

News

COMBINING FORCES

YMCA college coming to GWU

Brenda Goodbrad
Pilot staff

The local YMCA and Gardner-Webb University have come to an agreement. GWU will promote the programs of the Y USA, and will then become the only school in the Southeast region of the nation who carries such a program.

Y USA is the national branch of the YMCA. This organization wants to have a college in all four regions of the country that will administer this program. Currently, Springfield College in Illinois is the only other college in the country who offers this program. This is "the 'Y' college to prepare men and women with a career in YMCA," said Scoot Dixon, vice president of enrollment management. Students who are interested in involvement must travel long distances to go there until more colleges add this program to be available for student participation on campus.

Executive Director of the

Cleveland County YMCA, Cameron Corder, believes that when we add this program to our curriculum it will "position Gardner-Webb University as the Springfield College of the South." Corder has organized the YMCA programs at Dover, the main branch. There is also the Boiling Springs YMCA and the one in Kings Mountain. Gardner-Webb will be the fifth YMCA branch in Cleveland County.

Dixon believes that adding this program is a "win-win" situation. Not only will it partner us with the local YMCA organization, but it will also give us national recognition with the entire Y USA headquarters. Its programs and services will come to benefit students on campus and through off campus volunteer work. This will include mentor programs, involvement in local high schools, middle schools and other community services.

The goal of the Cleveland County Family YMCA is "to take the strengths of GWU

and the CC Family YMCA and establish a long-term partnership between both parties. This partnership will not only enhance the student experience but also create high quality program and service delivery to all of Cleveland County."

Dixon was unsure of exactly how much it will cost GW to institute this program into the curriculum. "The final budgeted amount has not been determined," said Dixon. What we do know is that it is one of the reasons for increased tuition next year. Dixon has high hopes however for the program and although we will be paying to add the YMCA's programs here, the YUSA and the Cleveland County branch will be matching whatever amount we put forth. This means that GW will be paying only a third of the overall cost that it would usually be to implement the program on campus.

It will not be just another recruiting tool. Student benefits will include: having men-

tors who will help them in choosing a YMCA professional career, opportunities to volunteer and serve throughout Cleveland County and possible paid summer internships with YMCAs across the nation. The Cleveland County YMCA hopes to allow the YMCA students at GWU to be involved in coordinating the intramurals on campus and freshman orientation activities.

The Y USA "is really the YMCA of the USA," said Corder. They want to join because of the great relationship between GW and the YMCA. Students from GW are directly involved with the YMCA of Cleveland County each year and Corder wants to expand these possibilities. More can be learned about the Y USA program at www.YMCA.net.

President Frank Bonner and Dean Bruce Moore have been involved with the implementation of this program on campus, however, both were unavailable for comment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Selection for SEA chair underway

The process of choosing the SEA chairperson was recently changed. Instead of being nominated and elected by students, the SEA chairperson for the 2003-2004 school year will be selected through an application and interview process.

"This new way of choosing the chairperson is better because, through the application and interview process, we know that we will be getting a person who is genuinely interested in the position, as well as having been thoroughly informed about it through the interview procedure," said Karissa Weir, director of student leadership and activities.

The SEA chairperson has many duties, including largely planning and being responsible for activities on campus, such as Last Blast Week and the Spring Formal.

Applications for SEA chairperson were due on April 29. The announcement of the new chair will be announced soon.

— Erin Aldridge

5K MILE ON TRACK

Clubs combine to sponsor run-a-thon

By Meg Elliott
Pilot staff

The Gardner Webb running club will sponsor a run-a-thon on May 3.

The 5K (3.1 miles) race will begin at 8 a.m. in front of the Communications Studies Building and end at the Broad River Greenway. Volunteers are welcome to help out with entries, work as course monitors or finish line judges. Spectators are encouraged to come out to cheer on the runners. Anyone interested in running can enter up to the day of the race. Entry forms for the run-a-thon are available in Withrow building or online at <http://gwuroadrace.tripod.com>.

The sponsors of the run-a-thon hope to raise awareness about recycling around campus.

This will be the first annual run-a-thon sponsored by the running club and Tri-Beta. Running club president John Olson and Tri-Beta president Phoebe

Just the Facts

- Anyone interested in joining the running club can contact John Olson at ext. 4587
- Anyone interested in participating in the run-a-thon can get an entry form in Withrow or online at <http://gwuroadrace.tripod.com>

McGee collaborated to organize the race.

The GWU running club was founded by Olson in October of last semester. The idea was raised in an Student Government Association club meeting.

Olson hopes to get the club involved in more activities, such as local races in the southeast. He wants to make the run-a-thon an annual event.

"I want to make running fun," said Olson. "That's what running is all about."

If interested in joining the running club, contact Olson.



Photo by Scott Holstein

(left) GWU junior and president of the running club, John Olson, and Daniel Abrahao, sophomore, run the trail at the Broad River Greenway.

Wireless internet comes to campus

Gardner-Webb recently added wireless Internet to its technological advances.

"It is the perfect time for wireless internet service," said Danny Davis, director of Information Services.

Though the service is still in its testing stage, Davis stated that full service should be available to students by the fall semester.

Davis wants the service to be simple and "user friendly" for both professors and students.

Wireless Internet service will be accessible in most dorms as well as in classrooms throughout the campus.

"This service will be student driven," said Davis.

— Megan Berry