



# THE PILOT

## GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY



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### This Edition

— In campus news —

2009 Christmas Art Sale offers great gifts from local craftsmen. See p. 2

— Photo Feature —

A day in the life of a Gardner-Webb Bulldog. See p. 4

— In sports —

Men's basketball dominates over Montreat. See p.3.

Women's basketball runs down Winston-Salem State. See p.3

Men's soccer falls to Winthrop. See p. 3

Women's soccer proud of their season. See p.3

### Weather

Thursday	Friday
Nov. 19	Nov. 20
High 67	High 66
Low 42	Low 45
AM	mostly
showers	sunny

Source: The Weather Channel

### Index

News.....	page 2
Sports.....	page 3
Photo Feature....	page 4

## 20 Years: The Fall of the Berlin Wall



Photo by Cat McDonald

Students of German and French rush the faux Berlin Wall to tear it down in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall on November 9, 1989.

by Blake DuDonis  
Pilot Editor

Imagine wanting to see a family member or friend that lives in California and deciding to drive out there to see them. Now imagine when you get to Kansas, you are stopped by guards at a huge wall and are told to turn around or you would be shot and killed.

Sound extreme?  
Sadly, this was the actual case of the people living in Germany between 1961 and 1989.

Built on August 13, 1961 by the communist of East Germany, the Berlin Wall divided the country of Germany, going straight through the capital city of Berlin.

The wall was built in an attempt to control all people living in East Germany and control they did. Anyone attempting to cross into West Germany for freedom or any other reason was shoot and killed, no questions asked.

This extreme sounding situation was a very real reality for Gardner-Webb professor Dr. Ute Lahaie.

Lahaie grew up in the free West Germany in a town outside of Hindenburg and she remembers the Wall and its impact.

"The Wall actually went up one year after I was born, and it came down one year after my daughter was born, so in that sense it is a personal reality. I grew up in a divided Germany," Lahaie said.

The Berlin Wall stood as a symbol of power over the people, and it was a sym-

bol that Lahaie, like many others, thought would never fall.

"Nobody of my generation actually believed that it would ever come down," said Lahaie. "For us, the reality was a communist East and a free Western Germany... it just never felt like it would change."

Fortunately for Germans, and all Europeans, that change did come. On November 9, 1989, the Wall came crashing down as Germans from both sides rushed across the now open space to find friends and families that they were separated from so long ago.

On the 20th anniversary of the Wall's fall, Lahaie, a professor of both French and German, thought it would be the perfect opportunity to educate her classes on the Berlin Wall and its impact.

"For the younger generation... it just was not a reality," said Lahaie. "What was important for the students to know was who built it, who was the communist part of Germany, and the key was to really keep people in... to keep them from leaving towards Western Germany."

Knowing that simple history lessons can sometimes lose the interest of students, Lahaie thought it would help if she made it more personal to the students.

As part of a class assignment, students in Lahaie's French and German classes were given a piece of paper on which they were to design graffiti, a very common sight on the Berlin Wall, and turn their graffiti in for a grade.

Once finished with that, the students put the paper on a cardboard box on which they

would all combine to build a Berlin Wall of their own on the Quad of Gardner-Webb.

On November 9, the students gathered outside behind the Dover Campus Center around noon and began stacking their boxes. They also asked trivia questions to people walking by, offering a German pencil to anyone who correctly answered a question.

Some of the questions included how many inhabitants are in the Federal Republic of Germany (82 million), who is the chancellor of Germany (Angela Merkel), and when was Germany reunited (October 3, 1990).

After about two hours of trivia and building the wall, Dr. Lahaie gave the okay to then tear it down which the students did emphatically.

Overall, Dr. Lahaie was extremely pleased with the project and felt that they had accomplished what they had set out to do.

"The Wall is significant because it shows that democracy does work," said Lahaie. "Those people, in a peaceful demonstration, showed that people can actually move entire governments and, in this case, entire walls. The people in the east actually had the courage to demonstrate and go out in masses even though they all risked their lives each time for doing so."

For more information on the Berlin Wall and its history, you can visit [www.dailysoft.com/berlinwall](http://www.dailysoft.com/berlinwall), [www.mauerfall09.de/en/portal/peaceful-revolution](http://www.mauerfall09.de/en/portal/peaceful-revolution), [www.berlintwitterwall.com](http://www.berlintwitterwall.com) or [dailysoft.com/berlin-wall/art/berlinewallart\\_index01.htm](http://dailysoft.com/berlin-wall/art/berlinewallart_index01.htm).

## GWU enrollment to be limited

by Molly Phipps  
Pilot Staff Writer

Gardner-Webb University will soon put into effect a new limit on the amount of undergraduate students enrolled at the school at any one time. The change is a result of increasing enrollment as well as a continuing desire to carry on the family atmosphere here at Gardner-Webb, both concerns of its president, Dr. Frank Bonner.

The new cap is set at 2,000 students, a figure the administration has been deciding on for some time. Current undergraduate enrollment is approximately 1600 students.

Dr. Jeff Tubbs, director of Research and Planning, mentioned several significant reasons for setting the cap: "We want to increase our academic standing," said Dr. Tubbs. "We want to continue to provide a growing environment for our students."

That means growth not only numerically, but also academically and

relationally. By placing a limit on the number of students at the school, Gardner-Webb hopes to ensure the persistence of its community atmosphere. Additionally, the academic progress of the school and students could benefit, in one way by maintaining small classes.

"We definitely want to keep the same class sizes," Dr. Tubbs said, referring to the current student to teacher ratio here, which stands on average at 13-1.

Another beneficial aspect would be a more limited acceptance of students. With the new rule, eventually, only the most academically prepared students would gain acceptance to Gardner-Webb.

Current requirements for admission include: the student must have at least an 830 on the SAT, must be in the top half of his graduating class, and must have at least a 2.5 GPA. Refining those requirements would increase the school's overall academics and, potentially, the overall retention rate.

Retention rates are based on the

number of first-year students who remain enrolled until their second year. The rate at Gardner-Webb has fluctuated for the past few years but is now around 70%. For the past three years, the rate was 72%, 76%, and 73%, respectively. The goal for now is 80%, with a hope to see it rise along with enrollment.

"A slow, steady rate is better," Dr. Tubbs said.

The next advancement President Bonner has in mind will hopefully go hand-in-hand with enrollment: the new Student Center. The goal here is to make Gardner-Webb more attractive to incoming students and current students, which will in turn affect the retention rate. It will also ease the burden of more students on the Cafeteria here.

Dr. Tubbs summed up the feelings of many in the Gardner-Webb community in one statement: "We're all excited about the direction that Gardner-Webb is going," said Dr. Tubbs.

