

# GWU-TODAY PRESENTS THE BULLDOG MONTHLY

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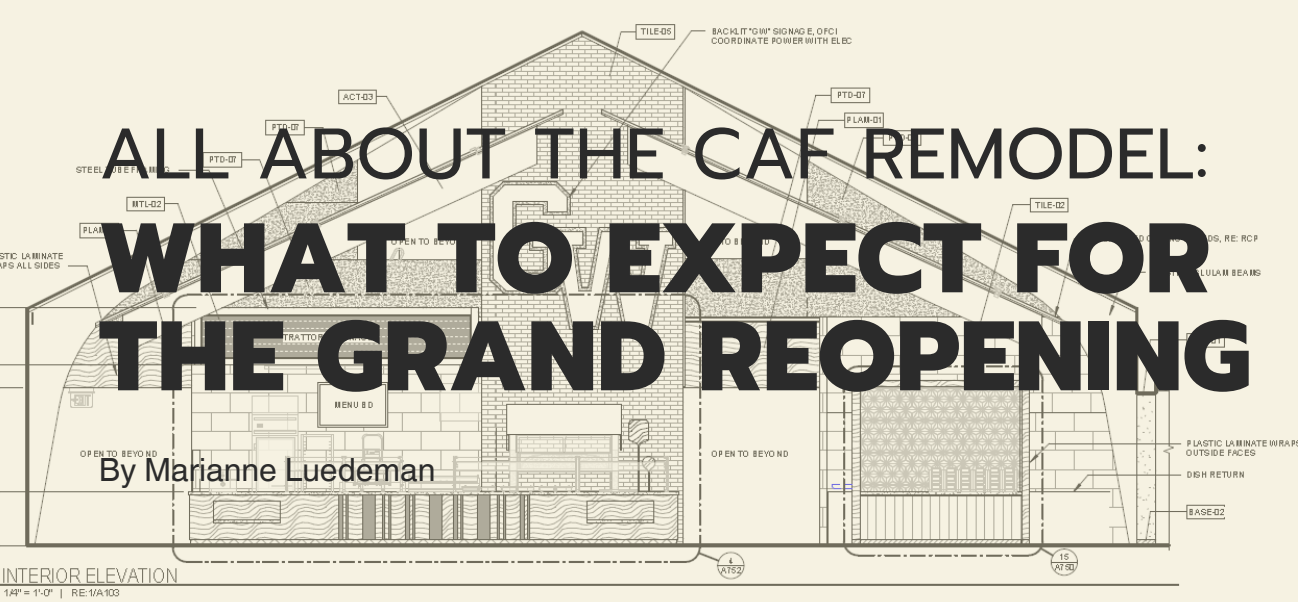
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**When the remodeled Caf opens in mid-February 2024, students can expect to see numerous improvements, updates, and most importantly, many new fresh food options.**

Construction on the Caf’s remodel started in May of 2023 when Gardner-Webb and Aramark began drawing up plans to improve the University’s dining facilities. Being described as a “joint partnership with Aramark,” by David Wacaster, GWU director of Facilities and Maintenance, this endeavor was funded in part by generous donors without any need for additional student fees.

Acknowledging anticipation from the student body, Wacaster assured that the main dining hall will be finished in the middle of February. He added that the new addition to the Caf will open at the first of April.

Now nearing completion, the Caf is slated to open featuring an increase in food quality and with a fully renovated, state-of-the-art kitchen.

“Things are going to be different; the quality of food is going to come up. We’re providing (staff) with a lot more resources to cook with now,” noted Wacaster. “The chicken will be fresh, the burgers will be fresh, the pasta will be fresh. You’re going to notice that pretty quickly.”

Outside of dining, the facility itself will feature a variety of design upgrades, quality-of-life improvements, and additional spaces.

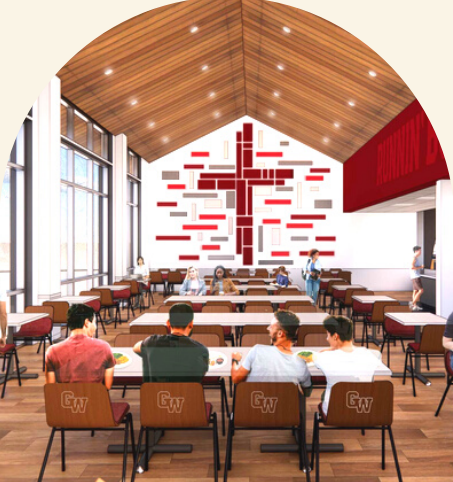
One such addition is a new common area, where Wacaster described, “If you have an hour and a half to kill and don’t want to go back to your room, you could hang out here and grab a cup of coffee.” He also said there will be a front patio with seating.

Other new seating options will be available with the goal of providing more areas for students to dine. “We’re going to have four-seater tables, which students can push together. We also have booths,” said Wacaster.

In addition to design improvements, the Caf is also receiving aesthetic updates with the goal of being a more homey and welcoming space. Wacaster expressed that “we want kids to come in here and say, ‘I’m at home.’”

Upon opening, Wacaster encourages students to share their feedback on the facilities, food quality, and their dining experience. “Talk to (our management); talk to the food advisory committee, because if you guys aren’t happy, nobody’s happy. We are here because of you.”

Finally, he wants students to feel free to contact him regarding any questions. “I’m transparent, just send me an email,” he said. “I find it’s better to be up front and honest.” *Wacaster can be reached at [dswacaster@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:dswacaster@gardner-webb.edu).*





# Mark Your Calendars: **ALL ABOUT THE BRINKLEY AMPHITHEATER**

By Marianne Luedeman

**Following the success of its inaugural shows, Gardner-Webb's new Brinkley Amphitheater will offer students and the community many more performances, productions, and events.**

The amphitheater, which began construction in 2022, is a part of Gardner-Webb's new master plan aimed at creating new and exciting facilities on campus. Ultimately, the performance venue was chosen as the first project since it was "something the town and campus can interact with and enjoy," according to Gardner-Webb's Vice President of Marketing Richard McDevitt.

The venue was entirely funded by philanthropy as well as a \$500K grant from North Carolina's General Assembly in partnership with the Town of Boiling Springs and Cleveland County. McDevitt assured that student fees did not go to the building at all.

While the lead donors were the Brinkley family, Marie and David Brinkley, other university supporters also contributed to the project.

Following the very successful performances of Ricky Skaggs and Balsam Range, students and the Boiling Springs community can look forward to seeing many more shows heading into 2024. Among these will be productions put on by Gardner-Webb's own creative departments. "We've had some conversations with the music and theater departments who have shown interest in using (the amphitheater)," said McDevitt.

As for shows containing artists outside of Gardner-Webb's community, students can look forward to seeing more concerts as well as numerous other types of productions. In describing exactly what to expect, McDevitt noted that "we've thought about movies, theatrical productions, comedians, and other things outside of the music genre."

In selecting what shows will be featured in the amphitheater, Gardner-Webb is currently developing ways to include student voices.

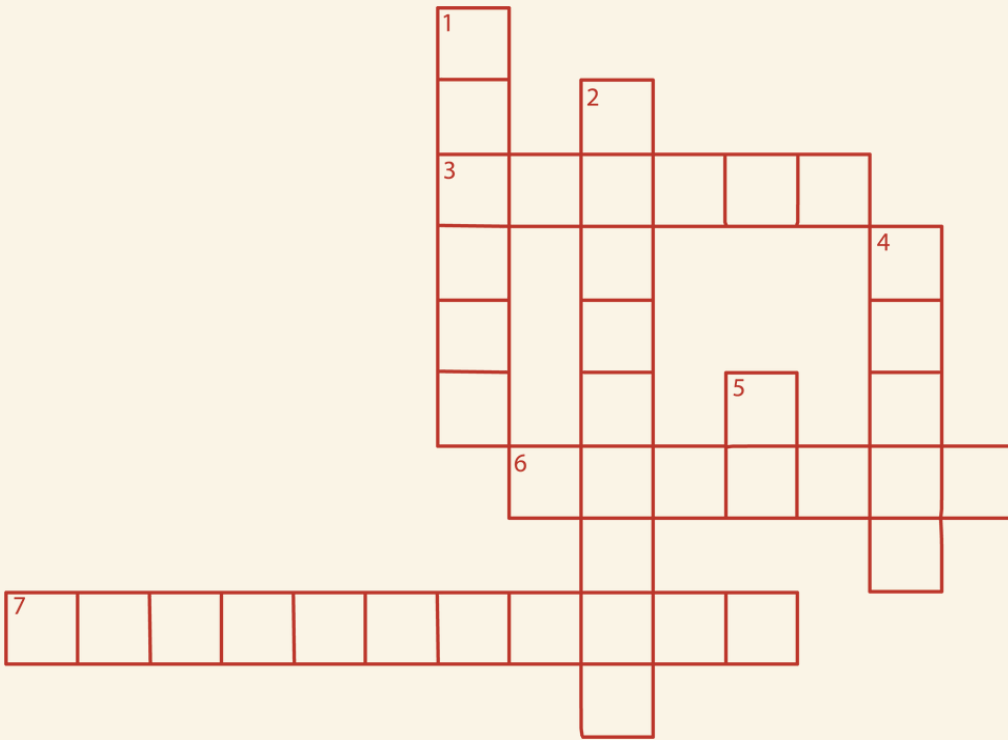
"If student voices indicate that there are several kinds of things that they would like to see, then that will require several different performances," said McDevitt. "I think we can find a way to include everybody."

Outside of performances, a second phase to the Amphitheater's construction is also planned, featuring a building that sits on Main Street, which will be a combination bookstore and restaurant. McDevitt said the main feature of this facility will be a "second-floor open patio ... where you could have food, beverages, and sit there to view the amphitheater when things are going on."

When not in use for performances, students may also use the venue for their own events and productions. Students will need to reserve the amphitheater for these purposes, McDevitt said. The reservation process is the same process that students use to book a room in Tucker.

*For questions about upcoming events, productions, or about the amphitheater in general, McDevitt said he is always available. Email him at [rmcdevitt@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:rmcdevitt@gardner-webb.edu).*

# CROSSWORD



## DOWN:

1. annual festival of \_\_\_\_\_ , around Christmas time
2. the new cafe nickname
4. dean of students
5. live mascot name

## ACROSS:

3. the new GWU anon
6. president of the university
7. Back-to-back champions

## NEWS BULLETIN

### BLACKBOARD ULTRA

Beginning on Dec. 19, Gardner-Webb University will start the process of migrating to Blackboard Learn Ultra. In addition to a modern, clean look, this new version of Blackboard has enhanced features, such as a mobile app for Apple and Android. The change is necessary, because technical support will end next year for Blackboard Original, the learning management system currently used by the University.

### COMING NEXT SPRING:

- Making the system work for you: tips and tricks you can use for registration, housing, and more.
- The best benefits for GWU in the 704: Local businesses and abroad and what they can do for you.
- Sports updates and athlete interviews
- Department work and new incoming stuff!

## We'd Love to Hear From You!

### INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Scan the QR code if you'd like to join the Bulldog Monthly Staff!



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Feedback Survey



SCAN ME

Staff Interest Form