

GWU welcomes new band director



Photo by Cat McDonald

The drumline rehearses in the Bulldog Suite above the LYCC on Wednesday afternoon. Because of the rain, this was the only space available for practice.

by Diana Palka
Pilot Staff Writer

Over a year has passed since Sid Haton's unexpected death shocked the GWU community but for many the memories are as real as the day it occurred. Despite the loss, the mourning and the grief, the GWU marching band is moving forward to the beat of a different drum under new director, Dr. Jeff Richmond.

At first, students might have been hesitant to accept the new regime, but the beat turned out to be not far off of what Sid was creating.

"One of the people that I helped ...or had helped me rather, decide on coming to USF (University of South Florida) was Sid Haton," said Richmond, "He was one of the people that helped recruit me... he was the marching band director there at that time so he ended up being my marching band director my freshman year at USF."

Having been under the tutelage of Haton during his undergrad years at the University of South Florida, Richmond was closely connected to him yet admits he did not realize he was coming to Haton's program until late in the application process.

"I made the connection when I was on the plane to come here for my interview..." Richmond said, "...for some reason it really didn't occur to me until I was on the plane."

How could he not realize? Richmond was spending the summer of 2009 doing something most people only dream of: He was on tour in Europe.

"I was in Germany playing jazz, on tour, and I had heard about the job opening here," said Richmond, "I thought, you know, it looks like a cool job and I'm interested and it offered quite a few things that I was looking at."

Despite the lure of the opportunity, Richmond was skeptical on how the ap-



Photo by Cat McDonald

The Marching Band rehearses Thursday afternoon under the leadership of Dr. Jeff Richmond.

plication process would pan out considering he was an ocean away from Boiling Springs.

"I thought 'I don't know if there's a possibility of this even working with me being out of the country and having to do an interview,'" Richmond said.

Crisis averted. Dr. Sparti contacted Richmond the next day and conducted a phone interview, from Boiling Springs to Berlin. After talking for an hour, Sparti and Richmond set up dates for a face-to-face interview and Richmond officially started as director on Aug. 1, 2009.

Anyone concerned with Richmond's qualifications can put their minds to rest. Richmond graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in classical composition and achieved his masters degree and doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a dual emphasis in classical composition and jazz.

Richmond has two distinct goals for the

program at GWU, which he states are completely independent of one another.

"One goal is, I want to grow the program in terms of size," Richmond said.

The band (including color guard) currently sits around 70-75 members. Richmond hopes to get that number over 200 within the next four years.

"My second goal, which is independent of that goal, is to improve the program in terms of performance ability on an individual basis," Richmond said.

Richmond aspires to write shows that are "artistic, creative, exciting and entertaining" alongside these goals.

Perhaps his work is cut out for him, but he's up for the challenge. Richmond intends to carry on and grow the legacy that Haton proudly started. "I feel like my role is to simply grab the torch and keep moving forward."

For more information check out photos.gardner-webb.edu.

SGA kicks off new academic year

by Randi Gil-Sadler
Special editorial

What exactly does SGA do?—this is probably the most frequently asked question I receive as SGA President. By the end of the year, I would like to be asked what DOESN'T SGA do?

We kicked the year off with an overnight retreat at Ridgecrest. After a hearty lunch and a few icebreakers, it was time to get down to business. As a group, we watched the video "Trombone Player Wanted" and discussed our strengths and weaknesses, yet not in the traditional context. We redefined the way we view those concepts, defining our strengths as tasks that strengthen us and weaknesses as those tasks that leave us weak after com-

pleting them. By not limiting ourselves to the "things you are good at and things you are bad at" definitions of strengths and weaknesses respectively, we were able to identify strengths we never quite knew we had, and confront weaknesses we have in such a way that allowed for genuine team work and team building.

Although it is only September, SGA has already embarked on several projects. The first, hosting the senior pinning this year, which was cancelled this summer for graduating seniors due to budget issues. The second is petitioning to Residence Education to allow the clubhouse to be used by students without chaperones, a policy put in place last spring.

One thing that can-

not go without saying is how vital it is for us to hear from fellow students. There are several ways to get involved. If you have issues about the Kennel or Cafeteria, come join the Food Committee. If you are blessed with the gift of gab, come join the Publicity Committee. If you would prefer not to share your concerns personally, you can comment on the SGA Fan Page on Facebook and/or contact us on the Gardner-Webb webpage, under the Student Life tab. The group is full of potential, and I don't see too many things standing in our way. But there is one thing that can strengthen us beyond belief, and that is the support of our peers. I look forward to what the year will place last spring.



Photo by Erin Cooke

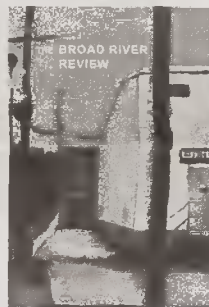
Kyle Wilkinson and Evan Rhodes make a proposal for Fields of Faith at the SGA meeting Monday.



Photo by Erin Cooke

The Gardner-Webb SGA met on Monday, September 21st, 2009. Tyler McCall listens intently to the discussion.

The Broad River Review 2010



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For additional information, please contact Chris Davis @ (704) 406-3224 or by email at cdavis@gardner-webb.edu.

Soccer cancellation

by Andrew Veeder
Sports Editor

The Gardner-Webb men's soccer team has faced one tough opponent in their last two games: rain. Due to inclement weather, the Runnin' Dawgs have had to cancel a game

against a former Atlantic Sun rival Mercer University, as well as Georgia State.

The Dawgs (3-1) will be pairing up against Big South compatriot, the Blue Hose of Presbyterian College. The match is scheduled for today at 7 p.m. in Clinton, S.C.

Editorial

The quest for the T

by Andrew Veeder
Sports Editor

College is a time for athletes to showcase their years of hard work, and God given talent. However, what happens to the high school stars that didn't make it to the collegiate level? The answer lies with one simple (often misspelled) word: Intramurals.

Intramurals give everyday students the chance to play and compete in a variety of different sports. Yet, with the multitudes of former athletes playing, tempers may flair up in the chance to show their dominance on the field of competition once again.

At my time here at Gardner-Webb, I've seen my fair share of intramural showdowns. One instance that particularly stands out to me, is the time a for-

mer student, that many of you know, threw a particularly hard elbow while playing in the men's basketball league. That elbow connected nicely with another student's nose. Blood and one broken nose shortly ensued.

There have been various other accounts of intramural mishaps ranging from near fights on the flag football field, to an "eye opening" experience in the racquetball court. I'm sure that there are numerous other stories that weren't fortunate enough to get printed.

I personally love intramurals. I love seeing students play their heart out for a simple black, sometime red, T-shirt that proudly says "Top Dawg." Students wear these shirts with pride after conquering their opponents and friends for the Top Dawg title.