



The Pilot

Gardner-Webb University



Friday, April 1, 2005

www.gwupilot.com

Volume 8 No. 12



graphic by Scott Holstein

Since the high school opened its doors on the current property of GWU, the Southern Baptist denomination has had a huge role in the development of the university as it is today. After 100 years of success, administrators say there is no talk of disaffiliating from the state convention.

A century of Baptist heritage

Administrators say there is no sign of breaking away from convention

Jennifer Menster
Pilot editor-in-chief

One hundred years ago, two local Southern Baptist associations started a high school on the property that Gardner-Webb University now calls home.

And after those 100 years and several face lifts, the North Carolina State Baptist Convention, Baptist churches and Baptist church members still have a large role with the school.

Boiling Springs High School was started by the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Baptist Associations, and when the school became a junior college in the 1920's, the denomination was still involved with the overall make up, said Scoot Dixon, vice president for university relations.

But it wasn't until 1946 that Gardner-Webb became affiliated with the N.C. State Baptist Convention.

"We elected to be affiliated with the convention and they elected to be affiliated with us," Dixon said.

Still today the convention holds GWU as one of its five affiliated colleges. Within the last 10 years, the convention went from affiliation with seven schools down to the current five - GWU, Campbell University, Wingate University, Chowan College and Mars Hill College.

In the late 1990's, Wake Forest University and Meredith College decided to disaffiliate with the convention, according to John Roberson, executive director of the council on higher education. Roberson said the convention considers Meredith and Wake Forest paternal and historical institutions rather than affiliates. Roberson did say both colleges are still a part of the family.

"The paternal and historical schools get limited funding just for scholarships," Roberson said. "Whereas a school like Gardner-Webb gets funding for scholarships and general budget."

Within the last decade, the national trend has been universities, like Wake Forest and Meredith, leaving their state

conventions. But at GWU, according to many GWU staff members, the Baptist affiliation is not going anywhere.

"I do not see us ever going away from Baptist," said Frank Campbell, GWU president. "We are going to be committed to our heritage."

According to Tracy Jessup, campus minister, there has not been any serious talk about leaving the convention. He believes the school should stick with its historical roots.

Campbell said the university and the convention work well together and there are no problems with the relationship.

"The Baptist association is very important, but not absolutely essential," said Campbell.

The state convention does not own or operate the university, Dixon said. The convention mainly has three purposes: affiliate the Baptist name with the university, help fund the university and name trustees.

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Gone but not forgotten

Former baseball coach passes away

Jennifer Menster
Pilot editor-in-chief

Yes, the facts are impressive.

Three hundred Gardner-Webb victories, 835 career victories. A retired No. 27 jersey, one of only two baseball jerseys retired in GWU history. Inducted in the South Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame in 2003, 32 years coaching collegiate baseball,



MILLER

13 of those years at GWU.

But ask anyone about Clyde Miller and learn that he was more than just a baseball coach.

Some, such as Tony Setzer, GWU head men's soccer coach, will mention that Miller could tell a story like no one's business. Or maybe Setzer will mention Miller's sense of humor, and how Miller once awarded Setzer a trophy for "kickball coach of the year."

"He taught a lot about life and friendship," said a

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Celebration planned for Centennial

Matt Tessnear
Pilot Staff

Gardner-Webb University will celebrate 100 years of education with week-long events April 13 to 17.

Renee Ybarra, academic facilities and events coordinator, said that the committee began to plan for the week last spring.

"The Centennial Committee started meeting last May,"

Ybarra said. "It was almost a year ago. The whole idea of this weekend is to have something for everyone. Hopefully that's true, so try to come a little bit each day."

The GWU Baseball team is set to take the field against Jacksonville and Charleston Southern during the festivities. Various cookouts,

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Our Pilot reporter hit the streets and asked:

How mad are you about March Madness?

Daniel Abraham
Pilot staff

For college basketball fans, March is a very exciting month.

It is the time of the year when people make their brackets, hope that their team will make a run into the Final Four and maybe win the tournament and get together to watch the championship game.



SEELY

This year, March Madness might have a bittersweet taste for some Gardner-Webb University students. After a winning season, the GWU basketball team was only one game shy of making it into the tournament.

We decided to put our man on the street to ask GWU students how involved they are with the NCAA tournament this year and find out their predictions and



KNIPPEN

plans. Matt Knippen, freshman health and wellness major from Ottoville, Ohio, said he watches college basketball from time to time and is rooting for Illinois at this year's tournament.

"I'm a Big 10 fan," said Knippen.

Many of those interviewed believe Carolina is a favorite for winning the championship.



BAGWELL

"March Madness is a great time of the year," said Trace Vickers, senior elementary education major from Winchester, Va. "The Tar Heels are going to win."

According to Claire Bagwell, sophomore religious studies major from Kings Mountain, the winner of this year's tournament will be, "Carolina, of course."

Michael Seely, freshman sports



MILLS

management major from Kings Mountain, said that he has been watching college basketball recently and believes UNC will be the national champion.

"I want UNC to win because I don't like Duke," said Seely.

Some students were not very hopeful about their team's chances.



VICKERS

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