

News



Photo by Doug Knotts

Winners at the LOTS conference are pictured with Dr. June Hobbs, director of undergraduate research, and Dr. Tamara Cox, co-coordinator of the LOTS conference. Student winners are from left: Grady Knotts, Andrew VanCamp, Matt Walters, Hannah Kidd (honorable mention), Katie Garahan, Meredith White, Nicole Phippen and Jennifer Cheek (honorable mention). Molly Leedom from Mars Hill College is not pictured.

Saturday no day of rest for these scholars

By Meredith White
Special to The Pilot

While many students were still sleeping on the morning of Feb. 23, some students got up early, dressed up and came to Ritch Banquet Hall for the Life of the Scholar conference.

Former biology professor Dr. Les Brown began the LOTS conference as a one-time event in 1996 to foster discussion outside the classroom. "It came out of the idea that scholarship should be pervasive on the campus," Brown said. "It should be inside and outside the classroom and in all venues like film, music and art."

The event morphed from a one-time event into an annual conference. This year the conference took a new step of inviting students from other colleges to participate.

More than 35 students and professors from Gardner-Webb University, Campbell University and Mars Hill College presented research from a variety of fields. Topics ranged from Chaucer to grey tree frogs to music in the Book of Psalms. During breakfast, students and professors listened to Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU provost, and Dr. June Hobbs, director of undergraduate research, speak about the importance of such research.

"Independent research makes students learn to be more independent," Leslie said with a smile.

Research projects teach students how to continue learning outside the classroom under the advisement of a mentor in their field of



Photo by Doug Knotts

Dr. Les Brown, known as the Father of LOTS, talks with Dr. Gayle Price before a session.

study, he added.

This year marked the creation of an official undergraduate research program with a director position. Hobbs, chair of the English department, is the inaugural director.

Hobbs said undergraduate research not only rewards students because they get to learn by working in their field with a mentor, but it benefits the professor and the university as well.

Hobbs recognized Brown, referring to him as the "father of LOTS."

The program actually started out as YOTS - Year of the Scholar.

After attending a workshop with other GW professors called Writing Across the Curriculum, Brown thought, "Why can't we do other things across the curriculum?"

The Year of the Scholar program developed out of Brown's idea and existed for three years under the YOTS name.

When the program continued on, organizers changed the name to Life of the Scholar.

"Of all the things I was involved with at Gardner-Webb for 40 years, this is what I'm most proud of," Brown said. "It is such a vital part of the

university and I am thrilled to see it continue."

Since Brown retired, Dr. Tamara Cox has coordinated the conference. This year, Hobbs joined as co-coordinator.

At this year's conference, several students presented information regarding their undergraduate research projects, while others presented "A" work from classes.

Three rounds of one-hour sessions in Lindsay Hall featured student research. Two to four students presented in each session.

After student presentations, the conference continued with a faculty showcase in Ritch Banquet Hall at 2:40 p.m. Dr. Matt Theado, Dr. Shea Stuart, and Dr. David Carscaddon presented from Gardner-Webb.

Professors Richard McKee and Joann Nilson Tartalone presented from Campbell University.

All attendees walked away with their brains stuffed with new knowledge, but some students walked away with thicker wallets.

Three professors judged student presenters in each session. The winners received \$50 awards and honorable mention recipients received \$25.

what he's talking about. Turner carries an edge with him that you may be able to see with other authors such as Donald Miller.

One of the most appealing things is that Turner recognizes he's not a theologian, but a storyteller who doesn't have a set formula for "living your best life now."

"Hokey Pokey" shows that Turner understands the power of true stories over fiction, and he uses this to his advantage. He gets to the root issue of the book through the story of how he learned the Hokey Pokey.

Turner grew up a fundamentalist Christian going to a private Christian school that preached dancing of any sort was "sexual" and should be banned. However, he en-

countered a rogue substitute teacher who taught the class the Hokey Pokey.

Turner said this was one of the first times he felt free.

He delves deeper into what God's calling is through more stories from his past, and through insight he has learned through his journey. Turner shows that Christianity has made God's calling more of a career and not as much about a lifestyle.

It is here where he calls the subculture out and shows how living free is living God's calling for humanity.

"Hokey Pokey" will be available starting April 1 at any Barnes & Noble or Amazon.com. For more information on Turner, go to www.jesusneedsnewpr.blogspot.com.

Spring break took students near and far

Patrice Blackmon
Pilot staff writer

Here's where and how some Gardner-Webb University students spent spring break:

James K. Polk, freshman Communication Studies major: "I had a great spring break; it was very nice and rejuvenating. I went home to visit my sick uncle who was in the hospital.

"I also visited my old high school that I used to attend. Being a past track star at that school, I went back and helped the track coach with the new athletes. I scared them a little bit but overall it was fun.

"I also went out and bought some new shoes, clothes and an MP3 player. I visited my aunt and we watched the UNC and Duke game together. That was very exciting."

Lisa Mahjoubian, a senior psychology major: "I went on a mission trip to Russia with Dr. Stepp through Campus Ministries. There were

12 GWU students that went, plus Dr. Stepp's daughter. We had the opportunity to play with the kids, share the gospel, and pour out the love of Christ to the people in Russia.

"My favorite part about my Spring break was Katiya, who is a 7-year-old little girl. She touched my heart. She was brought up by a single mother who sells clothes for a living. This spring break was the best spring break ever. And I cannot wait to go back to Russia."

Brandie Barker, a senior music education major: "My spring break was exhausting and I had too much homework to do. I have 3 kids, plus I am married, so it becomes difficult at times to balance school and a family life all at the same time.

"I did not rest during my break at all. The good thing about my break was that I got to teach general music at Crest Middle School. It was fun and exciting."

Matt Goins, a senior biology major: "I went home

and spent time with my family during my spring break. I worked at Cleveland Regional Medical Center and worked with elderly patients. And then I took time to relax and prepare for my upcoming graduation."

Annette Simmons, who works in Suttle Wellness Center: "My spring break was fabulous. I went to New Orleans to do mission work, with 20 wonderful people.

"We painted houses, hung sheet rock and did some yard work. We were provided with plenty of food to eat and nice sleeping quarters.

"We saw houses that we had worked on in the past couple of years. It was great to know that these houses are occupied again and that the gracious, giving people of GWU had a small part in the city beginning to thrive again.

"Overall, we had a great time and bonded as a group. We hope people in the communities remember what wonderful Christian school GWU is."

Spring break mission trips benefit both sides

By Michaela Bryson
Pilot staff writer

Spring break is a time of sun, sand and relaxation with friends and family for most students, but for some Gardner-Webb University students it involved something a little more generous - mission trips.

Laura Agajanian spent her spring break working with Neal Paine in Guatemala, Central America.

"We went to work at children's home called Aguaviva and we did physical labor around the home," she said. "I painted inside the girls' dormitory and touched up the outside of the girls' dormitory and the boys' dormitory.

"Before I left I prayed a lot and we had a ton of meetings to prepare."

Agajanian had previous experience in overseas mission work.

"I expected it would be similar to my Mexico mission trip I had gone on when I was in junior high," she said. "I expected like the

landscape to be similar and the people to be similar but I didn't really know what a children's home looked like, so I was kind of unsure about that.

"In some ways it was similar; the food was similar and of course they still spoke Spanish, but the landscape was different. We were in a more mountainous area and there were more trees."

Agajanian was struck by the Guatemalans the group worked with.

"The hospitality and their beautiful smiles, they were ready to help with whatever we needed. That really stood out to me. If you looked at the children they just grinned at you, and they just loved you even though they didn't know you that well and they just wanted to play with you, and that really stuck with me."

The trip had a great impact on Agajanian.

"I think God taught me a lot on this mission trip, just like to trust him in every single thing I do and that he needs to be my primary

focus," she said. "I feel like when I come back here I'm focusing more on myself, but when you get in that kind of situation you learn to have a servant's heart, and I think that's what God is teaching me."

Senior Rachel McNelis went to Russia for her spring break mission trip. Like many others here this was not her first. She has been to Canada and Malaysia as well.

"We worked with an organization that worked with social orphans, kids that live with their parents, but their parents are alcoholics and drug addicts," she explained.

"We spent the week just kind of loving on them, and doing Bible school games and activities, and stuff like that."

"It was an amazing trip. I learned a lot about myself and about God. When we left, some of the girls we had formed a relationship with told us 'Bye, we'll see you tomorrow,' and we were touched by that because we wouldn't see them that next day."

Brown lecture covers right-to-die issues

By Lauren Taylor
Special to The Pilot

Whether to "pull the plug" on a person living only through medical life support is a polarizing topic inside and outside the medical field. Lois Shepherd, expert in bioethics and law, offered insight into a divisive issue to Gardner-Webb students and faculty March 12.

She came from Florida State University, where she teaches law, to lecture in Blanton Auditorium as part of the Joyce-Compton Brown Series. Shepherd received her law degree from Florida State University in 1987.

Shepherd has spent much of her law career studying the Terri Schiavo case and has written articles about it.

Schiavo suffered severe brain injury in 1990 and was in a permanent vegetative state. Her husband wanted her removed from life support, which he said was consistent with statements she had made before becoming incapacitated.

Schiavo's parents did not agree, and there was a protracted legal battle between the two sides. It ignited a debate in the United States

about euthanasia. After numerous court decisions, Schiavo's feeding tube was removed in March 2005 and she died two weeks later.

Shepherd discussed the controversial practice of physician's aid in dying. The title of her lecture, "If That Ever Happens To Me," addressed three main points about people in permanent vegetative states of consciousness and the legal fallout that often arises as a result.

The first point involved the statement, "If I ever become dependent on others for my toileting, I don't want to live."

Shepherd said Americans have been conditioned to think that incontinence is linked with dignity. She went on to say that depending on someone for intimate care should not be considered undignified.

Shepherd's second point rebutted the notion that pulling a feeding tube from someone in a permanent vegetative state was "starving them to death." She cited medical instances in which this was contrary to what actually happens when a patient's feeding tube was pulled.

Shepherd told the stories

of people whose feeding tubes were actually causing them pain and suffering.

She said that end-of-life decisions are not always simple, often getting families involved in lawsuits with hospitals. That brought her to her third point.

This was a discussion of whether one should have a living will, just in case a decision of whether to continue living comes down to a feeding or breathing tube.

Shepherd asked those who had living wills to raise their hands, and out of an audience of 55, only four people did.

She reviewed the problems that courts have interpreting the documents and asserted that families' rights were often breached in favor of hospitals.

After a period of engaged question and answer, Shepherd exhorted the audience to think more deeply about end of life decisions.

"Let's see these issues in all their complexity...instead of looking for easy answers."

She went on to say that there is rarely a "right" answer in these instances. Instead, the best answer should be sought out over all.

Cats considered problem by some at GWU

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"Someone must also be committed to providing food, water and shelter for the cats. This is considered the most humane solution.

The problem with the TNR method is that the cats

must be re-trapped within a year's time to receive another rabies shot, which is good for another three years.

"Our county is in a rabies epidemic. The shot is only good for one year. It is hard to re-trap a feral cat. It is a

tricky issue right now," said Mebane.

The other two options would be letting Animal Control have the cats or allowing school security to remove traps from the Humane Society and then taking the cats

to a local vet who would euthanize them.

"I'd like to save every animal on God's green earth. That's why I do what I do," said Mebane. "Ideally, TNR is a great concept, but being in this county, it is a concern.

It is a major risk and liability."

Dixon agrees that there is no simple solution to the cat issue.

"It is a dilemma," said Dixon. "I can assure it will be a consistent method ap-

proved by the Humane Society."

Not all students are concerned about the cats.

Student Tara Milligan said, "I feel like the skunks are a bigger problem than the cats!"