

News

Laptops requirement for incoming freshmen?

by Diana Palka
Pilot Staff writer

Incoming freshman might need to pack more than shower shoes and twin long sheets next year—talks of a freshman laptop requirement are circulating around Gardner-Webb faculty and administration.

"As of yet there is no decision," said Provost and Senior Vice President Ben Leslie. "But it is possible that the requirement would be implemented for the Fall 2010 entering class."

The motivation behind the pending requirement is the current crunch on GWU computer labs. As each year brings in a larger and larger freshman class, computer labs are being booked for classes and fewer and fewer hours are available for open labs. According to Leslie, while looking into building more computer labs, administration discovered that approximately 90 percent of undergraduates at GWU own laptops. If each student had a laptop, "virtually any classroom could become a computer lab."

"If we go in that direction, it should take pressure off the computer labs, and open up free time for students who need access to the specialized software that we have on computer lab computers," Leslie said.

This Fall, several UNIV111 courses were surveyed regarding students' possession of laptops. The survey found that of the 406 students surveyed, 92 percent had a laptop, 3.6



photo by Brandi LeBeck

Laptops may be requirement for freshmen entering in Fall 2010.

percent had a desktop and the remaining students had no computer or were considering the purchase of one. Leslie noted that owning a desktop would not meet the pending freshman laptop requirement because it would not be able to be brought to class daily.

"It would allow the University to deliver a higher quality technology experience to our students. Faculty could make use of interactive resources on the internet simply by asking students to bring their laptops to class," Leslie added.

The cost of a required laptop will not be included in GWU's tuition and fees.

"The current proposal is structured so as to give students maximum choice in the type of laptop they want to purchase. Some students

may bring the computer they've already been using before coming to Gardner-Webb. Others may want a new machine. Some will choose a PC, others a Mac. Costs vary significantly, so it will be up to the student and his or her family to determine just what sort of investment they want to make in a laptop," Leslie said.

However, because the laptop would be a required item, like textbooks, it is classified as a "legitimate educational expense" and can be covered by student loans.

"And laptops are becoming more affordable every year," Leslie added. "We've just learned that Compaq will be offering a line of notebook computers in the \$300-\$400 range in a few months. Dell is also offering notebooks in that range."

Author of *The Shack* to visit Gardner-Webb

by Molly Phipps
Pilot Staff Writer

On October 31, William Paul Young, the author of *The Shack*, will visit Gardner-Webb University to speak about his book and his personal reasons for writing it. The event, titled "*The Shack: Is God Really This Good?*" is part of this year's Homecoming activities. It will be held in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Other associated events include a private reception with the author for the School of Divinity prior to the public event and an Alumni Awards Banquet held at 6:30 p.m. where Young will be the keynote speaker. The banquet will also be held in the LYCC and is open to the public. A pre-game block party will take place after the event at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. With refreshments provided by Dairy Queen, Bulldog Quik Snack, and Red Bridges Barbeque, the party is open for all. Live entertainment will also be provided by The Masonboro Boys. To go along with Oktoberfest, there will be trunk or treating for children, as well as inflatables.

The Shack, self-published in 2007, has held the #1 spot on the New York Times Bestsellers List for 49 weeks in a row and it has now reached over 6.1 million copies in print. The book, a fictional account of a man's journey back to God, is a story about Mackenzie, who must come to terms with his daughter's tragic murder and his subsequent anger towards God. The book is aptly subtitled, "Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity".

"Most of us have our own grief, broken dreams, and damaged hearts, each of us with our unique losses, our own 'shack,'" said Young in his book, "I pray that you find the same grace there that I did."

Young's book has sparked conversation and occasionally, controversy. Its unique portrayal of God as a woman, Jesus as a humble-looking carpenter, and the Holy Spirit as a shimmering female, being known as "Sarayu" has called attention to the traditional view of the

Trinity among Christians. Rather than being predominantly seen as one, the book challenges the reader to view God as separate entities, each functioning differently, yet loving equally.

Tickets to the public events cost \$25 per person if purchased at the door. However, groups can take ad-

vantage of a discount. If your group includes at least 25 people, advanced tickets may be purchased at the rate of \$16 per person. Purchase of an event ticket also includes a ticket to the Gardner-Webb Homecoming football game at 1:00 p.m. Saturday versus the Stony Brook Seawolves.

IT'S UNBELIEVEABLE!



Photo courtesy of freewebs.com

...that a dozen full-time sophomore/
junior students wouldn't want to
spend a month in England for only
\$1,800.

Here's the 411:

- Spend GWU first summer session 2010 at The University of Sussex in England
- Earn 3 credits in Religion 380 taught by Dr. Perry Hildreth
- \$1,800 includes tuition, airfare, lodging, some meals, some transportation, and excursions.
- Must be a current sophomore or junior; minimum 3.0 GPA; no disciplinary measures in your student file

Let's get it started:

- Pick up an application and course outline at the Office of International Programs, 112 Suttle Hall
- Turn in application by November 16
- For more information, contact Dr. Helen Tichenor 704-406-3993 or Dr. Perry Hildreth 704-406-4112

Ready to roll: The Ride returns

by Blake DuDonis
Pilot Editor

What do scooters, Ingles and a homeless shelter have in common? Well on Thursday, Oct. 29th they will all be a part of the third annual "ride" held at Gardner-Webb University.

The Ride is an event started in 2007 by current GWU student Matt Jones and GWU alumnus Sam Woodrum to raise awareness for the homeless shelter and their need for items. The two thought a race of some sort would make the event even more fun and they have seen it grow every year.

"We didn't take numbers or anything, but it has definitely grown" said Jones.

The competition is simple: bring any form of self propelled transportation and race from the flag pole on the Quad to Ingles and back again.

Bikes are a commonly used vehicle, but Jones has seen plenty of creativeness in the past.

"I've definitely seen some Heelies... (GWU Alumnus) Trevor Anderson rode a minuscule bicycle. That was pretty amazing... His quads were burning I'm sure."

Those wanted to participate simply need to show up at the starting line before the race begins as there are no signups required. Jones said the race will take off anywhere between 6 and 6:30 p.m.

When asked if there was a goal set in place for The Ride, Jones said that there were no specific goals.

"I don't know about a goal, just a lot of enthusiasm and people with good hearts trying to do some good in the community," Jones said. "I don't know that we have many specific goals other than to implement some sort of service and trying to incorporate that into the way that we live."

Flyers will be placed around campus next week for with details and contact information for those interested.