

photo by Joel Fluty

Director of "The Legacy," Jim Lawrence pauses for a photo with the lead, Katie O'Neil, senior. The premiere was in November.

## Movie premieres

### Decker dorm's real legacy story revealed

Amanda Wood  
Pilot staff

When Jim Lawrence began writing the script of "The Legacy: A Ghost Story" last spring, he knew he'd found the right subject matter for a student-involved video project set on Gardner-Webb University's campus.

Lawrence, a communications professor at GWU, was inspired to write the script by a student-project from his Television News Production class about the mysterious "Decker Ghost."

According to Lawrence, he did no research into the

historical accuracy of the Decker ghost.

"Every place I've been there's some ghost story," Lawrence said. "Whether the one here has any basis in reality I have no idea."

GWU's ghost story involves a student who supposedly committed suicide in Decker Hall, named after the son of North Carolina Governor and GWU supporter O. Max Gardner.

But according to GWU Historian Lansford Jolley, a suicide never took place in Decker.

"O. Max Gardner's son, Decker Gardner, did commit suicide in a family mill over in Shelby," Jolley

said.

Jolley said he thinks the rumor about the Decker suicide and subsequent ghost story came from Decker Gardner's actual suicide.

For Lawrence, the Decker ghost story provided a good foundation for "The Legacy."

"I like these kind of stories because you can do things with them," Lawrence said. "I like to think of that film as a thinking person's ghost story because if you study it there's a lot to think about. There's nothing in there that's accidental."

#### Just the facts

• Lawrence taught at four schools before coming to GWU, and three had ghost stories of their own.

• His only other ghost story is a movie he made for Disney, "Child of Glass," about an antebellum house haunted by a 13-year-old girl.

• James Webb "Decker" Gardner, executive vice-president of Cleveland Cloth Mills from 1941 to 1946, according to the Web site for the manuscript department of UNC-Chapel Hill's library, died Jan. 19, 1946.

To find out more about "The Legacy" visit: [www.legacy.gardner-webb.edu](http://www.legacy.gardner-webb.edu).

## Stressed out

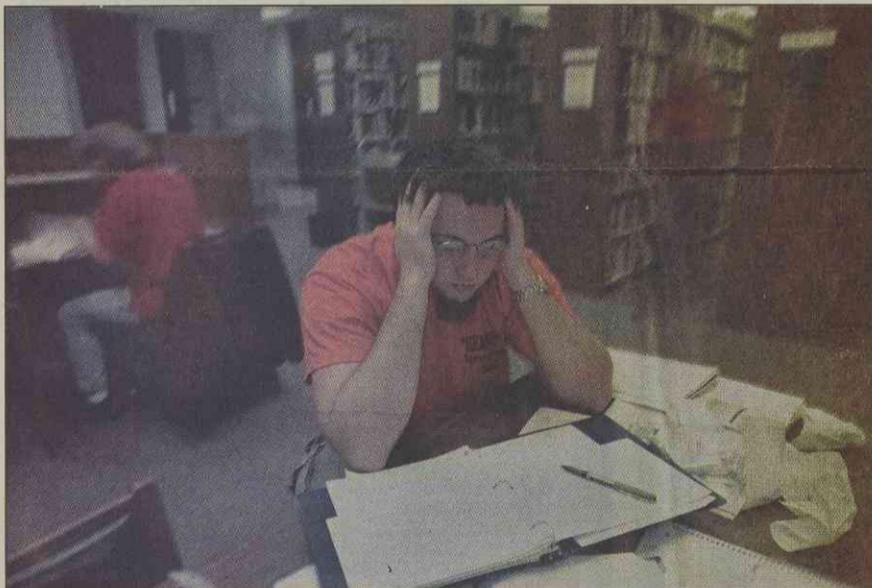


photo illustration by Scott Holstein

This photo illustration of the stress that students experience during finals week shows the craziness it takes to get the perfect grade. Exams start Monday and last until Saturday.

### Tips on staying sane during exam time

Abbie Crago  
Pilot Staff

Before Gardner-Webb University students can go home to enjoy home cooking and time with family, there is one last hurdle to overcome — exams.

For 15 weeks life has consisted of little

more than papers, tests and quizzes, but the biggest tests are still ahead.

Jim Whitlow from the counseling center advises studying in short spurts, no more than 40 minutes at a time.

"Go over your material," Whitlow said. "Review it. Review it. Review it again."

Despite what students may or may not know about studying and preparing for exams, some stick to the time-tested method of procrastination.

Junior Sarah Moody spends 30 to 60 minutes studying the night before her exams.

"I don't really care about finals," Moody said. Others, like freshman Mary Jo McNeill, have been studying for a while, working up to the big week.

"My toughest exam will probably be statistics, but music survey will be hard too," McNeill said.

In case you haven't started studying yet, don't try to cram it all in the night before.

"If you've got to cram — cram for a C," Whitlow said.

Typically, stress is an unavoidable side effect of exams, but you can reduce it by getting enough sleep, preparing and exercising, according to GWU's counseling center.

"Arrive ten minutes early to your exam to get yourself calm and relaxed," Whitlow said. "And don't discuss anything with your classmates; it tends to be more confusing than helpful."

## Dorms evacuated

### Thirty-six girls sent to hospital after chemicals mix

Jennifer Menster  
Pilot editor-in-chief

Thirty-six girls were sent to Cleveland Regional Medical Center Tuesday after a chemical reaction occurred on the third floor of Spangler dorm.

One female was kept over night for a precaution because of her asthma. All girls were released after respiration tests and some went home with prescriptions.

The building was evacuated for more than an hour Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. after campus police received a call about a gassy smell. About three minutes later Myers girls also were evacuated in case of a gas leak.

"I was sitting in my room when a girl from Spangler came over because she said it was hard to breathe in her room," said Ashley Hall, senior RA in Myers. "We were all sent to Bost Gym, which was scary because no one knew what was going on."

After a little investigation, officials determined that the gassy smell was a result of a chemical reaction from cleaning products. On first instinct, officials thought that there may have been a gas leak. Campus Police Chief Barry Johnson said the first thing they check for is a leak in the water heater.

According to Residence Life Director Rob Foreman, it is not determined what chemicals were in the products that caused the reaction.

Foreman said that a cleaner was used to unclog a sink, then housekeeping used other products to perform normal cleaning routines. Foreman said the mix probably occurred earlier in the morning.

"The students did a wonderful job of responding to the situation," Foreman said.

Foreman and Johnson said this is the first incident of this kind to happen on campus to their knowledge. However, everyone was prepared for the situation.

"We have several different plans to use in a situation like this," Foreman said. "There is a Critical Incident Team made up of Residence Life staff, the dean of students and campus police to follow a check list of things we have to do."

In addition to the Critical Incident Team, local firefighters and medics also were on the scene. According to Foreman, several administrators went to the hospital to check on the girls.

"It was a scary situation until things got under control," Hall said. "I was really impressed with the volunteer fire department and everyone else who came out to help."

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