

## News

## Small major hopes to have big impact

By Rebecca Clark  
Pilot editor

Global warming, pollution and other environmental concerns are attracting more attention these days and Gardner-Webb University is trying to be part of the solution.

In December 2005, GWU faculty approved that addition of environmental science as a major.

"This is our second academic year of existence," Dr. Stefka Eddins, said. Eddins was hired in 2001 to assist in developing and teaching the major, and also serves as a chemistry professor.

According to Eddins, Dr. Tom Jones and Dr. Les Brown, now retired, originated the idea for the major and were strong supporters.

At this point, there are a handful of students majoring in environmental science.

"For our department, four or five is not bad," said Eddins. "We are hoping

for more student inquiries from on as well as off campus."

The major is science-based and includes general chemistry, biology, math and physics classes.

The classes are supplemented with course work in economy, ethics and policy.

There are two tracks to the major: environmental chemistry and ecology. Both take common core classes and then branch into specialized courses.

Eddins said the environmental chemistry track is aligned with the recommendations of the American Chemical Society, "which is a big deal."

"We really took the time to research this. It's an interesting major, we're proud of it."

She said they really attempt to stress the Christian principles of stewardship, which sets GWU apart from other schools with the same major.

Amber Bellamy, a junior from Kings Port, Tenn., said she was a biology ma-

ior but switched to environmental science.

"It was more geared to what I wanted to do," she said. "It narrowed it down."

Bellamy said she hopes to work for the National Park Service or do sampling for a company.

She said her classes have been interesting.

"I've enjoyed what I've done so far," she said.

There are a variety of job options available for graduates of the program.

"The jobs really boil down to environmental consulting," said Eddins, "and you can do that both in a government or private setting, so you can be your own boss."

Other options include environmental engineers, teachers, conservation or climate scientists, environmental technicians or working in park services.

"We haven't had the first cohort of graduates yet, since we are so new," said Eddins.



The Veggie vehicle with Dr. David Judge's class last fall.

## Veggie vehicle parked for now

By Rebecca Clark  
Pilot editor

The Gardner-Webb University "veggie vehicle" project has stalled temporarily.

Originally a project begun by Dr. David Judge's environment class in the fall of 2006, students were working on converting the truck so it would run on waste vegetable oil. The oil would be collected from the campus cafeteria or from local fast food restaurants.

Though the vehicle is on the back burner for now, the plan is to resume work on it during the spring semester.

Students from Dr. Venita Totten's chemistry class have also been working on converting vegetable waste into a biodiesel that would be effective in any vehicle. She said two students, Clay Carrigan and Jimmy Ballantyne are doing preliminary research to get the project off the ground.

Ballantyne said they are in the middle of finding out the specifics on the chemical makeup and efficiency of different biodiesel oils. This research also will be presented in a poster session at the North Carolina Academy of Sciences will be held at Meredith College this spring.

## Lutz-Yelton custodian popular with students

By Shane Parnell McGrath  
Special to The Pilot

Every university has certain signatures unique to it. Gardner-Webb University has the smelly Dumpster behind the Dover Campus Center; the bell tower at Lake Hollifield; and Roderick Wood - known as "Woody" to the students in Lutz-Yelton Hall.

In his 14 years as part of the GWU janitorial staff, Wood has cleaned both academic and residence buildings. Now in charge of maintaining Lutz-Yelton, Wood is well known for his wit and straight-talking demeanor.

He often found conversing with the dorm residents, covering subjects that range from his past experience in the military to the struggles that college students face. But call him "well-liked" and he shrugs off that label.

"I don't consider myself to be popular - I just tell things the way they are," he said. "I am not the type of individual who looks for accolades from anyone."

In addition to being known for his candor, wit and commitment to his profession, Wood is noted for being open about his Christian faith. He is all too happy to engage in faith-based conversations with students when the opportunity presents itself.

"My testimony stands pat. I do not deviate from it," said Wood. "I am not afraid to call myself a Christian. I look forward to the day when I can kneel before my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Wood is effective in his ability to relate to students because he treats them as his equals.

"I've always said that once a student leaves high school, he is no longer a child, he is a man and should be treated as a man," he said. "I'm in the same boat as many of the students are."

Wood is originally from New York state, but relocated to Shelby to be close to his family.

"I worked in Denver, Colo., for seven years and my two sons and oldest daughter were there with me," he said. "My son married a girl from North Carolina and they decided to move back, and I followed them."

It was at this time that Wood first started as an employee at GWU, working for four to five years and then moving to New Mexico. When he decided to come back to the Southeast, he picked up where he left off as a GWU staff member.

Wood spent much of his life on the road, living in different parts of the world. Much of that was due to his time in military service, which spanned 20 years and 27 days, exactly.

"I was stationed in Washington, Alaska, Wyoming, Puerto Rico, France, England and North Africa. I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to go to all of these places."

Wood wouldn't mind going back into the military, if it weren't for the fact that his age disqualifies him.

"If I was a little younger, I'd go back in the service in a heartbeat," he said.

A university is based upon academics, athletics and activities, but it is ultimately rooted in the people who represent it. Roderick Wood represents GWU well on a daily basis.

## 'Martyr' puts a new spin on an old play

By Christopher Shaver  
Pilot staff writer

"Martyr," a new translation of the classical French play "Polyeucte," premieres Nov. 14 in Dover Theater at Gardner-Webb University.

"This is a Gardner-Webb play because it encompasses the themes of Christianity and it's a classical piece. It combines the best of learning and faith," said theater professor Scot Lahaie.

The translation of Pierre Corneille's play about the founding of the Armenian Church, was done by Lahaie and his wife, Ute, a professor in the World Languages, Literatures and Cultures Department.

Although there are two other English translations, Lahaie said they were both outdated. One of which was also very inaccur-

rate. Lahaie said he felt there needed to be a translation that actors would be able to speak more easily.

A new name seemed appropriate for the new translation.

"When the play becomes yours, then it's easier to give it a different name," Lahaie said. "We felt comfortable with changing the title because it's based on his [Polyeucte] martyrdom."

The cast of "Martyr" includes Matthew Fraiser as Polyeucte, Heather Bartlett as Pauline, Caleb Moore as Severus, and Brian McGill as Felix the Governor.

"They're all working at a professional level. If you go to a professional theater you wouldn't be able to find anyone better," Lahaie said.

"Martyr" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14-17, and at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 18.

Dear Fellow Students,

I hope this letter finds all of you well and coasting easily through these last few weeks of the semester. Since that is probably not the case, though, and like me you are scrambling to tie together all the loose ends, I want to offer you my encouragement.

This is the time of year when perspective is so easily lost in the frantic pace, and when we wish away the days that we ought to cherish because we're so eager for the work to be finished. Take a deep breath and remember that community and relationship are what is most important. It will be over soon.

As far as SGA goes, I am very excited about the rest of the semester and about the plans we are working on. We hope everyone enjoyed all the Homecoming festivities. Congratulations to Liz Honeycutt on being this year's Homecoming queen! Now that Homecoming is behind us, we can get down to the rest of our semester projects and plans.

Right now, we're working on several projects. We want to say thanks to everyone who participated in our opinion

survey about the Residence Education visitation policy. We will be tallying those in the coming weeks and moving forward with whatever results we see.

If anyone did not get to fill out that survey and wishes to share his or her thoughts or ideas with us, please contact me or another officer. The conversation is by no means closed because the surveys have been completed.

We are also addressing the lack of handicap-accessible doors on campus. A special SGA committee has been assigned the task of exploring that issue, and will probably be conducting some sort of survey in the coming weeks.

In addition to those issues, we're looking into providing classrooms with more left-handed desks, and our academic affairs committee is planning another scholarly lecture series for next semester.

I want to remind everyone that we still have more than \$25,000 in our clubs and organizations fund to distribute. If you are involved in clubs on campus and plan some cool events, then come get money from SGA to help with that. The fund money needs to get spent because it does not roll over to next year's budget.

## It's not too late to join the Quiz Bowl team

Dr. Jones says no geniuses need apply

By Jacob Conley  
Pilot staff writer

The Gardner-Webb Quiz Bowl team is gearing up for another season, and its coach, Dr. Tom Jones, wants more students to compete on the team.

"When we've had trails and practices and we have not had that many people show up," said Jones.

One factor Jones attributes the lack of interest to is a misunderstanding about what qualifies students to participate in Quiz Bowl.

"People think that you have to be a genius to play," said Jones.

"You don't have to be smart. You just have to think fast and hit the buzzer."

He said that there are two types of people needed to make a quiz bowl team successful: Students with very specific knowledge and those with a broad base of knowl-

edge.

The competition will be held the first weekend in February in Lynchburg Va.

Jones encourages anyone who is interested to attend practice. Students will be notified via a campus-wide e-mail about practice times.

"It is a good opportunity for students to come out and have some fun," said Jones. "And they might find out that they know some things they did not know that they knew."

Quiz Bowl is more than buzzers and questions however. It is also about camaraderie and competition.

Megan Looper, a member of last year's team equates Quiz Bowl to a popular reality TV series.

"Quiz Bowl is like 'Survivor,'" said Looper. "You make some friends on other



Photo by Ashley Carter

Lanny Newton answers a question while Quiz Bowl teammate Terry Miller listens to the response during tryouts for the team that will compete in February. Dr. Tom Jones hopes more students will join the team.

teams and you form alliances with them against 'evil' teams like Liberty."

Jones hopes that this camaraderie can translate into good things for the upcoming season.

"Last year we finished

second, and it's always nice to finish in first."

In order to accomplish this goal the team will have to beat tough competition such as Liberty and Big South newcomer Presbyterian.

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