



## Centennial seniors get pinned

Amanda Wood  
*Pilot copy editor*

On Sept. 24, Gardner-Webb University's "Centennial Seniors" gathered in the Paul Porter Arena of the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center for GWU's annual senior pinning banquet.

The pinning ceremony, which marked the seniors' from students to alumni, held special significance this year, according to Director of Alumni Relations, Lou Ann Gilliam.

"It's a whole celebration of 'you are the seniors of the centennial,'" Gilliam said.

For Gilliam, who worked for

three years as an admissions counselor at GWU, the centennial class itself holds special significance.

"It is the last full class that I helped to recruit," Gilliam said. "I knew they were a special group when they came in. I want them to continue that relationship with Gardner-Webb."

For some seniors, being a part of GWU's centennial class adds excitement to graduating.

"I think it's exciting to be a part of such a special moment in the university's history," said Senior Alex Ventura.

Ventura's fiancée, Senior Jennifer Kay, agrees.

"It's just really interesting, and I didn't realize Gardner-Webb had been around that long," Kay said. "It's just really neat that we're graduating in the 100th year."

Kay and Ventura plan to get



married after graduation. For Ventura, the best thing about his time at GWU was meeting Kay - "finding your soul-mate," he said.

For senior GOAL student Annie Littlejohn, the banquet was a time to celebrate. "I'm glad to be a member," Littlejohn said. "To celebrate the 100 years."

Littlejohn is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree while working as a nurse at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center in Spartanburg, S.C.

Just before the pinning ceremony, seniors and their guests

watched the debut of a video highlighting the major events in GWU's history from the school's first high school class of 1908 to the university's centennial class of 2005.

"The Gardner-Webb family has come through many decades together - 10 to be exact," Gilliam said as she introduced the pinning ceremony.

"Centennial seniors, you are a part of this Gardner-Webb story," Gilliam said. "What a nice time to be a senior. You graduate in this grand birthday year."

In his remarks after the pinning ceremony, Senior Class President Buddy Jackson noted the video. "Watching the video I saw people just like us," Jackson said. "We are the 100 year class. We get to leave our mark."



photo by Kaylin Bowers

Christina O'Grady gets pinned by her mother, Deborah, during the senior pinning ceremony.

## A DAY AT THE FAIR



photo by Scott Holstein

The Cleveland County Fair opened its gates last week. This high view of the fair shows some of the event's features from the ferris wheel to food booths and games. The last day of the fair, which is the biggest in the state of North Carolina, is Saturday. For more photos on the Cleveland County Fair, see page 5.

## Staying safe on campus

Abbie Crago  
*Pilot staff*

On Sept. 5, a man asked Sophomore Ben Curry to help him jump start his car. When the two went to the car, the man allegedly held Curry at knifepoint and took his wallet.

"I don't know how you prevent that," said Chief of University Police Barry Johnson. "It was just one of those random acts."

Johnson said that despite this incident, crime on campus has been relatively low this year.

Johnson encourages students never to walk alone at night and call University Police for an escort.

In addition, the Student Government Association is now

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### Tips on staying safe

- never walk alone
- stay in lighted areas
- call for an escort
- keep your head up when walking and pay attention to surroundings

## Art professor displays work in Shelby

Vic Sloan  
*Pilot staff*

Susan Bell, an art instructor at Gardner-Webb University, is featured at an exhibit at Synergy Studios & Gallery in Shelby.

The show opened Sept. 9 and runs through Oct. 14. The name of the exhibit is "Places and Faces," and the theme is, "Character is written on both land and on its people."

### Facts about "Places and Faces"

- The show runs Sept. through Oct. 14
- Synergy Studios & Gallery is located at 212B W. Warren St.
- Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday

The show is inspired by Bell's foreign travel experiences in countries like Israel, Greece and Russia.

Before adding the finishing touches to most of the paintings at the show, Bell took photographs of people

or sketched them on sight, she said.

According to Bell, she has been involved with art all her life. Bell has been an art instructor at GWU for 18 years.

Bell also adds that the

use of acrylic, water color, pastel and collage in her works displays gesture and appearance to describe the personality of the place as well as the people who live there.

Synergy Studios & Gallery is located at 212B W. Warren St. Viewing hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Other viewing times may be arranged by calling 704-487-0144.



photo by Joel Fluty

GWU students Melissa Caldwell (left) and Hariyn Gavurnik study artwork by GWU professor Susan Bell.

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