

## Opinions

## Choose career that fulfills a passion, lucrative or not

By Rebecca Clark  
Pilot Editor

It took me more than two years to earn my associate's degree, and by the time I had walked across the stage of my community college and received my diploma, I still had no clue what direction I wanted to take my life.

Unlike some people I knew, I did not have a burning passion for what I wanted to be when I "grew up."

I was like a lot of young students, drifting and unsure what step

to take next.

I took career tests and talked to guidance counselors. I investigated potential universities. I thought about taking a year off to travel and live like a hippy. I discarded possibilities as quickly as I thought them up.

Teaching was not one of my skills; I was not interested in the medical field; and I am terrible with mathematics and scientific formulas.

But I did enjoy writing, and as I looked into possible careers that involved putting words together,

journalism caught my attention and didn't let go.

I visited Gardner-Webb University and discovered that it had a journalism major, and in the fall of 2005 I enrolled.

A lot of students begin their freshman year intimidated by college life, the freedom and autonomy, and by the big decision of what field to go into.

I remember the magnitude of the decision and having no clue what I wanted to become. It can be a tough choice, one of the biggest choices, it seems, that you might

ever make.

Career tests are helpful in giving an initial sense of direction.

They might not give you an immediate answer, but they can outline what your strengths and weaknesses are.

I believe that everyone has an interest that could become a potential career.

Once you determine what your interests are, you can develop that into a career opportunity.

And I believe in pursuing your interests instead of dollar bills. A satisfying job is more rewarding

than one with the big bucks.

By developing your passions and interests, you are also developing yourself.

Another reason I chose journalism is because I believe that through my interest in writing I can make a difference, even if it is a small one. Like in the Dr. Seuss book, "The Lorax," I want to give a voice to those who do not have one.

I wish for all students unsure of their path is success in choosing a career that you can be passionate about and that makes a difference, no matter how small.

## The Pilot

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## Letter to the Editor

## Bost pool needs improvement to match swim team's excellence

The women's swim team has once again rocketed to an excellent start for the 2007-08 season. On their way to a 7-0 start, the women have hosted two conference meets, and asserted their dominance both times.

However, watching these meets has become somewhat difficult. Even with the addition of a men's swim team, Gardner-Webb has not increased the seating around the pool.

Upon a visit to Limestone College to watch the swim teams' first meet of the season, it was found that the Division II school had a seating capacity as large as, if not larger than, the one given for fans at Bost pool.

This is unfortunate, considering the fact that the women's swim team is 87-30

since its founding in 1999, and 60-19 since completing its transition up to Division I in time for the 2002-03 season.

These records are good enough for a .744 winning percentage since the start of the program and a .759 winning percentage since completing its transition up to Division I.

This places GWU on par with such programs as the Michigan and Notre Dame football teams; Duke and UNC basketball teams; Texas and Florida State baseball teams; and the elite schools of every sport.

Unlike those larger schools' elite programs Gardner-Webb has finished over .500 every year the program has been in existence, and has finished with a record less

than .666 only once, its first year as a Division I school.

While Gardner-Webb does not boast membership in the ACC, Big 10 or Big 12, nine of its 19 losses in the past 4+ years have been to ACC schools.

The Lady Bulldogs have also won four straight conference titles in those years and are at the top of the conference again this year, even though moving into a tougher conference.

Even if the achievements are ignored, the two meets have been packed beyond capacity, which is frustrating considering it is rare to see such a well performing program.

At both meets not only have the stands been packed, but there has been at least one row of people standing

behind them and more people packed into the lobby straining to see what is going on.

If the students are coming to the meets then they should have places to sit and not be forced to stand in areas where it is nearly impossible to determine what is happening. While there are consistently large empty sections in Paul Porter Arena and Spangler Stadium, the Bost pool is constantly lacking in seating capacity.

For these reasons the swimming programs should be given upgraded facilities. While the need to move the baseball team out of a stadium stuck in the Dark Ages is understood, the swim teams should not be forgotten as Gardner-Webb upgrades its athletics programs.

Lanny Newton

## Sports

## Men's hoopsters eager to start tough season

By Jacob Conley  
Pilot sports editor

The bright lights of basketball season are again beginning to shine on Gardner-Webb University.

Men's Head Coach Rick Scruggs is excited about the upcoming season, which features the Bulldogs' traditionally tough schedule.

"We are really young, but a lot of guys have played in the system before," said Scruggs. "This team reminds me a lot of the team two years ago that beat Minnesota and almost beat UNC."

Scruggs and his staff have reason to be excited. The "Dogs only lost one starter from last year's team and have added several components such as freshman Nate Blank and transfer Lu Donovan.

This depth will allow Scruggs to implement a more up-tempo style of play.

"We are going to have some high scoring games," said Scruggs. "It should be exciting for the fans."

Even with added depth and the new style of play, Scruggs and the rest of the Bulldogs make no bones about this being a difficult season.

GWU has even garnered some national attention about the tough non-conference slate.

"ESPN called the other day about it," said Scruggs.

"It is great that the basketball program can give the university visibility by playing teams like Clemson and UConn."

The tough non-conference schedule is a precursor to what Scruggs admits is equally tough conference action.

"The Atlantic Sun is split in two divisions," said Scruggs. "And of course we are in the toughest one with Lipscomb Belmont and ETSU. You could have a great year and still finish third or fourth."

Scruggs is counting on the fans to help overcome the difficult draw in the conference pairings.

"We have the best fans in the league," he said. "They give us a real boost and they stick with the team through the good and the bad."

Fans may get an early chance to see GWU on national TV.

If the Bulldogs can defeat Alabama A&M in the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic, the team will play in the second round tonight at 9 p.m. on ESPNU, which is available in The Kennel.

## MRSA: A deadly bug that's simple to avoid

By Kory McNair  
Pilot staff writer

With the recent reports of deadly staph infection cases at schools across the nation, students want to know how they avoid contracting it.

MRSA stands for methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, which is particularly resistant to antibiotics, even the most potent ones.

Staph bacteria are common on the skin, which serves as an adequate barrier to infection. However, MRSA spreads when wounds open in the skin.

Staph can enter from contact with used towels, athletic equipment and shared personal items.

According to Sherry Ingram, director of housing and residence education, MRSA starts off as an irritating pimple that quickly becomes filled with puss that is

highly contagious.

The painful lesions also won't heal up.

Contact a doctor if you have these symptoms, so that you can be properly diagnosed.

Prevention of MRSA can be quite straightforward.

"Knowing who you're having contact with is the best way to prevent you from getting MRSA," said Ingram.

Washing your hands often and not touching any open wounds is a simple way to avoid getting MRSA, she said.

Residence Life plans to send out brochures to further inform students about how to avoid contracting and spreading MRSA.

"Just educating people on what to look out for, what to do and what not to do" is GWU's strategy for now, Ingram said.

## Duke-N.C. State rivalry victim of ACC expansion

By Michael Moore  
The Chronicle (Duke)

(CSTV U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. - A funny thing happened over the last few years as the Duke Blue Devils jetted to Beantown and South Beach in search of ACC victories in football and basketball.

The Duke-N.C. State ri-

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valist outsiders.

Basketball games were almost always nail-biters when Coach K and Jimmy V matched wits. And in the 2003 and 2004 seasons, the teams fought in several tremendous bouts, including the 2003 ACC title game in which the Blue Devils came back from 15 down in the second half.

There is, however, a larger point to this discussion. Before expansion, the ACC wasn't just about the depth of the most premier rivalries, it was about breadth of rivalries among teams within the conference. And that has suffered as a result of the constraints of scheduling in a larger league.

Maybe it's not the line policy that needs to be overhauled. Maybe it's the conference scheduling that does.

In the meantime, the oft-forgotten Tobacco Road rivalry has some hope for revival. The basketball teams have a home-and-home series for the first time since 2004, and they are predicted to finish second and third in the conference.

The bottom line is that the ACC needs rivalries like Duke-N.C. State. And if the league can't rebuild those mid-major rivalries, we'll start to see the real price at which expansion money came.

## Volleyball team heads to A-Sun tournament

By Kory McNair  
Pilot staff writer

A hard-fought season for the volleyball team has come to an end, with only the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament left to test the team's skill.

A 3-0 sweep against Lipscomb Saturday brought a victorious end to the team's home matches and put it into the tournament.

"Up and down all year long. We played really well at times and just haven't put it together at other times," said Coach Chris Phillips of the team's performance this year.

Gardner-Webb ended the season Tuesday night against Winthrop, but the score was not available before press time.

This is the team's final year in the Atlantic Sun Conference; it moves into the Big South Conference next year.

Asked what she thought about the move, Phillips gave a confident answer: "We have a pretty good idea with what we are walking into next year."

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