

Campus News

Psychology major wins volunteer award

Sarah James
Pilot Web Editor

Jessica Sisk is a humble young woman who cares more about others than herself.

Ron Williams, a professor of religion at GWU, said Sisk is a determined person who has a big heart. Williams knows Sisk through his New Testament class.

"She is a model of blending of academics and service we enjoy having because education is not just that of the classroom that comes by investing in the lives of others and she models that through her volunteer spirit," Williams said.

Every Tuesday night and on weekends, Sisk, a freshman from Gastonia majoring in psychology, drives to Gastonia to work with teens in a group home.

At the group home, they hold different activities to help build self-esteem, leadership qualities, and other characteristics among the teenagers.



Photo by Joseph Fluty
Jessica Sisk works on homework before her small group. Sisk won an award for her volunteer work.

The group home also holds movie nights once a month. The ages of people who attend are 10 to 18.

Sisk recently won the Southeastern Regional Volunteer of the Year Award and went to Orlando Flor-

ida to receive it.

She felt special for winning this award.

"[It is] rather important because I don't do this to get anything out of it," Sisk said.

"I want to own my own group home for mentally disabled [children]. Working at the group emergency center gives me the feel of what I want to do in that setting."

Sisk grew up in Dallas, N.C. and later moved to Gastonia in the 8th grade.

She began doing volunteer work because it would look good on her college resume, but now it has become part of her life.

Sisk encourages others to get involved in the community and believes involvement in community service is a good way to find out what you want to do with your life.

"Sometimes you may not be comfortable, but that is what life is all about to step outside the box and out of the comfort zone," she said.

Bird flu's range could expand to humans

Cherish Wilson
Pilot Staff

Bird flu, more properly known as avian influenza, has been a staple topic in daily news reports for more a month now.

But what exactly is "bird flu" and what effect will it have on Americans?

The bird flu is a particularly virulent and hardy form of a virus that has been affecting avian species in China.

The particular strain of influenza that has been reported as causing the deaths is called H5N1.

To deal with the spread of the virus, officials throughout Asia began exterminating any birds that were con-

sidered suspect.

The efforts to prevent a bird-to-human "jump" of the virus proved to be ineffective. The virus has not only been found in humans, but China confirmed Nov. 16 the first human death caused by bird flu.

So far, there has been no evidence of human to human transmission, so those most affected are farmers and workers in the poultry industry.

Also, there has been no evidence to indicate humans would be infected by eating eggs or meat from infected chickens.

The only way of combating the spread of the virus is mass extermination. Since the mid-90s, tens of millions of birds—chicken, ducks, tur-

keys, and other poultry—have been killed.

Treatment and prevention of the virus in humans is not 100 percent effective.

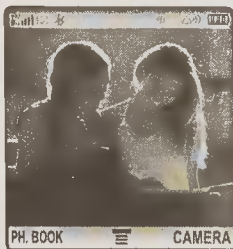
Anti-virulents can help, but no virus is completely curable through medicine.

Vaccines take months to synthesize and must be specific to each strain of the flu.

Also, the overuse of certain medications has made certain strains even more resistant to treatment.

There are worries that as the bird flu spreads, there have been cases reported in Europe already, that the number of infected birds and human victims could reach pandemic levels.

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Fall 2005 Exam Schedule
For the official exam schedule visit www.gardner-webb.edu's MyWebb section.

MWF 8 to 8:50	Dec. 12 at 8 a.m.
MWF 9 to 9:50	Dec. 14 at 8 a.m.
MWF 10 to 10:50	Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.
MWF 11 to 11:50	Dec. 13 at 11 a.m.
MWF noon to 12:50	Dec. 12 at 11 a.m.
MWF 1 to 1:50	Dec. 12 at 2 p.m.
MW 2 to 3:15	Dec. 13 at 8 a.m.
TR 8 to 9:15	Dec. 15 at 8 a.m.
TR 10:25 to 11:40	Dec. 15 at 11 a.m.
TR 11:50 to 1:05	Dec. 15 at 2 p.m.
TR 1:15 to 2:30	Dec. 13 at 2 p.m.
TR 2:40 to 3:55	Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.