

## News

# GEM program opens doors for students

Sean Hubbard  
Pilot Staff

Gardner-Webb has stumbled upon a gem of an idea that business students should treasure.

The Graduates in Executive Management (GEM) program puts business students in classrooms taught by faculty members who were former CEOs for companies worth over \$100 million.

Charles Tichenor, professor of business, who has an extensive background with business corporations, created the program. As former chairman of the board of the Champale Sparkling Beverage Company and graduate of Harvard Graduate School of Business, Tichenor designed the program to help students get a head start on becoming successful businesspersons.

"[We want to] let students and parents know that we can help," said Tichenor. "Companies can now hire people who have been taught by CEOs."

To be accepted into the GEM program, the student must reach several requirements. Students must carry at least a 3.0 grade-point average, complete 18 business courses taught by GEM professors, complete two extra case

papers per course and pay a one-time fee of \$2,750, which is for a productive cause.

This fee pays for a 10-day trip to Engelberg, Switzerland, where students will experience the beauty of the Alps and learn much about business in a different culture, said Tichenor. The trip includes lectures by Schiller University professors and experience visiting a Swiss business.

The program also includes a two-day weekend retreat to a North Carolina resort, where students meet with current CEOs of businesses.

Tichenor said the program opens the door for students to get job opportunities, which is supported by the recent success of the program.

"The GEM program is what makes our business school unique," said Elena Ilcheva, a senior business major. "It is designed to give the students the necessary competitive advantage in the job market."

Of the eight students who participated in the two-year GEM program, all of them either continued their education in the master's program or had a job, said Tichenor.

There are currently 15 students in the GEM program, with 25 more potential recruits.

"We don't promise anybody a job," said Tichenor. "We just get them job interviews."

## Lending a hand



Photo by Christina Tyler

Three Gardner-Webb students participate in United Way's Day of Caring by painting rooms at the Shelby YMCA.

# CMU offers spring break mission opportunities

Katie Main  
Pilot Staff

For college students facing the dilemma of deciding where to spend spring break, Campus Ministries United is offering a way around the same old beach routine by doing something a little different.

CMU plans on leading five mission trips over spring break.

Andy Byers, director of student ministries, plans to lead a trip to Warsaw, Poland, where students will work with missionaries from the International Mission Board, share the gospel with Warsaw's enormous college-student population and establish cell groups among them.

The team will spend a lot of time on the streets, passing out information about the Christian faith. Byers said the religious atmosphere in Warsaw is saturated by "nominalism."

"There's not much real,

authentic Christianity there," he said. "Often when we explain the gospel it's very, very new to them."

Sophomore Amanda Miller, who went to Warsaw last year, plans on going back in the spring.

"This time we'll be doing more of the personal, one-on-one meeting of people, which is the best part," she said.

Sophomore Anna Seiges decided to go to Warsaw last year after praying about it and coming to the conclusion that, "Hey man, we're [Christians] called to missions so I might as well go."

While there, the team stood out in the snow for seven days on college campuses and in the subway station and handed out tracts and stickers promoting Vitanovis.pl - an evangelical Web site that targets the post-modern generation.

Seiges said interacting with a people group she'd never seen before and seeing the

excitement of the Polish Christians were highlights of the trip.

"The redeemed there have such a heart for people to come to know Christ because of the slim population of evangelical Christians in Poland," Seiges said.

The team stays in an apartment building owned by First Baptist Church of Warsaw.

For Seiges, Miller and their fellow team members, the estimated cost of the trip is \$1100.

Students can find information about and applications for all spring break mission trips at the Campus Ministries Office in Suttle Hall.

### Honduras

Significantly warmer is the trip to Siguatopeque, Honduras, led by Campus Minister Tracy Jessup. The trip involves setting up a dental clinic in the village. The team travels and works with a group of dental students from the University of Alabama at

Birmingham, who treat village residents, as Gardner-Webb students assist in various ways.

"They don't have electricity, so we help by holding flashlights into patients' mouths as the students work," Jessup said.

The team works at the clinic all week, then leads a worship service at a nearby church the following Sunday morning.

Nursing and pre-med students are especially encouraged to participate, as well those proficient in Spanish. The trip's estimated cost is \$1200.

"Our role is to minister to their physical needs so the missionaries that come behind us can minister to their spiritual needs," Jessup said.

### El Salvador

The International Mission Board is also involved in coordinating a trip to El Salvador, designed specifically for American Sign Language students. Led by ASL professor, Mary High, the team will work in the city of San Salvador at

the Christian School for the Deaf. Students will be leading a Bible school program, as well as tutoring the children and training interpreters.

The trip's cost is estimated at \$1,000.

### Alaska

Those seeking a change of atmosphere without leaving the country can join the team traveling to Alaska, where students will work at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in conjunction with the Baptist Campus Ministry there.

The trip's cost is \$900.

### North Carolina

A backpacking trip along the North Carolina coast is also scheduled for spring break. Led by Kelly Brame, director of leadership and volunteerism, and Bruce Moore, vice president and dean of student development, the trip costs around \$250-350 and will include a day devoted to service projects related to post-Hurricane Isabel cleanup.