

## News

# "Dogfall" announced as New Play Award winner

Jared Smith  
Pilot Staff

Last week, the North Carolina Theatre Conference announced the play, "Dogfall," as the recipient of the 2004 New Play Award.

Scott Lahaie, director of theater at Gardner-Webb, wrote the play.

The original play was performed on campus last November; however, the award is based on the script alone, not the production.

"Dogfall" is a play on the debate over the right to die, with the play uncovering the topic in the American court system. The first cast to perform the play was Matt Winning, Karl Mosbacher and Mary Leila Erwin, all GWU students.

Winning was excited to be part of the first cast that performed "Dogfall."

"I feel privileged that I was the first to do that part," said Winning. "And I'm excited for Scot."

It was not until days before the announcing of the New Play Award that Lahaie was contacted about his award, and he delayed his weekend events to attend the awards ceremony.

"[The committee] called me on Thursday and asked if I could be there on Sunday because they had announced the winner," said Lahaie. "I said, 'Yeah, I'll just cancel my rehearsal!'"

As recognition of the award, "Dogfall" will be used in stage read-

ings across the state.

Two readers will sit in chairs and share the script with the audience without props or backdrops. So far readings of "Dogfall" have been done at the national theatre conference, Davidson College, Wesleyan College and in Greensboro.

Lahaie feels that, besides his personal benefit from winning the award, the university will benefit as well.

"Most exciting for us is that it really draws attention to the Gardner-Webb's theatre department," said Lahaie. "It's a real validation for our program, and I think student enrollment for this department is going to be strongly impacted by this particular play."



Photo by Kaylin Bowers

Scot Lahaie poses for a portrait outside the Communication Studies Hall.

## Students attend conference

Kaylin Bowers  
Pilot assistant photo editor

Several of Gardner-Webb University's Alpha Chi National Honor Society members attended the Alpha Chi Regional Convention in Nashville, Tenn. on April 1-3.

A group of eight students and English professor and club sponsor June Hobbs went to the convention, which had an attendance of approximately 125 students and faculty.

The students attending the conference were Jason Bruner, Emily Davis, Tim Gribble, Hans Koschman, Shawn Pendergrass, Laurie Pinkert, Douglas Singer, and Sarah Olimb.

"It was a time for students and sponsors to share scholarly papers and take care of business, such as electing representatives and officers," said Hobbs.

All eight students who went to the convention presented a paper, artwork or a musical piece.

"I was proud of them because we were the only group in which everyone who went presented something," said Hobbs.

The students who attended enjoyed not only the convention itself, but also having evenings free to explore Nashville.

"I enjoyed getting to know my fellow classmates better," said

Koschman, junior.

Others agreed that it was a good chance to spend time with students on campus that they do not normally see.

"It was a relaxing weekend and a good chance to get away, but I also enjoyed being able to hear classmates present their work as well," said Davis, senior.

Davis presented a display of her artwork with the theme, "Ever-changing," showing a portrait of a baby's face, a painting of the artist as a small child, a self-portrait and a picture of her grandmother's hands. Koschman and the other students who attended presented papers, while Singer played an original piece on the piano.

"I presented [my music] because last year I presented something I wrote and it went very well, so I decided to try it again," said Singer.

Students presented their papers, artwork and musical pieces at various times Friday and Saturday mornings.

"The students in Alpha Chi were represented well by the presentations," said Singer.

Alpha Chi also received the Star Chapter award of outstanding excellence.

Next year, Alpha Chi will be attending a national convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

## Peterson staying at Gardner-Webb

Jared Smith  
Pilot Staff

Over the past few weeks, students have been wondering if Kirk Peterson, assistant professor of PEWSS, will be returning to teach next semester. Peterson turned in his resignation shortly after spring break in hopes of purchasing a marina in Connecticut.

Peterson had planned to purchase the business with his wife, sister and brother-in-law. However, due to some legal issues with the business, Peterson decided to delay the purchase and ask for his job back at Gardner-Webb.

His colleagues expressed concern for his decision.

"We did not want to him to go to begin with," said Carol Blassingame, associate professor and chair of PEWSS. "He is a valuable faculty member and colleague."

After the mutual decision by the University and Peterson to stay at GWU, the professor will return next year teaching his usual classes of Health, Drugs and Alcohol, Community Recreation, and University 101. "I'll be back, and even though I don't know what's going to happen, I'm just real excited to be at Gardner-Webb," said Peterson.

Peterson knows that there was a purpose for the events that allowed him to stay at Gardner-Webb, and he is grateful to still be a part of the University. "I was trying to do the very best I could for my family, yet sometimes we've got to pay attention to God's roadblocks," said Peterson. "We're just proud Gardner-Webb will take us back, and we look forward to next year."

"We are just happy to have to him here," said Blassingame.

2002-2003 Yearbooks Book  
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Wednesday: 12-5  
Thursday: 10-5  
Friday: 10-5

Where: Pilot Office Rm. 108 (Communication Studies Hall)