Springs, The Broad River Coffee Company brings "big city class" to the small town.

Since its grand opening a year ago this month, the coffee house has become a popular spot to study, read or just gather with friends to enjoy gourmet coffee, rich desserts in a laid back atmosphere.

Owner Seth Stevens opened the coffee house with the "idea of creating a place where a community of people could gather." He emphasizes the aspect of community in relation to small businesses in small town life. He felt Boiling Springs was a good place to open his coffee business because of the university and the small town atmosphere.

As for the year anniversary, Stevens feels that it's been a year of new experiences as well as a time of growth. Besides striving for a sense of community, Stevens wanted to "buck the average of small business failure." Although, they've learned valuable lessons over this past year, Stevens feels that "business has taken off."

He feels the coffee shop has indeed contributed to the community of Boiling Springs through hosting the Real bible study on Sunday mornings and various concerts, as well as in the overall way the business is set up. "We're very excited about the way things are going," he said.

Stevens doesn't deny the challenges he's faced throughout this past year. "There have definitely been some challenges," he said. "Especially during breaks when students are gone."

Nonetheless, Stevens praises the efforts of his team. "It's surprising how good a staff I've been able to put together. People always ask me how I got the best of Gardner-Webb to work here," said Stevens.

Josh Benedict, a senior at Gardner-Webb as well as an employee at the coffee house, describes the coffee shop not just as his place of employment but as "the place where I meet with the people I care about most.

"When I'm not working, I can usually be found there. It's also important as a place where I form new relationships and maintain old ones," said Benedict.

Goals for the coffee shop's next year of business include reincorporating lunch into the company's daily menu, but on a larger scale. Lunch will feature hot and cold sandwiches as well as a variety of soups.

As the holidays approach, the menu will also include an egg nog latte and hot apple cider. They've even started making their own chai latte using imported spices from all over the world. "We're creatively expanding our options," said Stevens.

The coffee house has also recently extended its business hours. It offers its services from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, excluding Sundays.

Stevens also plans to improve the overall environment as he provides better sound equipment for visiting bands and musicians. He also plans to incorporate more community wide events into this year's event schedule.

Stevens also "wants the business to be an avenue in which we can set up funds for those going on mission trips." He plans also to support community programs that give back to the community and help those in need.

### TURKEY DAY

## What non-Americans do on Thanksgiving

**Mandy Huffstetler**  
*Pilot Staff*

Most likely, everyone knows what holiday is at the end of November. It's a chance to eat good food, fellowship with family, watch football and give thanks. (It's also a chance to take a much-needed break from classes!)

Everyone most likely knows what to expect during Thanksgiving, especially if you are from America. But, have you ever thought about what Thanksgiving means to our international students?

For many, it doesn't mean anything at all. With the exception of Canada, no other countries observe a Thanksgiving holiday or even have an equivalent. "In my country, there is no Thanksgiving," said Irene Chemayek, a sophomore from Kampala, Uganda. "I'm not really sure how to celebrate it."

Many countries might recognize Thanksgiving as a holiday, even though they do not partake in the festivities. "In Europe, many know about Thanksgiving from the clichés, like turkey, and some might participate," said Caroline Bonassiolle, a teaching assistant from France. "But most do not celebrate it."

Many non-American students are staying around the Gardner-Webb campus. Petrona McClymont, a senior from Manchester, Jamaica, is staying on campus to save money. Amit Wadhvani will be staying at Gardner-Webb too, and will spend his time taking advantage of the pre-Christmas rush sales. Wadhvani is a freshman from India.

Some have made plans to meet with family already living in the US. Bassen Hallac's brother is coming to visit him here on campus. Hallac and his brother are from Jerusalem. Sophomore Nisreen Abu-Ata plans to see her aunt in Georgia. Abu-Ata is from Jerusalem, but her aunt has lived in the states for a while. They will celebrate Thanksgiving and have a traditional feast.

Walter Wong is visiting his

host family in Marion, N.C. Wong, a freshman from Hong Kong, was an exchange student during his senior year, and will celebrate a traditional Thanksgiving with his American family.

Some are going home with friends. Fabiola Flores and Elizabeth Flores, both teaching assistants for Spanish from Puebla, Mexico, are going to Tennessee to visit a friend. A few local churches are extending invitations to the international students to join their Thanksgiving dinners.

As for the meaning of Thanksgiving, many international students are aware of what it represents — giving thanks for what God has given you and spending time with the ones you love.

Senior Rhonda Carter is from Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, and does celebrate Thanksgiving. But, the Canadian version was already observed on October 14.

Canadian Thanksgiving symbolizes the same values as the American counterpart, but not to the same extent. "I didn't go home for the Canadian Thanksgiving," said Carter. "It's not as big in Canada as it is in America. It's just another day to eat turkey."

Even though many international students are aware of what Thanksgiving should signify, some may feel that it is becoming valued for the wrong reasons.

"Most people only talk about food and shopping, especially in excess," said Agata Kapanienko, GRD for Myers and Spangler from Poland. "Even though it's great to have a good meal and be with your family and friends, the whole idea of giving thanks is diminishing."

Whether you celebrate it or not, the Thanksgiving holiday is almost upon us. So enjoy the break and remember its importance. "Thanksgiving is a great holiday, but it shouldn't be limited to one day," said Kapanienko. "Everyday we should take time to give thanks to God."