

News

Wheelchair accessibility frustrating for students

Kaylin Bowers
Pilot staff

Gardner-Webb University's campus is accessible to students in wheelchairs, but the various routes of accessibility have proven to not always be convenient. GWU has made the campus accessible to those who require the aid of a wheelchair or scooter, but sometimes it is difficult for the students to get to the ramp or elevator.

With the exception of Webb, Withrow and residence halls, all buildings on campus are accessible past the first floor. Withrow and Webb Hall have ramps, but no elevators allowing students with wheelchair needs to access the upper level floors.

Students who are wheelchair bound are unable to take science courses because labs are held on the second floor, said Jacob Conley, sophomore. Instead, he must wait until the new building is finished until he can take his courses. Other buildings are accessible, but are very inconvenient.

"It is a little frustrating sometimes," said Megan Worrell, freshman. "It's an adventure to get to class daily because I'm not sure where I will end up or how to get there."

Worrell uses a scooter to get around campus because she is still recovering from an accident that occurred a year ago. Worrell and Conley have both had to find different routes to class as a result of coming

across a few steps in the sidewalk.

Both students also face the possibility of having problems with elevators in buildings, such as the ones in Lindsay and Noel. Conley and Worrell both agree that getting to class on third floor Noel or Elliot is difficult.

"Sometimes the elevator takes awhile or the door doesn't shut properly," said Conley.

Last year, one of Conley's classes had to move downstairs because the elevator was shut down for maintenance.

Worrell suggested some improvements such as automatic doors, and Conley suggested better placement of elevators.

"For example, Dover Chapel has a water fountain almost directly in front of the

door and it's difficult to maneuver around," said Conley. "It is hard not to run into it."

The residence halls are also inconvenient. Some resident halls, such as Stroup, have no wheelchair access because they have steps at every entrance.

"I hope people will come to the apartments, because I can't get up the stairs," Worrell said.

Conley was placed in the apartments because they "can accommodate a handicap shower and have added space," said Janna Lamison, assistant director of residence life.

The main reason why resident halls and buildings are not completely wheelchair accessible is because of their age, said Lamison. Updates are expensive.

Having certain places on

campus with limited accessibility hinders the activities wheelchair-bound students can participate in. Attending basketball games is easy because the students can enter the LYCC through a door on the bottom floor and sit on the floor of the stadium.

Football, however, is a different story.

"I would like to be a part of the students, but I can't get down there," said Conley.

Conley must sit at the top of the stadium because there is no access to lower sections of the bleachers.

Both Conley and Worrell said that they are glad that the majority of campus is accessible, but the issue of convenience is still frustrating and difficult.

Live bands play for WGWG

Lee Adams
Pilot staff

Gardner-Webb's own WGWG 88.3 FM radio station held Webbstock 2003 this past week, featuring nearly 40 live bands on air.

WGWG has served GWU and the surrounding community for 29 years. With the conversion to 50,000 watts five years ago and with the addition of Dan McClellan as station manager, 88.3 has undergone major changes in format.

The station is now geared toward adult alternative music, offering a variety of national and local artists. Folk, country, rock and bluegrass are just a few of the styles you'll hear on WGWG.

The university and listener support paid for many of the renovations and equipment upgrades to WGWG's primary on-air studio located in the Elliott House on Memorial Drive; however, the station is still in financial need to cover the costs of broadcasting.

Webbstock was held with the intentions of bringing live music to the area, while being able to hold a fundraiser for the station.

In a press release, Marketing and Imaging

Coordinator, Craig Roach said, "Our goal is that Webbstock will change the perception of a public radio fundraiser. We believe that this weeklong festival is something our listeners will enjoy. This will give them an opportunity to help us by pledging their support by phone or online."

Though figures were still not available as of Sunday night, many listeners called in to show their support of WGWG radio. During one Thursday night show, Reggae Splash, the station received gifts totaling \$1000 during one hour.

"We have the greatest listeners in the world," said Helen Pack, one of the afternoon DJs.

"They love this station and we love them."

The artists enjoyed the opportunity for live airtime as well. Members of the band Senatobia, featured on Monday, said that the opportunity to play on a station like WGWG was helpful to artists and that the station was well worth supporting.

As for WGWG 88.3, the Webb, they are trying to stay true to their motto: "Just a little different."

Funds can still be given in support of WGWG. For information on WGWG radio or to sponsor the station with a financial gift, you can contact Dan McClellan, station manager, at (704) 406-3841.



Photo by Lee Adams

Phil Lomac of the band Senatobia sings for the university's radio station, WGWG.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Original play to be performed

The Gardner-Webb theater department is set to present its newest stage production at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19-22 and at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 23 in the Millennium Playhouse.

"Dogfall," written and directed by Scot Lahaie, GWU's director of theater, deals with the "right to die" debate and is recommended for mature audiences only because of its sensitive subject matter.

"The dialectical structure of the play exposes the nasty underbelly of both arguments, from the left and the right, thereby forcing us as an audience to seek compromise in the middle," said Lahaie.

"Dogfall" also marks the onset of GWU's Playwrights Workshop, which aims to bring original plays to the stage. In the years to come, the department hopes to bring in other playwrights to help students in the process of writing and editing their plays, said Lahaie.

Admission is free for GWU students, faculty and staff with an I.D. card. The cost for others is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

— Sarah Olib

Medieval culture comes to GWU

The music department hosted a concert by The Baltimore Consort - a sextet incorporating several instruments whose specialty is music from the 16th and 18th centuries. The concert, held in Blanton Auditorium on November 6 was entitled, "Early Music" and included music from the late 1500s through the late 1600s and made use of instruments from that same time period.

The Consort has performed as a group for over 20 years and employs six musicians who play instruments like the lute, viol, flute, cittern, early guitar, recorder, crumhorn, bandora and others to create a distinct sound reminiscent of the popular music of the renaissance. The group has toured throughout the U.S. and several foreign countries and has been featured on five major syndicated radio programs.

"They're professionals that are usually well known in the classical circle," said Wanda Bridges, who works in the fine arts department.

— Katie Main