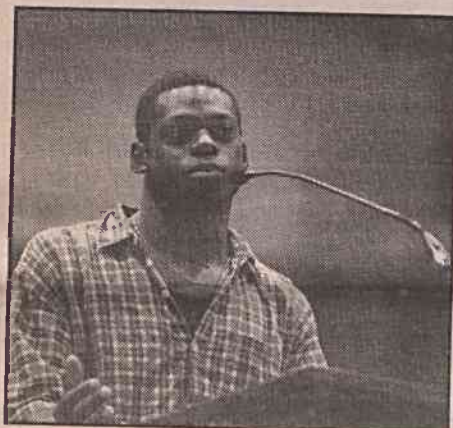


Features



Pilot file photos

Advice for seniors

Sarah Olimb
Pilot copy editor

One week. One week until summer. One week until freedom. One week until...graduation. For many seniors, this astonishing revelation is far too close and far too real. And although I will not be among those donning their caps and gowns on May 10, I definitely feel the end of the semester crunch.

Seniors must not only endure the stresses of normal school responsibilities but also the added tension of finding the perfect job after graduation. Many classes and articles offer tips on finding the perfect job, making a good impression or what to expect in an interview. But what about finding the job that fits you? If you're like me, you want practical advice and direction in finding a job that works with your interests and abilities.

Philip Swicegood, professor of finance at Gardner-Webb, understands the job search process and the pressure many students feel as they begin sending out resumes and interviewing with potential employers. He offers GWU seniors practical advice:

- Make sure the job is a good "fit" for you. Does it work with your personality and interests? Does it coincide with your long-term goals?
- Look at the benefits package as a whole, not just the salary.
- Get a specific job description upfront at the interview. Think about what it will take to be successful in this job.

- Clarify whom you will be responsible to and keep those lines of communication open.

- Verify that the company has some sort of periodic review or evaluation of its employees—feedback is vital to success.

- Make sure the company will provide the necessary resources and training required for you to efficiently do your job.

- Remember that companies are interested in your trainability. In many cases, a college degree simply proves your competency—they want to know that you are teachable.

- Don't immediately accept a job offer. Take time to think and pray about it and weigh all the options. Also, try to get all your job offers on the table at the same time in order to adequately compare and contrast your opportunities.

- If you are replacing someone, tactfully inquire about why they left the company.

- Look at promotion potential. Don't assume a promotion will be automatically yours simply because you stay with the company for a certain amount of time. Talk to people already employed by the company about how the company handles promotion.

- Try to be realistic in your expectations.

- Remember that the world does not revolve around you—earn the right to be heard. But don't forsake initiative. Employers notice initiative—offer excellence and go beyond their expectations.



FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST

Students to minister around the world this summer

By Erin Boyd
Pilot editor

As the scorching sun beats down upon her back, her mind drifts to the hot and humid Carolina summer she is missing.

As he rows his canoe through the thick foliage of the jungle water, his mind wanders to the lush green of the Broad River.

The malnourished children clinging to her arms clench her heart. As she scoops up a little boy and meets his hungry eyes, she thinks back to those she left behind back home.

These scenes will soon be not too far from the truth for some Gardner-Webb students, as they will be embarking on mission trips around the world this summer. Whether to an African

village or the South American jungle, several Gardner-Webb students will be spending their summers ministering to others around the world.

Junior Tabitha Childers will travel to the west coast of Africa, ministering to villages in Burkina Faso.

"The trip will include a little bit of everything," said Childers.

Along with working with children and teaching ESL (English as a Second Language), Childers will be researching evangelism techniques for the Daari people.

Childers advises students interested in missions to be flexible and have an open heart.

"Listen to God because He will definitely take you to places you never would think you would go," she said.

Sophomore Jason Bruner will be

spending one month out of his summer in Peru, traveling the jungle to evangelize and disciple.

Bruner believes the Peruvians will have a lot to teach him.

"My biggest goal is to learn from the people of Peru," said Bruner. "I want to see their perspectives on life and how they live out their faith. Through them, I want to connect with the heart and nature of God in a new way."

Junior Becca Miller will be ministering in Malawi for the third time this summer.

Along with GWU junior Amber Inscore and Divinity School student Bryan Evans and a team member from the community, Miller will aid full-time missionaries with an orphan outreach.

Miller has learned much from going

to Malawi on mission trips.

"Materialism is a big platform of mine," said Miller. "The starving children in Africa that our parents talk about are real."

Miller admits, however, that ministering in a foreign country can make an emotional toll on a person. While holding a starving child last summer, Miller experienced a time of questioning God.

"God, I don't understand," I prayed. "I'll just hold onto you and you hold onto James [the child]."

Miller pointed to whom she believes holds the answers to all of her questions: Jesus Christ.

"My life is not about me or even the people I serve...my life is about Christ," said Miller. "He's the one taking care of these people."