

News

Faculty and students visit residence halls

Erin Aldridge
Pilot Copy editor

Around 7 p.m. on Aug. 27, many students opened their doors only to find various faculty members, students, and in some cases, even the school's president, Dr. Frank Campbell, waiting to greet them.

But these students weren't in any trouble. And the identically clad people standing at their doors weren't even trying to sell them anything. They were part of residence life's first annual "Residence Hall House Call."

The residence life House Call is an idea that was thought up by the Retention Task Force, a group that works hard to find ways to keep students involved and interested in GWU.

The basic idea of the House Call, which included students, faculty, coaches, the president, the vice president and others, was to knock on student's doors, greet them, give them a chance to win prizes, and most importantly, to reach out and get to know them.

"In the first six weeks of being at college, most students decide whether or not they will stay where they are," said Rob

Foreman, director of residence life here at GWU.

Knowing this, residence life wanted to work hard to find a way to reach out to students, get them connected and involved at school, and show them that there are "People who Care" about them at GWU. The Residence Hall House Call is an idea that accomplishes this, and it encourages students to stick around for a while and see what the school has to offer them.

Those participating in the House Call and students experiencing the House Call all seemed to have a good time. "All the faculty really enjoyed the House Call and thought that it was a wonderful idea," said Annette Simmons, residence life office manger. "They can't wait to do it again. We all thought it went over really well."

"I thought it was funny to open my door and find Dean Moore standing there reading my message board," said Jennifer Brunson, a student at GWU.

The Task Force is also conducting other programs to reach out to students and get them involved, such as commuter student luncheons and the University 101 Meal Deal.

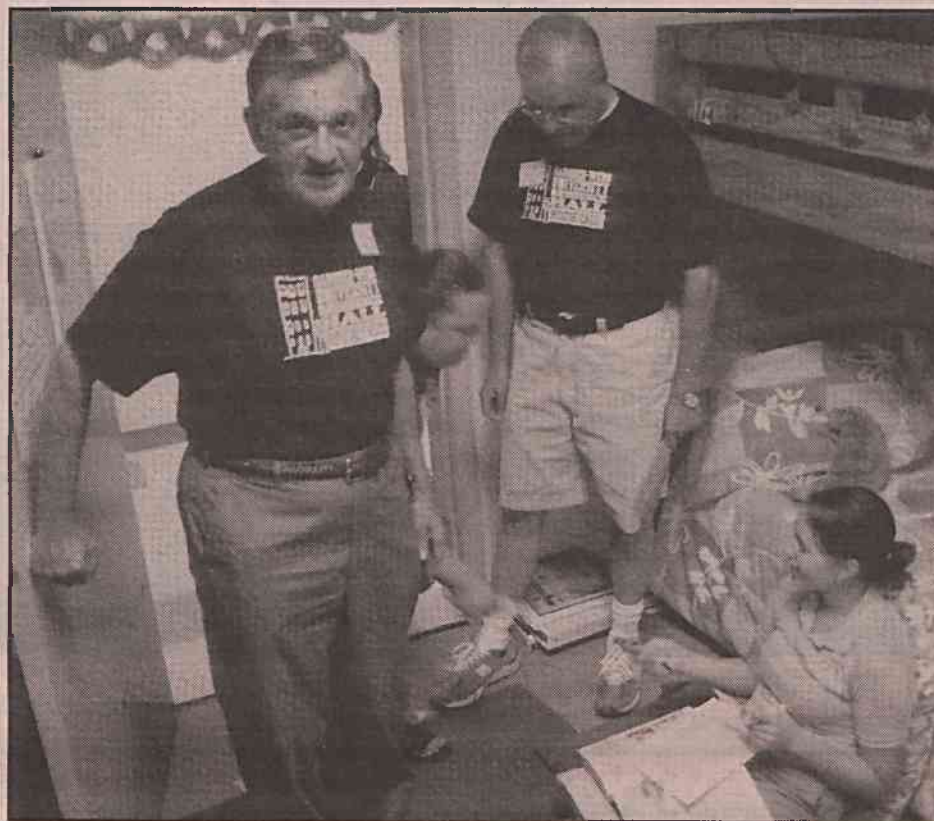


Photo by Merry Leigh Miller

President Frank Campbell and Vice President for Enrollment Management Scoot Dixon and their Retention Task Force visited students, such as Katie King, pictured, Wednesday.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil jails occult killers

A court in Belem, northern Brazil, has sentenced two men to a total of 92 years' imprisonment for their part in the murder and sexual mutilation of young boys in the Amazon town of Altamira between 1989 and 1993.

Outside, hundreds of people, including relatives of the murdered boys, marched on the courthouse carrying their pictures. They also held banners demanding justice.

—BBC News

Burma military announces roadmap towards democracy

It was the Khin Nyunt's first major speech since his new appointment. In an important policy speech, the newly-appointed Prime Minister, General Khin Nyunt, said the government would restart a national convention to draw up a new constitution which would lead to a free and fair election.

However, he gave no timetable for releasing the opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, nor any suggestion that the military was ready to give up its hold on power.

Until that happens, there's unlikely to be any easing of the isolation imposed on Burma by western and other governments who are still waiting for convincing signs that the military really is willing to share power.

—BBC News

YMCA helps students explore career interests

Kaylin Bowers
Pilot staff

The official kickoff for the Gardner-Webb Student YMCA (GWSY) program will be from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 Sept. 4, on the Quad. This event will be an opportunity for students to meet with YMCA and Non-profit organization workers to see if there is a possible career interest for them.

Sally Wills is Gardner-Webb's contact with the YMCA and has been a part of the GWU staff for one month. She is available to help students who are interested in participating in the GWSY program.

On Thursday, staff from GWU, the local YMCA, and local non-profit organizations will be available to talk with students interested in the opportunities presented. Twenty of the staff members present will be from local agencies covering the areas of sports, aquatics, human services, wellness, membership and marketing, family childcare, teens and business, and human resources and management. Also helping out with the kickoff will be GWU staff and stu-

dents, including Campus Minister Tracy Jessup, Career Counselor Holly Sweat, and members of SGA.

The YMCA kickoff will give students the opportunity to become familiar with the new program. Networking is also important, and the kickoff will allow students who are interested to "get a leg up in the hiring process," said Wills.

The internships and classes are designed to give the students a real and safe working experience in a YMCA before they graduate from college. The classes offered will also allow the students to begin jobs at a director status, which is a secondary level, rather than at the beginning level.

Putting the students through training school and educating them about what they will expect if they accept a job at a non-profit organization will give the students an advantage over others with no experience or training. This joint program is beneficial to not only the students, but to YMCAs and non-profit agencies as well.

This is the first year the YMCA program has been offered at GWU.