

## News

**GWU Alumni donates \$5 million for new student center***Courtesy of GWU Media Relations*

Long-time university benefactors Robert and Carolyn Tucker were on hand March 30 as Gardner-Webb University President, Dr. Frank Bonner announced the largest donation in GWU history. The \$5 million gift from the Tucker family will assist in making the Tucker Student Center a reality.

Scheduled to be located on the Lake Hollifield Complex and complete in 2012, the Tucker Student Center at Gardner-Webb will be much more than a building, it will become in many ways the heart of campus life. It will provide opportunities for the greater Gardner-Webb community to come together and interact.

"The Tucker Student Center will develop students who are leaders, who are committed to the concept of service and character, not only in their professions, but in their civic life, their family life, their church and community life," said GWU President, Frank Bonner. "It really will be the centerpiece of accomplishing that mission of preparing students for that kind of life of character and service and competence in whatever

walk of life they go into."

The Tucker Student Center will be a functional atmosphere for activities and entertainment with meeting space for student organizations, conference rooms, mail facilities, student dining, the University campus shop, multipurpose facilities, and lounges. It will also house student offices and work space for organizations that include Student Government, Campus Ministries, Leadership Development, Community Engagement and Service Learning.

"The Tuckers have expressed that it's not the bricks and mortar of the student center project that interests them, but the things that will happen inside the building," said Bonner. "They've expressed to me that Gardner-Webb is a great school and they appreciate all the things that we do operationally, but it's really about the ministry, and their devotion to the mission of Gardner-Webb, 'For God and Humanity,' that's been appealing to them. It is very significant that we've received this amount of money, yes, but more important that they have helped us strengthen Gardner-Webb's Christian foundation."

Robert and Carolyn Tucker are the owners of Shoe Show, Inc. Founded in 1960 in Kannapolis, N.C.; Shoe Show's success has been based on a simple formula of providing quality products, service and value.

Lisa Tucker is a 1989 graduate and former volleyball player for Gardner-Webb. She has remained committed to the University for two decades and currently serves as a trustee for GWU. Working in the family business as vice-president, Tucker has seen her family's dedication to worthwhile organizations throughout the years including the Crisis Pregnancy Center, Hospice, and the Salvation Army. "Gardner-Webb believes in personal attention for the students. That is special to the University," said Tucker. "It follows the example of Jesus. He paid attention to the one sheep; He paid attention to the people that no one else would. That is what Gardner-Webb is about. No one is forgotten, no matter where, who, or how you got there, or what you are when you get there, you're not forgotten. Gardner-Webb's going to make sure of that and do everything within its power, to make sure that you become a better human."

## Students face new grading scale

by Diana Palka  
Pilot Editor

The new grading scale is a big change for the Gardner-Webb community: faculty and students alike. However, while professors aren't required to implement it in their classes, students have no choice but to embrace the change.

"I don't really mind it," said Laura Scott, a junior biology major. "It doesn't really affect me."

For students, like Scott, who are actively seeking a 4.00 and already receiving "high A's" on the current scale, no real change will affect them. Under the new system, two options for a 4.00 exist: straight "A+s" and straight "A's". The reception of an "A+" "signifies the recognition of exceptional achievement."

"It will be a tough but necessary change," said Andrew Veeder, a junior journalism major. "I think it will boost Gardner-Webb's credibility when it comes to comparing themselves with other universities or state funded schools."

Some students don't quite see the benefits of the change.

"One of my concerns is that my transcript will be misleading because only my last year of school will be under the new grading system," said Lia Hudak, a junior health and wellness major.

She fears that her pre-existing "A's" will make potential "A-s" look even worse as she applies for graduate school after graduation. As expressed by Dr. Perry Hildreth, chairperson of the Educational Policies and Standards Committee, the committee that voted in the new policy, transcripts always have some sort of legend on them interpreting grading systems for graduate schools and will likewise do the same to denote a change in the grading for Fall 2010.

While the new grading scale essentially claims to try and make the process of grading more fair, some students see the opposite happening.

"I don't like it," said Jonathan Myer, a freshman communications major. "I think that if you're a student that has to work really hard for an "A" and can't quite get to a high "A" it's kind of unfair."

Despite a mixed student reaction, the University is anticipating the change to bring about positive results for the GWU community.

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