

CAMPUS NEWS

100 years and counting...

GW becomes a university

Amanda Wood
Pilot copy editor

Gardner-Webb University alumnus Gary Mitchem transferred to Virginia Commonwealth University after only a year in Boiling Springs.

"I was afraid I was missing the university experience," Mitchem said. "I'd only been here a year."

But Mitchem wasn't happy in Virginia.

"I hated it," he said. So he transferred back.

Mitchem graduated from GWU in 1995, two years after the school moved to university status.

According to GWU Historian Lansford Jolley, the school made the move because of the maturity of its academic programs, size and financial stability.

The school officially changed its name from Gardner-Webb College to Gardner-Webb University on January 1, 1993.

Mitchem, an honors student, said he spent his days at GWU with his books and his friends.

"We stayed busy in our departments, taking field trips whenever we could with our professors," Mitchem said. "We had dinner parties a lot. There wasn't a lot to do. I spent a lot of time on schoolwork."

GWU changed Mitchem's life, he said.

"The reason I'm so hung-up on the school is because it changed my life dramatically," Mitchem said. "The school just meant so much to me. I keep up with it. I take pride in what some of the people do."

GWU looks forward to another century of success

Amanda Wood
Pilot copy editor

Gardner-Webb Junior College alumnus Robert Crapps drove to Boiling Springs from Greenville, S.C. on April 16 to celebrate the school's centennial year by eating lunch with members of Gardner-Webb University's Half-Century Club.

Crapps earned the first O. Max Gardner scholarship and graduated from GWJC in 1944.

The retired theology professor said he hopes Gardner-Webb University will put students first as it moves forward.

"I would hope that it would maintain its commitment to high academic standards and its vision of what's best for each student," Crapps said.

GWU now

According to GWU's Web site, nearly 4,000 students from 32 states and 31 foreign countries enrolled in GWU's programs in 2004. The university offers four types of programs: the undergraduate day program, the GOAL program, graduate programs and doctoral programs.

Senior chemistry major Nisreen Abu Ata came to GWU from Jerusalem in 2001.

"I never expected to see the rural side of America," Abu Ata said. "I didn't think I'd be seeing pastures and cows and little houses and mountains."

Abu Ata heard about GWU after her travel-agent father helped a group of GWU students find their way around Israel. The



photo by Scott Holstein

Sydney Friday, 8, and Abbey, 6, make bubbles at the Centennial Celebration at GWU on April 16. The University spent 100 hours that weekend celebrating 100 years.

son of one of her father's co-workers also came to GWU.

Abu Ata says she appreciates the spiritual atmosphere a school like GWU offers.

"The fact that I'm able to talk about my faith with someone else has meant a great deal to me, and I think it's helped me grow, too," Abu Ata said. "The fact that my professors have also been really strong in their faith has encouraged me."

Abu Ata graduates in May and plans to start medical school back in Israel in July. She said she learned the importance of

community during her time at GWU.

"If somebody is sick or something falls through, somebody is always trying to help that other person," Abu Ata said. "I think that has given me a vision for the future. I've come to see the importance of having a community and the sense of community."

GWU future

At the Half-Century Club lunch on April 16, GWU President Frank Campbell told alumni the school has a bright future.

"Only the best is yet still to

come," Campbell said. "This school is here because God wanted it to be. That's the reason we've survived. It is a great place to be."

Campbell, who is retiring at the end of the 2005 academic year, said in the future numbers will grow and needed facilities will be built.

"Many wonderful things will happen," Campbell said. "Can you imagine what Gardner-Webb will be like 25 years from now?"

News in Brief

GWU shines at national Alpha Chi conference

Gardner-Webb University sent the largest delegation of student representatives to the annual Alpha Chi conference April 7-9. Eleven students and June Hobbs, associate professor of English and Alpha Chi sponsor, traveled to St. Louis, Mo., for the conference.

Each GWU delegate presented a paper at the conference. Out of the 76 schools that participated in the conference, GWU was the only school to accomplish that task.

"I was very proud," said Hobbs. "It was also helpful to the students because it allowed them to present a discussion on a national level in a professional setting and thus sharpened their presentation skills."

"My goal is to get into a good grad school," said Alpha Chi President Hans Koschmann, senior political science major from Hudson, N.H. "Presenting a paper at this conference will definitely help me."

Summer Hess, a senior English major from Kennett Square, Penn., took home the creative writing award for a reading of her original poetry. Hess was named the alternate for the Nolle Scholarship, as well.

"The award was a wonderful confidence booster," Hess said. "To be recognized at a national conference was encouraging."

Alpha Chi is a National Honor Society. According to Hobbs, receiving a membership into the society is the highest academic honor a student can earn at GWU.

— Shauna Porter

Moving to the beep of the baseball

While the Gardner-Webb University men's baseball team is in the middle of their season,

they aren't the only ones playing the game. And conventional baseball isn't the only way to play.

Today at 3:30 p.m. beep baseball will hold its annual event on the GWU softball field.

"It's a lot of fun to play," said Parrish Calloway, disabilities specialist. "And it's a lot of fun to participate in a different physical activity that you normally wouldn't think about paying attention to."

The sport was invented to allow sightless players a chance to play baseball. Charley Fairbanks, an engineer for Mountain Bell Telephone, created the first beep baseball in 1964.

When a beep baseball player steps into the batter's box, there are a few notable differences from regular baseball. Pitchers throw a ball that has a pin in it. The pin is removed and the ball starts beeping as it is thrown.

Hitters get three swings in each at-bat. If the batter does not hit it, they get two swings from a tee.

The field is different as well. Two bases are positioned, simulating first and third bases. Players who hit the ball must listen to see which base starts beeping. Which base beeps is determined by a controller.

Fielders are positioned to find the ball, and spotters are present to help the fielders find the ball.

"If a player gets to a base before the ball is touched by a fielder, then they score a run," said Calloway.

Sightless players at GWU have enjoyed the game for some time.

"We've been playing it at the Noel House for a long time," said Calloway.

Participating students make requests for specific professors, inviting them to play the game. Invitations are sent to those professors, but everyone is welcome to play.

"It is for blind people and for blindfolded people who want to play," said Calloway. "All of our blind students really seem to enjoy it each year."

— Matt Tessnear

Meetings: times set for questions

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candidate would be made before the end of the semester. The goal of the search is to have a president in office by July 1.

"Nothing is official until the board votes," Campbell said. "I hope that Gardner-Webb will welcome the new president and work with them as they did with me."

In an earlier interview with Frank Beam, chairman of the search committee and board

of trustees, he said the committee was talking with a candidate.

"Our responsibility is to bring a candidate, one candidate, to the trustees. It is our job to make sure the best candidate is recommended."

"We really, really worked hard. I am extremely pleased with the committee itself. I know we will get a good candidate."

School sponsors trips

Sarah James
Pilot web Editor

Students and staff from Gardner-Webb University and Crossroads Ministries are headed to South Africa and Poland this summer to do missions.

Teresa Davis, campus ministries secretary, will lead for the South Africa trip, and Andy Byers, student campus minister, will lead for the Poland trip.

The South Africa Trip is from May 15 through 29, and they will go to Cape Town, South Africa. The Poland group leaves on May 16 and arrive back on the 27. They will go to Warsaw.

There will be 11 students joining Davis on the South Africa Trip and nine students and four employees of Crossroads Ministries accompanying Byers to Poland.

Carrie Yerkes, a junior from New Jersey majoring in Biology, is one student attending the South Africa trip.

"We will be visiting a squatter's camp (a village which many families live in one small hut)," Yerkes said, "managing an assembly for a local

school while visiting other churches."

Yerkes wants students to know her group is collecting supplies to give to victims of a recent flood.

"Having a little bit of something like a bag of candy is still a big help," said Yerkes.

In Poland, the group will be doing coffee shop ministry. They are hoping to build relationships with the Polish students from Warsaw University and to share Christ with them.

A big event might take place at the end of the week if they can join-up with another group.

Aaron Wilkinson, a junior religion major from Florida, is going to Poland. He hopes to gain from this experience a deeper relationship with Christ. He also believes he is called to do missions and sees this trip as a test to see if he is really called into missions.

Wilkinson also will be going to Botswana, Africa with Teen Mania this summer. He travels because of his passion for the Lord.

"I love Christ, and I want others to know the joy I have, and that is the reason why I travel," said by Wilkinson.

Something to surf for

Ronda Carpenter
Pilot staff

Comments are supposed to be kept clean, and they are not intended to be slanderous.

Teri Hassell, physical education professor, believes the Web site has both positive and negative qualities.

"I think it's good and bad," Hassell said. "If someone had a personal clash with a professor then it wouldn't be fair. From a slander standpoint, this could hurt the teacher's reputation. I would be hurt if a student wrote a really bad comment about me because of a personal grudge. If, however, there are professors who are not doing a sufficient job and it goes unnoticed, there is still a Web site where poor performance can be cited."

Matt Brownback, junior middle grades education major from Murphy likes the idea of the Web site's privacy.

"I would like to rate my professors," Brownback said. "It gives me the chance to tell them if they did a good job or not, and I would like to do it where no one has a clue who rated them."

Attention all students: want a completely anonymous way to rate your professors and read what other students think about them? Then check out www.ratemyprofessor.com.

This is a free Web site where students can publicly rate their university professors and say what they think about them. The Web site claims to be the Internet's largest listing of college professor ratings, and it offers a public review of university professors from across the United States and Canada.

The site has been up since 1999 and has over 3,000,000 ratings for professors from over 4500 schools, with hundreds of new ratings added each day.

Students are allowed to anonymously rate their professors in each of three categories: helpfulness, clarity and easiness. They can also include comments about their professors and what they thought about their teaching style and the course.