

Features

Gravett expands horizons through new position

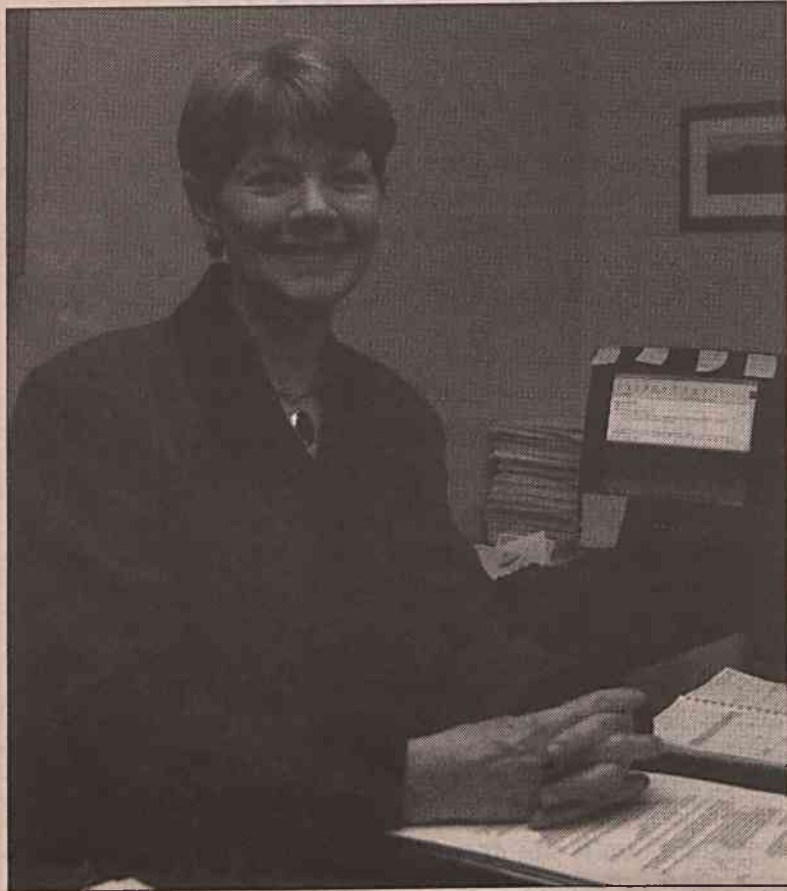


Photo by Scott Holstein

Darlene Gravett, the newly appointed associate provost of schools, sits at her desk in the Graduate office.

Jacob Conley
Pilot Staff

Darlene Gravett has had a desire to teach since a

young age. Now, however, instead of teaching, she is the Dean of graduate programs at Gardner-Webb. Gravett said, she enjoys the

position of Dean, but misses the interaction with students.

"It is quite different from being a teacher. I do mostly administrative work now," said Gravett.

Since her family has a military background, Gravett's early life was punctuated by frequent moves. Even so, Gravett still developed a love of teaching as well as the love for the English language.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher," said Gravett. "I even used to play school."

In order to accomplish her goal of becoming a teacher, Gravett attended Eastern Kentucky University where she received a degree in English. Upon completion Dr. Gravett earned a Masters degree from the University of Miami at Coral Gables, Florida, and concluded her education by receiving a Doctorate degree from Southern Mississippi University.

After college, Gravett knew she wanted to teach at

the higher levels of education. "I never really wanted to teach in elementary school, I always wanted to teach at a high school level or higher," she said.

Gravett came to Gardner-Webb from North Greenville college in Tigerville, S.C., where she had been teaching freshman and sophomore English classes for ten years.

"I wanted to expand my horizons and teach upper level classes," said Gravett. "I saw an add for Gardner-Webb, I applied and I was hired."

When outside of the classroom, Gravett enjoys a wide variety of activities, which included spending time with her husband who has now retired from the army, hiking, reading and writing. Her favorite books are "Canterbury Tales" and Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind."

"It ("Gone with the Wind") is a great novel, said Gravett. "Highly romanticized but still a great novel."

Gravett is expanding her horizons once again, this time by becoming the Dean of the graduate schools of GWU. Instead of teaching, Gravett now acts as a liaison between the different schools, a job which she said has many positive elements as well as a few drawbacks.

"This has been the first semester of my career that I have not taught a class. After the next year or two I will no longer see students that I know and have had in class. I will miss that a lot," said Gravett.

When Gravett looks into her future horizons she sees retirement.

"I have no desire to climb the profession ladder at this stage in my life," she said.

She does feel, however, that GWU should continue to expand its horizons as an institution.

"I would like to hear students continue to say, 'Gardner-Webb, that's a great school. I'd love to go there,'" said Gravett.

GWU alumnus continues to have impact in community

Kat Harry
Pilot Staff

Scotty Davenport has been the athletic events assistant for Gardner-Webb University, since he graduated from GWU in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management and a minor in mathematics. Davenport hopes to be an athletic director in the future.

Davenport was born in Shelby, where he currently resides. He acquired his current position when GWU athletics moved to the Division-I level of athletics. His job entails many things that coaches of each sport and their staff previously took care such as painting the lines of athletic fields.

Aside of this job Davenport also works as a volunteer firefighter in Boiling Springs, helps University Police, acts as a high school basketball, softball, and soccer referee, along with working during the summer at religious camps for N.C. youth.

Although Davenport's hours fluctuate he is still a very busy man, he said.

"I am usually not required to come into work early, but I can work until 1 a.m. during the football season or basketball double headers," said Davenport.

Davenport does have many work-study staff members that spend several nights and days to make sure athletic fields and everything involving athletic

competition is ready.

"My work-study staff is among the best of any work-study staff on campus," said Davenport. "There is no way the football field would have looked as good without my staff for the football team's televised game."

He mentioned that his staff makes his outside work possible and takes a lot of stress off his back. He has little time to travel to away games but he does when it is possible. More than anything Davenport stressed that he "works for the betterment of the university."

Anything he can do to make a positive impact at GWU, he does, even when it is not under his job title. He may help out in the cafeteria, help University police, work



Photo by Scott Holstein

Scotty Davenport paints lines on one of Gardner-Webb's soccer fields behind the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

the clock or scoreboard at athletic events or take the team's statistics of a game.

In the future Davenport hopes to be an athletic director, a firefighter or maybe get involved in with law

enforcement.

In the meantime, Davenport feels that he belongs at GWU.

"I felt led to GWU by God and have faith that I am in the right place," he said.