I have been a student in some sort of formalized education for 21 years. As such, I have spent a lot of time in libraries of all shapes and sizes. Books are cathartic for me, but with recent technological advances, libraries have begun to change. Card Catalog systems were wonderful, but as Bob Dylan said, “the times they are a-changin.” Library catalogs have been moved to the Internet, journal articles are available in full-text with the click of a mouse, and entire books are being digitized. In my own research, I have been able to find full text of English, German, and French articles from the comfort of my home office and the local coffee shop.

What is more, the advent of Amazon’s Kindle, the iPad, Google Books, Wikipedia.org, and Gutenberg.org have led many to say that books – that is, real books – are on their way out and that everyone will keep their entire libraries on a single electronic device. We bibliophiles, however, know better. Books have maintained their presence in societies for over 600 years. Nevertheless, we are on the threshold of a revolution just as jarring as the printing press in the 1400s and, as then, many of the things that we hold as sacred and conventional will be tested by these new avenues of information retrieval and dispersion.

Information is ubiquitous. The ubiquity of information, though, also means that misinformation becomes more widespread. As lovers of books and information, we should desire that well-researched, peer-reviewed, and accurate information be available for as many people as possible. Making library resources readily available online and maintaining our presence in the digital world moves us one step closer to seeing this dream become a reality.

Thomas Whitley is a current student in the M.Div./M.A. in Religion degree program. He expects to graduate on May 17, 2010.

Ways to Support the Library

Becoming a Friend of Library doesn’t have to mean just sending in a check to Gardner-Webb. We have several opportunities available to honor those in your life and have a direct impact on the library’s resources.

For example, this May’s upcoming graduation is a perfect time for friends and family of graduating seniors to donate $50 to the library to name a book in the graduate’s honor. The book may be selected by the donor, or it can be left to the library’s discretion. Either way, it is a great way to help the library and leave a lasting tribute to your Gardner-Webb graduate.

For other creative giving options, please contact the Development Office at (704) 406-4101.
The John R. Dover Library was built and dedicated in October of 1974 to meet the demands of an expanding student body.

Earlier that year, in an example of great cooperation, all the materials and books from the former library were moved to the new Dover Library in a matter of four hours. (See below for photos of the move.) Students were able to use the new library almost as soon as its construction was completed.

Gardner-Webb University alumni and friends come together now in the same spirit of cooperation to improve the John R. Dover Library and provide students the resources they need to excel.

Join us in this quest at www.supportgwu.com. Click “Donate.”

By joining the Friends of the Library, you are helping provide Gardner-Webb students and community members with an essential resource and gaining access to exclusive academic and cultural opportunities. We offer memberships at the following annual levels:

- **Scholar’s Circle:** $1,000 and up
- **Benefactor:** $500-$999
- **Patron:** $250-$499
- **Advocate:** $100-$249
- **Friend:** $50-$99
- **Students:** Free

The Library is planning some exciting interior renovations during the next few months. There will be an open house when the renovations are complete. Also, in August, the Library will be unveiling its new updated website including many new features.

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### Past, Current, and Upcoming Events

#### Past Events

If you didn’t receive a brochure on the Friends of the Library at this event and would like us to send you one, do not hesitate to contact Mary Roby, Dean of Libraries, at (704) 406-4290.

#### Exciting changes:
The Library has added:
- over 700 e-audiobooks that students, faculty and staff can download to their iPod or other mp3 player.
- Instructional video tutorials and research guides available on the library webpage.

#### Upcoming Events
Friends of the Library will be participating in the 2nd Annual Junior College May Day Reunion, scheduled for April 30-May 1. Take advantage of this opportunity to reunite with classmates.

Come by in September to hear selections from Gardner-Webb’s on-campus literary magazine, *The Broad River Review*.

On October 1-2, 2010 GWU will host the Ron Rash Festival—a multiday event to celebrate the writing of local author Ron Rash.

You can always check for events on the calendar at www.supportgwu.com, and keep reading the Friends of the Library newsletter for exciting updates.