

Opinions

Time to say goodbye, and move into whatever the future holds

By Rebecca Clark
Pilot editor

For the last time I sit here at my computer and type out an editorial for The Pilot. I have mixed feelings about this final article that marks the end of one period in my life and the beginning of another.

I am so excited to be moving on but have also enjoyed the process of getting to this

point. I've enjoyed the ongoing challenges, and even the frustrations of working with The Pilot. It has been a lesson in patience and perseverance, and adaptability (with the unexpected often coming up).

But in spite of the challenges and frustrations of making sure the paper gets out on time with as much accuracy as possible, it has been a great experience working

with our reporters and Professor Dire, without whom there would be no Pilot.

Not only will I be finishing up with The Pilot, but my other classes as well. Soon, very soon, the end-of-semester rush will be over. We can sit back, breathe a sigh of relief and move forward with whatever comes next. I know we are all looking forward to typing the last paragraphs to final papers, closing the

covers of our textbooks and cramming the last few facts into our heads for final exams.

There are only days of school left, a few finals to finish up, and then the glorious days of summer lie ahead. And, whether you are finishing your first or second or final year at GWU, there is so much promise to the upcoming days.

There are summer jobs

to find, or summer school to attend, careers to begin, new doors opening.

I am looking forward to these final days with a sense of great anticipation and expectation.

Reaching the end of the semester means we have all reached another goal, an accomplishment we should savor. And I savor it deeply.

I have looked forward to graduation for a long time. I

can't wait to have my family and friends gathered to see me walk across the stage, and I especially can't wait to have my daughter there to see me reach this milestone in my life.

I congratulate each and every senior walking across the stage next month, and applaud your accomplishments in making it to this day. Congratulations on reaching your goals!

The Pilot

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Wisdom on Wheels

Enjoy these last words of wisdom; I'm outta here!

By Jacob Conley
Pilot sports editor

Country music star Tracy Lawrence once sang, "Lessons learned and they still run deep. They don't go away and they don't come cheap."

This sentiment perfectly describes my time at GWU. I've learned a lot of lessons and, with tuition costs, they sure weren't cheap. But these lessons included more than iambic pentameter, dangling modifiers and Otto Von Bismarck. Many lessons were learned outside of the class.

Therefore, rather than be-

ing sentimental and sappy in my last column, I decided to present "Jacob's Top Lessons Learned At GWU" for future generations of students.

1. Never use lead-based paint for body paint. The fumes will make you loopy and it takes about three hours to get it off. Plus, the inside of the shower looks like the aftermath of a horror film.

2. Watch out for flagpoles. Insurance will not cover damage caused to a wheelchair by being distracted by sunbathers.

3. Never tell a girl that you are bilingual and your second language is Klingon.



Conley

Especially if she asks for a sample and all you can remember is how to initiate a traditional mating ritual.

4. Take advantage of opportunities that GWU gives you. Travel; I went many places and I wish I could have done more. This is the best time to go places, try new things and meet new people.

5. Cherish the time you have with friends. You never

know how much time you will have together. (Keep cheering, Justin)

6. When you go streaking after GWU beats Kentucky, be careful how you buckle the seatbelt on your wheelchair.

As for graduation, I am not sure if I am going walk across the stage. I am partial to the idea of riding across on a litter carried by the cheer-leading squad.

But seriously, I will miss this place and am glad for all the lessons I've learned here. Thanks for reading over the past six years, and congratulations Class of 2008.

Sports

Newton Knows

Much to look forward to with fall sports teams

By Lanny Newton
Pilot staff writer

The fall sports teams have already started to get back to practice, as each has completed its preseason schedule this spring.

Starting this fall, all Gardner-Webb sports except swimming and wrestling will be in the Big South conference. Four sports will start back this fall before the first Pilot issue comes out. Here is what to look for with next year's Gardner-Webb sports.

While the football team has lost All-American Brian Johnson (just drafted to play for the Kansas City Chiefs) and leading receiver Duvaughn Flagler, the Bulldogs return eight starters on offense and nine on defense.

The team added a 27-man recruiting class headlined by

10 North Carolinians and recruits from nine other states.

The season kicks off Aug. 28 at Tennessee Tech. It will be the first Thursday game for Gardner-Webb since the 2001 opener. With five home games on the 11-game schedule, the Dawg Pound will have several chances to make its presence known to unlucky visitors.

The home opener will be Sept. 6 against Tusculum.

As the marquee match-up, the football team will travel to ACC contender Georgia Tech for its fifth game of the season.

GWU volleyball will look to continue improving, as it has each of the past three years. For the past two years the team has finished with 14 wins, but have been knocked out in the first-round of A-Sun tournament play.

Although they lost the

university's career leaders in games played, kills, aces and digs, the Lady Bulldogs have six players returning and have added five recruits to replace the three graduating seniors.

The team will face the University of Arizona in a tournament hosted by the Wildcats on Aug. 29. The first home game will be Sept. 5 against Charleston Southern.

Men's soccer will look to bounce back to their 2006 form when it made it to the second round of the NCAA tournament. The roster has yet to be finalized.

Five seniors are graduating in May, including starting goalkeeper Dane Geraci, starting forward Richard Godfrey, and starting defenseman Jordan Traylor.

The Bulldogs host an exhibition against Limestone

on Aug. 16. They start off the 2008 regular season at home in the Soccer for a Cure Classic on Aug. 29 and Aug. 31 against Lipscomb and Belmont.

The women's soccer team has great things in mind as it will be led by six seniors this fall. In addition, the team has signed on seven freshmen and brought in junior-college transfer Jessica Tuggle.

They will look to improve on last year's disappointing finish, when they were knocked out of the conference tourney in the first round.

Unlike last year, though, rising seniors Dara Goldstein, Kara Krueger, Cristin Yasinsac, and Sarah Wyszynski will return in full health while MacLean Wade will regain eligibility after her transfer. All will rejoin Angie Harvey in the lineup.

Lady Bulldogs split pair with Campbell

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports writer

The Gardner-Webb softball team finished off conference play by traveling to Buires Creek to take on the Campbell Fighting Camels.

After falling 2-0 in the first game, the Lady Bulldogs' bats woke up and gave them a 4-3 victory in the second. The victory moved the ladies to 6-16 in A-Sun conference play and 21-31 overall.

"Their whole team played an excellent game and they threw a perfect game against us," said Head Coach Tom Cole. "The pitcher did a great job. We had some nice hits, but their players just stepped up and made some exceptional plays and got us out."

Brittany Stanley threw the perfect game for the Camels.

A leadoff homer in the first and a pair of hits in the second scored Campbell's two runs. Following a lead-off walk in the third, GWU starter Cindy Boomhower completely shut down the opposition; neither team allowed another base runner.

In the second the Lady Bulldogs' bats would prove that Stanley wasn't invincible.

To start things off, Angie Walls led off the third with a solo shot over the left-field fence to give Gardner-Webb a 1-0 lead. Seniors Lindsay Cox and Kelly Linsley then hit back-to-back singles putting runners on first and sec-

ond.

An error by the Campbell shortstop allowed them to move up to second and third, a mistake that was capitalized upon in the next at bat. Melody Harrell took the opportunity rocketing a pitch down the right-field line, driving in both runners to make it 3-0.

Starter Christine Murray didn't allow a run through four innings, but gave up two runs in the fifth, and another in the sixth, making it a tie ballgame.

Coach Cole then brought in senior ace Taryn Beck, who made sure the Camels didn't score again.

The Gardner-Webb offense restarted in the ninth. Harrell started off the inning by doubling the right-field. Senior Jessie Williams then drilled a deep single to center, to put the Bulldogs on top. Beck retired the side in the bottom of the inning and finished up the game with 3.2 scoreless innings.

With the win the Bulldogs locked up the No. 6 seed in the upcoming A-Sun tournament and will face No. 1 Lipscomb on May 8 in Nashville.

"We're excited that we're going down there and were playing the best ball we've played all year. We're getting good pitching, great defense and solid hitting, so everything we need is there and we can do it," said Cole in regard to winning the A-Sun tournament.

GWU takes second place in tourney at Wake Forest

By T.J. Taylor
Special to The Pilot

With the streak that the impromptu men's softball team is on, next year they'll be the champs.

As it was, this year's team in the Deacon Slugfest tournament at Wake Forest University came in second place, losing only to USC Upstate, the tournament's No. 1 seed.

Last year, it came in third. In 2007, intramural director Brian Arnold received an exclusive invitation from Wake Forest University, asking GWU to an intramural-style softball tournament.

Arnold said he knew just who to approach with this invitation to the Deacon Slugfest - softball enthusiast Seth Cox and his roommate, who formed a pick-up team for the event.

"It was by invitation only, so we decided we were gonna play," said Cox, who captained the team. "There was an entry

fee, and we got the money up and entered in it last year."

The team placed third in the tournament and was invited to play in this year's event April 12-13.

Some of last year's players rejoined Cox for this year's tournament. Cox said he found the rest of the players through GWU intramurals.

"We asked around for a couple players that played intramurals last year that were pretty decent. We didn't have tryouts or anything."

Getting to the tournament was not easy, though. The first problem they faced was money. Since last year's invitation came so suddenly, there was no money in the intramural budget to cover the entry fee and other expenses. This year, although the invite was more expected, the team still had to raise the money itself.

Another problem was the tournament's lateness in the semester. With projects, papers and tests, the players



Special to the Pilot

Back row (left to right): Justin Martin, Trey Miller, Greg Humphrey, Seth Cox, Parker Frazier, Jamie Baker, Kyle Hill, Darren Rogers

Front row (left to right): Brock Putnam, D.J. Hamrick

were unable to practice, and some even unable to go.

"In the last couple of hours before we left to go to Winston-Salem, we had to make sure we had enough people to go."

For a team without much practice, it did very well.

As the final games began, the GWU team was the No. 7 seed, and made a surprising run, beating both the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds.

"When we got up there, it was a little hard," Cox said. "Softball - it's a team game,

but then again, there's a lot of individualism in it, and all of us had never played together before as a team.

"We started off a little slow, but then we got it together and made a run at it. We came up a little short at the end, but it's all good."

Cox pointed out that USC Upstate was a club team that had been practicing every weekend. While USC scored 25-30 runs on about every team it played, the GWU team only lost the championship game to them, 9-6.

No. 1-seeded East Tennessee State, 0-4.

The team has all of its players returning next year, except Ferrier, who will be graduating.

Men's tennis ends with plethora of individual success; hopes high for autumn

By Blake DuDonis
Pilot sports writer

Gardner-Webb's men's tennis team finished up its season April 19, making the school's first appearance in the second round of the Atlantic-Sun Conference. The team also set the school record

for wins in a season with 13.

Evgeny Slesarev led the way at the 1 spot for Gardner-Webb, earning All-Conference for the second consecutive year and notching 15 personal victories, while only losing one match in conference play.

Freshman Andrew Veeder

er was named to the Atlantic-Sun All-Freshman team, the second year in a row that a Bulldog has earned that honor.

Slesarev and Veeder both had excellent seasons, but they had some help along the way. Senior Taylor Ferrier and junior Ryan Bernthal teamed

up as co-captains and did a good job leading the team both on and off the court.

Brazil native Rafael Altmayer spent much time in the 3 spot for Gardner-Webb and did very well through the season, as did Grant Van Rensburg, who hovered between the 4-6 spots, and did

well in doubles.

Freshman Joshua Ray, Jaime Lawlor and Carlos Quijano all performed well for the Bulldogs in their first year.

Gardner-Webb took out Jacksonville in the first round of the conference tournament, 4-1, but then fell to

the Bulldogs in their first year.

The team hopes to build on this year's success and be a serious contender in the Big South next season.